167 C ADD CANON 38
Of the Election of Bishops

Sec. 1. Upon the announced resignation of the Bishop, the receipt from the Bishop of written intent to resign, or notice of the death of the Bishop, the Standing Committee shall convene within sixty (60) days to initiate the process for the election of the successor Bishop. The Standing Committee, shall have oversight and responsibility for the process of electing the successor Bishop in accordance with this Canon and the applicable provisions of the Constitution of this Diocese and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Sec. 2. The responsibilities of the Standing Committee shall include:

1. Establishing procedures for election of the successor Bishop, to include procedures for election of delegates to the Electing Convention;

2. Appointment of a Transition Committee and such other committees and consultants as it deems appropriate;

3. Designation of the date of the Electing Convention;

4. Collaborate with the Nominating Committee, the Transition Committee and diocesan leadership to provide appropriate financial means, staff support and facilities support for the search and nomination process, the Electing Convention, episcopal transition and the consecration and seating of the successor Bishop.

5. Oversight of the election of members of the Nominating Committee;

6. Oversight of the activities of the Nominating Committee;
7. Receipt and publication of the slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee;

8. Solicitation and receipt of nominations by petition to be submitted to the Standing Committee within ten (10) days after publication of the Nominating Committee’s slate of nominees, such petition nominees to be supported by signatures of at least one hundred (100) adult communicants of the diocese in good standing representing not fewer than five (5) parishes of this Diocese.

9. Establishing rules of order for the Electing Convention;

10. Conducting the Election Convention and oversight of the election;

11. Provision of all required certifications and notices respecting the election of the Bishop;

12. Seek all required consents to the election and ordination of the elected Bishop;

13. Provision for the consecration of the elected Bishop in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and

14. Provision for the seating of the elected Bishop.

Sec. 3. A Nominating Committee for the election of the successor Bishop shall be established by the Standing Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of fifteen (15) members. Ten (10) of those members shall be selected from nominees received from the Mission Chapters. The Standing Committee shall establish procedures for solicitation of nominees from the Chapters and each Chapter may submit up to two (2) nominees. The Standing Committee, shall select five (5) additional members of the Nominating Committee and shall designate from among those members the individual who will served as Chair of the Nominating Committee. All lay members of the Nominating Committee shall be adult
communicants of the diocese in good standing and all clergy members shall be canonically resident in the diocese. The Standing Committee shall complete the process of establishing the Nominating Committee by not later than one hundred twenty (120) days following receipt of notice of the resignation, intended resignation or death of the serving Bishop.

Sec. 4. The Nominating Committee shall:

1. Determine its own procedures and processes, subject to oversight by the Standing Committee;

2. Prepare and publish a Diocesan Profile;

3. Develop and follow policies and procedures for conducting the search for candidates. Such procedures and policies shall be consistent with the principles and values presented in Section III of the Task Force on the Episcopacy’s Blue Book Report to the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to foster diversity across the Church’s leadership, including its bishops. The policies and procedures shall include:

   a. Actions designed to encourage a diverse applicant pool;

   b. A search and nomination process that reduces the likelihood of discrimination based on the criteria described in Canon III.1.2 of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church;

   c. Participation of committee members in training required by the Standing Committee to facilitate processes and procedures which encourage diversity and comport with the Church’s nondiscrimination principles and values;

   d. Provision for reasonable transparency of the process, subject to appropriate confidentiality respecting the committee’s deliberations and the collection of information regarding candidates being considered for nomination; and
e. Development, prior to submission of its slate of nominees and, as to petition
nominees, prior to publication of petition nominees, of pertinent data
regarding candidates under consideration for nomination using the most
current feasible means available for background checks, collection of financial
information, interviews of all bishops and transition officers having
knowledge of the person under consideration; and interviews by the
Chancellor of proposed final candidates.

4. At least six (6) weeks prior to the designated date of the electing convention,
submit to the Standing Committee a slate of at least three (3) and not more than five
(5) nominees.