

1 A007: Canonical Implementation of a Unicameral General Convention

2  
3 Title I.1.1

4  
5 Sec. 1 (a) At the time and place appointed for the meeting of the General Convention, the  
6 Presiding Bishop or the Presiding Deputy, President of the House of Deputies, or, if  
7 absent, the Vice President of the House, or, if there be neither, a presiding officer pro  
8 tempore appointed by the members of the House of Deputies Order of Bishops on the  
9 Joint Committee of Arrangements for the General Convention, shall call to order the  
10 members present. The Secretary, or, if absent, a Secretary pro tempore appointed by the  
11 presiding officer, shall record the names of those whose testimonials, in due form, shall  
12 have been presented, which record shall be prima facie evidence that the persons whose  
13 names are therein recorded are entitled to seats. In the event that testimonials  
14 are presented by or on behalf of persons from jurisdictions which have not previously  
15 been represented in a General Convention, then the Secretary, or one appointed instead as  
16 provided herein, shall proceed as provided in Clause (c). If there be a quorum present, the  
17 Secretary shall so certify, and the House presiding officer shall proceed to organize by  
18 the election, by ballot, of a Secretary, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary  
19 to such election. Upon such election, the presiding officer shall declare the House  
20 General Convention organized. If there be a Any vacancy in the office of President or  
21 Vice President, the vacancy or vacancies presiding officer shall then be filled by election,  
22 by ballot, the to a term of any officer so elected to continue until expiring upon the  
23 adjournment of the General Convention. As soon as such vacancies are filled, the  
24 President shall appoint a committee to wait upon the House of Bishops and inform  
25 it of the organization of the House of Deputies, and of its readiness  
26 to proceed to business.

27  
28 (b) The Presiding Bishop shall be elected by the General Convention and shall serve as  
29 a Co-Chair of General Convention. The term of the Presiding Bishop shall be as set  
30 forth in the applicable Canon. The Presiding Bishop shall be elected by the General  
31 Convention in the manner herein set forth not later than the fourth day of the regular  
32 meeting of the General Convention following which his or her term expires. The  
33 Presiding Bishop shall take office at the adjournment of the regular meeting at which  
34 he or she is elected.

35  
36 (bc) ~~There shall be a President and a Vice President of the House~~  
37 ~~of Deputies,~~ The General Convention shall also elect a Presiding Deputy and an Assistant  
38 Presiding Deputy from the Lay or Clergy order who shall perform the duties normally  
39 appropriate to their respective offices or specified in these Canons. They shall be  
40 elected not later than the seventh fourth day of each regular meeting of the  
41 General Convention in the manner herein set forth. The House of Lay and Clergy  
42 Deputies shall elect from its their membership, by joint votes, by a majority of separate  
43 ballots, a President and a Vice President Presiding Deputy and an Assistant Presiding  
44 Deputy, who shall be of different orders. Such officers shall take office at the  
45 adjournment of the regular meeting at which they are elected, and shall continue in

46 office until the adjournment of the following regular meeting of the General Convention.  
 47 They shall be and remain ex officio members of ~~the House~~ General Convention during  
 48 their term of office. The Presiding Deputy and the Assistant Presiding Deputy shall each  
 49 serve a term of one three year period. No person elected Presiding Deputy or Assistant  
 50 Presiding Deputy shall be eligible for more than three consecutive full terms in each  
 51 respective office. In case of resignation, death, absence, or inability, ~~of the President, the~~  
 52 ~~Vice President~~ to serve of a Presiding Deputy, the Assistant Presiding Deputy shall  
 53 perform the duties of the office until the adjournment of the next meeting of the General  
 54 Convention. In case of resignation, death, absence, or inability of the ~~Vice President~~  
 55 Assistant Presiding Deputy, the President Presiding Deputy shall appoint a Deputy of the  
 56 opposite order, upon the advice and consent of the lay persons, presbyters and deacons of  
 57 the Executive Council, who shall serve until the adjournment of the next meeting of the  
 58 General Convention. ~~The President shall be authorized to appoint an Advisory Council~~  
 59 ~~for consultation and advice in the performance of the duties of the office. The President~~  
 60 ~~may also appoint a Chancellor to the President, a confirmed adult communicant of the~~  
 61 ~~Church in good standing who is learned in both ecclesiastical and secular law, to serve so~~  
 62 ~~long as the President may desire, as counselor in matters relating to the discharge of the~~  
 63 ~~responsibilities of that office.~~

64  
 65 (d) The Presiding Bishop and the Presiding Deputy shall alternate presiding at sessions  
 66 (i.e., morning, afternoon, evening) of the General Convention. The Presiding Bishop shall  
 67 preside at the first session of each General Convention. The Presiding Bishop and the  
 68 Presiding Deputy shall perform the duties normally appropriate to their respective offices  
 69 or specified in these Canons. The Presiding Bishop and the Presiding Deputy are  
 70 sometimes referred to as the Presiding Officers.

71  
 72 (e) Each of the Presiding Officers shall be authorized to appoint a Council of Advice for  
 73 consultation and advice in the performance of the duties of his or her offices. Each of the  
 74 Presiding Officers may also appoint a Chancellor, a confirmed adult communicant of the  
 75 Church in good standing who is learned in both ecclesiastical and secular law, to serve so  
 76 long as each Presiding Officer may desire, as counselor in matters relating to the  
 77 discharge of the responsibilities of his or her office.

78  
 79 ~~(ef) In order to~~ To aid the Secretary in preparing the record specified in Clause (a), it shall  
 80 be the duty of the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to forward to the  
 81 Secretary of the ~~House of Deputies~~ General Convention, as soon as may be practicable, a  
 82 copy of the latest Journal of the Diocesan Convention, together with a certified copy of  
 83 the testimonials of ~~members aforesaid~~ the election of (the) diocese's Deputies and  
 84 Alternate Deputies, and a duplicate copy of such testimonials. Where testimonials are  
 85 received for persons from jurisdictions which have not previously been represented in  
 86 General Convention, the Secretary shall ascertain that the applicable provisions of Article  
 87 V, Section 1, of the Constitution have been complied with prior to such persons being  
 88 permitted to take their seats in the ~~House~~ General Convention.

89  
 90 (dg) The Secretary shall keep full minutes of the proceedings of the ~~House~~ General  
 91 Convention; record them, with all reports, in a book provided for that purpose; preserve

92 the Journals and Records of the ~~House~~ General Convention; ~~deliver them to the Registrar,~~  
 93 ~~as hereinafter provided~~ file them in the Archives; and perform such other duties as may  
 94 be directed by the ~~House~~ General Convention. The Secretary may, with the approval of  
 95 the ~~House~~ General Convention, appoint Assistant Secretaries, and the Secretary and  
 96 Assistant Secretaries shall continue in office until the organization of the next regular  
 97 meeting of the General Convention, and until their successors be chosen.

98  
 99 (eh) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the ~~House of Deputies~~ General Convention,  
 100 whenever any alteration of the Book of Common Prayer or of the Constitution is  
 101 proposed, or any other subject submitted to the consideration of the several Diocesan  
 102 Conventions, to give notice thereof to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Church and the  
 103 Secretary of the Convention in of every Ddiocese, ~~as well as to the Secretary of the~~  
 104 ~~Convention of every Diocese,~~ and written evidence that the foregoing requirement has  
 105 ~~been complied with shall be presented by the Secretary to the General Convention at its~~  
 106 ~~next session. All such notices shall be sent by certified or registered mail, with the~~  
 107 ~~Secretary's certificates to be returned.~~ The Secretary shall notify all diocesan Secretaries  
 108 that it is their duty to make known such proposed alterations of the Book of Common  
 109 Prayer, and of the Constitution, and such other subjects, to the Conventions of their  
 110 respective Ddioceses at their next meeting, and to certify to the Secretary of the ~~House of~~  
 111 ~~Deputies~~ General Convention that such action has been taken.

112  
 113 (fi) The Secretary and the Treasurer of the ~~House of Deputies~~ General Convention and  
 114 ~~the Treasurer of the General Convention~~ shall be entitled to seats upon the floor of  
 115 the ~~House~~ General Convention, and, with the consent of the President presiding officer,  
 116 they may speak on the subjects of their respective offices.

117  
 118 (g) ~~At the meetings of the House of Deputies the Rules and Orders of the previous~~  
 119 ~~meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the House.~~

120  
 121 (h) ~~In case of the resignation, death, or total disability of the President and Vice President~~  
 122 ~~during the recess of the General Convention, the Secretary of the House of Deputies shall~~  
 123 ~~perform such ad interim duties as may appertain to the office of President until the next~~  
 124 ~~meeting of the General Convention or until such disability is removed.~~

125  
 126 (ij) If, during recess, a vacancy shall occur in the office of Secretary of the ~~House of~~  
 127 ~~Deputies~~ General Convention, the duties thereof shall devolve upon the First Assistant  
 128 Secretary, or, if there be none such, upon a Secretary pro tempore appointed by the  
 129 President of the House presiding officers, acting jointly. ~~or if the office of President be~~  
 130 ~~also vacant, then by the Vice President, and if both offices be vacant, then by the~~  
 131 ~~members from the House of Deputies of the Joint Committee on Planning and~~  
 132 ~~Arrangements for the next General Convention, appointed by the preceding General~~  
 133 ~~Convention.~~

134  
135 (jk) At every regular meeting of the General Convention, the Secretary ~~elected by the~~  
136 ~~House of Deputies shall, by concurrent action of the two Houses of the General~~  
137 ~~Convention, also be made the Secretary of the General Convention, who shall have~~  
138 responsibility for assembling and printing of the Journal of the General Convention, and  
139 for other matters specifically referred to the Secretary.  
140  
141 (l) Each General Convention shall function for the Church both as a legislative body  
142 and as a mission-oriented convocation.