

Resolution on Amending Canon 1.6 Delegates to Provincial Synod

Resolved, the 137th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Oregon to amend Canon 1.6 to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted. Scroll below the line of asterisks (*****) to see the version showing all deleted and added texts.>

CANON 1.6 DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Deputies or Alternate Deputies of this Diocese to the General Convention, who are selected by a majority vote of the Deputation, shall also be eligible to act as Delegates to the Synod of the Eighth Province, in accordance with the Ordinances of the Province.

<Proposed amended text showing exact changes being made:>

CANON 1.6 DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Deputies *or Alternate Deputies* of this Diocese to the General Convention, *who are selected by a majority vote of the Deputation*, shall also *be eligible to act* ~~serve~~ as Delegates to the Synod of the Eighth Province, in accordance with the Ordinances of the Province.

Proposed by:

Alan Murray, All Saints Episcopal Church, Portland

Endorsed by:

Sydney Fitzpatrick, Christ Church, Lake Oswego

The Rev. Beth Mellon, St. James Episcopal Church, Tigard

Toni Phipps, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem

The Rev. Wes Sedlacek, Samaritan Health Services, Lebanon

Susie Silva-Strommer, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Portland

The Rev. Tom Sramek Jr., All Saints Episcopal Church, Hillsboro

Explanation:

Every three years, the Eighth Province of the Episcopal Church—of which our diocese is a member—convenes a Provincial Synod. Each diocese within the Province selects two clergy and two lay delegates to participate, with the Synod typically held virtually ahead of the General Convention or in person during the Convention itself.

Currently, our diocesan canon permits only elected deputies to serve as Provincial Synod delegates. In contrast, many other dioceses already allow any member of the deputation, including alternate deputies, to fill this role.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, the structure of the General Convention has evolved significantly. Legislative committees began meeting online prior to the in-person gathering—a shift formally adopted at the 2024 General Convention.

Amending our canon to include alternate deputies as eligible Provincial Synod delegates would foster leadership development and expand opportunities for governance training. It would also ease the demands on deputies assigned to legislative committees who may not have the capacity to attend both settings. This change reflects the evolving landscape of church governance and aligns our practice with that of many fellow dioceses.