

June 21, 2023

Dear Diocesan Family,

Since the 2017 annual Convention of the Diocese, the Committee on Constitution and Canons has been working on restatements of our Constitution and Canons. A proposed restated version was rejected by the 2021 Convention and the 2022 Convention tasked the Committee with making further revisions. It is anticipated that the Committee's recommendations will be presented to the 2023 Convention for a decision.

We are now seeking feedback on our newly proposed Constitution and Canons, which now incorporate further changes as a result of the feedback we received during and following the 2021 Convention.

Attached to this message you will find a proposed new Constitution and a proposed new set of Canons, each with the changes proposed since 2021 marked in red. In addition, we have created a document summarizing the most significant material changes between our present documents and the newly proposed documents.

We are asking everyone to prayerfully read and think about these proposed documents and the changes they would bring. We especially ask that those who will be voting at Convention this year – clergy and lay delegates – take the time to understand what is being proposed and give us their feedback.

The goal of the Constitution and Canons Committee is to gather input from our entire Diocesan family with the intent to find out what we need to do to get to a “yes” vote on a new Constitution and Canons. We invite anyone in our Diocese to provide feedback to the committee about these documents, ask us questions, and make suggestions about what should be included.

We especially ask those who will be voting on the documents at Convention this year – clergy and lay delegates alike – to consider what we have prepared and ask yourself “could I vote ‘yes’ on these documents as they stand now? If not, why not? What would need to change for me to vote ‘yes’?”

When you have looked at our work and considered these questions, please give us your feedback in one of the following three ways:

1. Please feel free to contact any member of the Constitution and Canons Committee at any time. The Committee members are:

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp, Chair
Greg Hildebran, Diocesan Chancellor
The Rev. Toni Belhu
Anne Bleynat, Attorney-at-Law
The Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene
The Rev. Logan Lovelace
Phillip Wertz, Attorney-at-Law

2. Four Zoom Feedback Sessions will be held in July and August

Wednesday, July 19, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87603724701>

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89514153431>

Monday, August 14, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89912555134>

Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88565226645>

3. In-person Feedback Sessions will take place in each of our six Deaneries:

Western Deanery: Monday, July 17, 5:30 p.m., All Saints, Franklin, 66 Church St., Franklin.

Foothills Deanery: Thursday, July 27, 2:00 p.m. St. Mary's & St. Stephen's, 140 St Mary's Church Rd, Morganton

Mountain Deanery: Wednesday, August 2, 2:00 p.m., St. Mary of the Hills, 140 Chestnut St., Blowing Rock

Piedmont Deanery: Tuesday, August 15, 5:00 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, 502 W. Sumter St., Shelby.

Asheville Deanery: Tuesday, August 22, 5:00 p.m., All Souls Cathedral, 9 Swan St., Asheville.

Hendersonville Deanery: Tuesday, August 29, 2:00 p.m., Calvary Church, 2840 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher

Our Committee believes that we, as a Diocese, are very closing to finding consensus on a set of new governing documents on which we can all agree. No Constitution and Canons will ever give everyone everything they want, but we believe we are very close to finding consensus on a set of documents that address the issues involved in a way that we can all agree is a good way forward for our life together.

Thank you for your prayerful attention and work on this matter and we look forward to hearing from you in the weeks ahead.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jonathan Stepp
Chair of the Constitution and Canons Committee