

Deputies to the Provincial Synod

Canon 16.03

Resolved, That Canon XVI, Section 16.03, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16.03. Deputies to the Provincial Synod. The deputies and alternate deputies representing the Diocese at the Synod of the Eighth Province shall be elected ~~at least six (6) months prior to the scheduled date of the Provincial Synod by the deputies and alternate deputies to the General Convention.~~ Eligibility for such offices shall be in accordance with the Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Ordinances of the Eighth Province. ~~Deputies and alternates so elected shall serve at all meetings of the Provincial Synod for which elected during the two (2) years subsequent to the date of the Synod, and until their successors are elected. Any vacancy in such deputation shall be filled by the Bishop with the concurrence of Executive Council.~~

Explanation:

This proposal eliminates the need for a separate election for deputies to the Provincial Synod.

At the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, Governance and Structure were one of the three major topics reviewed, debated, and voted on by the House of Deputies and House of Bishops. The end result was a more streamlined and nimble process of church structure.

Provinces are much like our deanery system in the Diocese of California. Each congregation elects delegates to diocesan convention, but they convene at the deanery level to understand local ministries and the congregational needs within their communities. This provides an important foundation when voting on programs and issues during our annual diocesan convention.

By utilizing the members of the General Convention Deputation, specific individuals are called to take on a provincial ministry for the triennium and to be accountable to the Diocese. This will allow for a consistent line of communications from the province to the Diocese of California.

The last two provincial synods were held at the site of General Convention. Both have equated to a 1.5–2 hour meeting with the business agenda identical to a parish annual meeting. Currently, 17 of the 18 dioceses in Province VIII utilize their General Convention deputies as their Provincial Synod deputies in this role. We ask for your support for this canon change.

Submitted by: the Rev. Matthew Woodward, Province VIII Synod Clergy Deputy, Peninsula Deanery President and Rector of Transfiguration Episcopal Church. *Endorsed by:* Dianne Audrick Smith, St. Augustine's Church, Oakland, Province VIII Synod Lay Deputy; Warren J. Wong, delegate, St. James Church, San Francisco, Member, Executive Committee of Province VIII, Chair of General Convention, CCABs, & Budget for the Legislative Committee on Governance & Structure. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Matthew Woodward (rector@transfig-sm.org).

Report of the Committee on Canons:

The Committee on Canons finds this amendment suitable in form for adoption.