Episcopal Diocese
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# Rules of Order

**Proposed for the**: Fifty-Eighth Annual Diocesan Convention

**Date**: November 7, 2026

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Be it RESOLVED, this 58th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida adopts the following:

1. By adopting the Rules of Order, we approve the Rules including the provisions provided in rule #6.

2. Voting shall be conducted in person at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy via Vistacom RF voting keypad devices for elections to the Standing Committee, Diocesan Board, Trustee, University of the South, Amendments to the Constitution and Canons, and status changes of Parishes, Aided Parishes, and Missions. All remaining voting will be conducted by voice vote.

3. A nominee for any elected office may withdraw from an election at any time. Any such withdrawal shall be made to the Secretary of Convention by handwritten note or email to scaprani@cfdiocese.org.

4. Technical assistance will be available to delegates throughout the duration of the meeting.

## Registration/Voting/Quorum

5. One-third of the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, and one-third of the lay delegates entitled to vote in the Convention, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

6. The clergy and laity shall deliberate in one body. Every member having the right to vote in accordance with Canon II shall be entitled to one vote, and except when herein otherwise expressly provided, a majority of all the votes cast shall determine

any question submitted to the Convention. On the third and subsequent ballots and with the approval of a majority of the Convention, the election shall be by a plurality of all votes cast. Only voting members present in person at the Convention may vote on matters coming before the Convention.

**Elections**

7. The following rules will apply for elections:

    a. When there are staggered terms for any office, the person(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the longest term in the earliest ballot in which any election takes place. The person(s) receiving the next highest number of votes in that ballot or subsequent ballots in which there is an election shall receive the next longest term. This process shall continue until all terms are filled.

    b. When there is only one nominee remaining on the ballot for an office, the Chair will declare that nominee elected to the appropriate term.

    c. On ballots subsequent to the second, the name of the nominee receiving the least votes for each office on the previous ballot shall be removed.

**Addressing the Chair/Amendments/Resolutions**

8. Delegates shall address their remarks to the Chair and state their name, in what capacity they are serving (i.e. lay delegate, clergy delegate) and the congregation or institution they represent.

9. Debate on any motion/Resolution shall be limited to 2 minutes for each speaker unless permission to extend debate is granted by the Chair or by a 2/3 vote of the delegates without debate.

10. Debate on any motion/resolution shall be limited to a total of 15 minutes unless permission to extend debate is granted by the Chair or by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates without debate.

11. No delegate may speak more than twice on the same subject unless permission to speak is granted by the Chair or by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates without debate.

12. Amendments to resolutions shall be in written form with a copy delivered to the Chair and the Secretary of Convention (and if possible, amendments should be delivered in electronic format).

13. Two microphones shall be designated for debate on any resolution, one for those who wish to speak in favor of a given resolution and one for those who wish to speak in opposition. Whenever practical, the chair shall recognize alternate speakers from each microphone.

14. A third microphone shall be designated for those who wish to address procedural matters. Without the approval of the Chair no procedural motions will be accepted during the first 15 minutes of debate on any motion or amendment except that the Chair may allow procedural motions prior to allowing a motion to call the question.

15. Demonstrations of any kind, whether indicating agreement or disagreement with any action of the Convention, will be ruled out of order.

**Canonical and Constitutional Amendments**

16. A 2/3 vote of members voting together shall be required to pass an amendment to the canons.

17. A motion to amend a resolution amending the canons shall be in order when the Chair rules that the proposed amendment is germane to the topic of the original resolution. It shall be in written form with a copy delivered to the Chair and the Secretary of Convention (and if possible, amendments should be delivered in electronic format).

18. A motion to amend a resolution amending the constitution shall be in order where it is the first reading of such a resolution, and the Chair rules that the proposed amendment is germane to the topic of the original resolution. It shall be in written form with a copy delivered to the Chair and the Secretary of Convention (and if possible, amendments should be delivered in electronic format).

**Discussion/Debate**

19. **Roll Call Vote** - If any 10 members of the Convention, representing no fewer than six congregations, or any 10 members of clergy, shall call for a vote by yeas and nays, the Secretary shall call the roll of the Convention, and the members shall thereupon announce their votes as their names are called by the Secretary.

20. **Vote by Orders** - If any 10 members of the Convention, representing no fewer than six congregations, or any 10 members of clergy, shall call for a vote by Orders, the vote of the clergy and lay delegates shall be taken separately, and a majority of votes of each Order shall be necessary for an affirmative decision.

**Parliamentary Authority**

21. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12th Edition* shall be the Parliamentary Authority for all procedures not specifically covered by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Central Florida or by specific Rules of Order adopted by this assembly.