

## Modified Rules of Order for 2020 only

1. The daily sessions of the Convention shall be opened with Divine Service, or appointed prayers at such hours as may be appointed by the bishop and the Committee on Arrangements for each Convention.
2. The Convention, upon its first assembling, shall be called to order by the bishop, or if there be no bishop, or if the bishop be absent, by the president of the Standing Committee or by some member of that body appointed by those of its members who may be present.
3. When the president takes the chair every member shall be seated and remain uncovered until the members shall have left the Convention.
4. Each member of the clergy entitled to a seat in the Convention shall register ~~at the Secretary's desk by delivering to the Secretary the prescribed registration blank duly executed,~~ **by checking in remotely using approved digital technology, and the name** which shall be checked against a role furnished by the bishop or other ecclesiastical authority of the diocese, which role shall be evidence of the right of the members of the clergy to seats until the Convention shall have formally acted on the question.

Each Lay delegate shall also register ~~at the Secretary's desk by delivery to the secretary the prescribed registration blank duly executed,~~ **by checking in remotely using approved digital technology, and the name** which shall be checked against a role prepared from the certificates received from vestries. The Lay delegates whose certificates have not yet been forwarded to the secretary shall ~~then lay their certificates upon the table, with the declaration subscribed by the Constitution, and with them the prescribed registration blanks duly executed~~ **not be eligible to be seated**. If by means of such registration a quorum of both Orders appear, the presiding officer shall announce the fact, and declare the Convention is organized and ready for business:

**Each member of the clergy and lay delegate shall furthermore be considered "present" with seat, voice and vote until the bishop concludes convention.** Provided that whenever it is necessary to call the role of the Clergy and Lay delegates the surname only shall be called except where there may be two or more of the same name, in which case they shall be designated by the addition of their Christian names.

5. In case of the absence of the bishop, or of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the person who called the Convention to order shall announce that there is a quorum present. The Convention shall then proceed to elect a president according to the Seventh Article of the Constitution; who shall, so soon as the election is completed, take the chair and declare that the Convention is organized and ready for business.
6. The first business after the declaration is made, either by the bishop or the president, shall be the election of a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. The Chair shall then appoint the Committees mentioned in the Order of Business. The Chair shall also appoint all other committees for the appointment of which no other provision is made, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention.

**Votes may be cast in advance of convention through electronic registration, but those results must be ratified after convention is called to order. Votes on resolutions may be cast in advance. An affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of eligible members shall be ratified as "passed" without debate.**

7. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the convention, the member shall **gain the attention of the president in the subscribed manner** arise, and with due respect, address the president.
8. If two or more members shall arise at the same time to speak, the president shall decide who shall speak.

9. No member shall speak more than twice in the same debate, nor longer than five minutes at one time, without leave of the Convention.

At the conclusion of any speech, the president alone, or any member of the Convention, if the member's motion is supported by at least four seconds, may call for a vote without debate on a proposal for a recess of Convention so that the members may informally confer and discuss the issues of the debate. If passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the members of the Convention will form small groups for ten minutes at the end of which debate will resume.

10. No motion shall be debated until the same be seconded, and, if desired by any member, reduced to writing and read by the Secretary.
11. When a motion is made and seconded, no other motion shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to postpone to a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit or to amend; and motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order herein named. If a motion to lay on the table an amendment be carried, the matter before the Convention shall be proceeded with as if no such amendment had been offered. The motions to lay on the table and to adjourn shall be decided without debate. The motion to adjourn shall always be in order, if the mover has the floor.
12. When a proposed amendment is under consideration, a motion to amend the same may be made. No other amendments shall be in order, but a substitute for both amendments may be received, which, if adopted, shall operate as an amendment to the original proposition. No proposition on a subject different from the one under consideration shall be received under color of an amendment or substitute.
13. If a question contains several distinct propositions, the same shall be divided at the request of any member, and a vote taken separately, except that a motion to strike out and insert shall be indivisible.
14. All questions of order shall be decided by the president, without debate; but any member may appeal from such decisions, and on such appeal no member shall speak more than once, without express leave of the Convention.
15. When any member rises to a point of order, the member who has the floor shall be seated until the point of order is decided by the Chair.
16. A question being once determined, shall stand as the judgment of the Convention, and shall not be again drawn into debate during the session, except with the consent of two-thirds of the Convention, upon a motion to reconsider made by a member who voted with the majority and seconded by a member who also voted with the majority.
17. No questions shall be taken on any report unless upon a motion to print or recommit it; but reports shall, as of course, lie upon the table. If a committee deem any action of the Convention desirable, it shall be its duty to present in writing such resolutions, acts, or canons, as it may think it should adopt which only shall be subject to the action of the Convention. Every act which divides a parish, or in any way affects parish boundaries, shall distinctly set out the new boundaries which it is intended to establish. The Convention will not act upon any proposed resolution, act, or canon which does not conform to the provisions of this rule.
18. All elections shall be by ballot unless otherwise ordered; the votes of the Clergy and Laity shall be counted separately, but the vote shall be regarded as a joint one, and the election shall be decided by a majority of the whole number of votes taken together, except where a vote by orders shall be required under the provisions of the Constitution. Nominations from the floor **shall not be allowable** ~~by a member of the Convention shall conform with the requirements of Canon 1-240, Of Nominations.~~ After opportunity according to the Order of Business has been given to nomination for any election, if

there shall be no greater number of nominees than there are places to be filled in the election, on motion unanimously adopted, the secretary or some other person designated in the motion may be instructed to cast the ballot of the Convention for the person or persons so nominated, and such person or persons on a ballot so cast shall be duly elected.

If after nominations are made, an election by ballot of the members of the Convention is required to determine a choice, the election shall be postponed, unless otherwise ordered, until such hour as may be appointed for the election in the Order of Business, and the secretary shall, before the hour appointed for such election, have prepared ~~and printed~~ for the use of the members in voting official ballots containing names of nominees ~~followed by the name of the parish or mission from which each nominee comes.~~

**Ballots may be printed or provided through secured use of electronic devices.**

19. The president shall appoint a chief teller and such additional tellers as are required from the Clerical Order or from communicants in good standing as defined in Canon 2170, and neither the chief teller nor such additional tellers need be delegates to the Convention. After the clerical and lay votes shall have been counted by the respective tellers, the teller first named by the Chair shall combine them in one joint ballot, which the teller shall present to the Convention, reading out the names of the persons voted for, the number of clerical and lay votes for each separately, and the sum total of votes received by each person. The Chair shall then state to the Convention the result of the joint ballot. ~~After the first ballot and before the next ballot is taken, the tellers eliminate from the official ballot such nominees in each order, beginning with the nominee in each order who received the least number of votes on the first ballot, as may be necessary to reduce the number of nominees in each order to twice the number of vacancies to be filled from that order.~~ If after the **first second** ballot all vacancies have not been filled, ~~by the consent of a majority of those present~~ a motion may, then or after any succeeding ballot, be entertained for the unanimous election to the vacancy or vacancies still existing in each order the nominee or nominees of that order who have received the highest number of votes, but less than a majority, on the preceding ballot and the same shall be declared duly elected. If alternates are necessary, then ~~by the consent of a majority of those present~~, a motion may then be entertained for the unanimous election as alternates in each order such number of those nominees in each order having the next highest number of votes on the last full ballot and the same shall thereupon be declared duly elected.
20. The Bishop's Annual Address shall be given at such time as may be designated by the bishop, the Committee on Arrangements, and the dispatcher of business.
21. Resolutions shall be brought to the floor of the convention in the order in which the Resolutions Committee deems expedient to the business of convention. No resolution to receive, acknowledge, affirm or reaffirm an act of a previous General Convention or convention of the Diocese of Maryland will be brought forth for consideration.
22. A majority of two-thirds of the members ~~present~~ shall be required to suspend any Rule of Order or shall make any change in the Order of Business; but "Orders of the Day" may be intercalated in the Order of Business by a majority vote.
23. "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the parliamentary guides in all cases not provided for in the foregoing rules.
24. The foregoing Rules of Order **are temporary and** shall **not** be deemed the Rules of Order for all future Conventions until altered or rescinded, and the same shall be published in the Journal of each Convention. The Order of Business as annexed shall be generally followed but may be altered from time to time upon recommendation of the dispatcher of business.