

RESOLUTION #2016 - 01
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution For a Rule Change Relating to Episcopal Candidate Endorsement
Presented by the EPC 2016 Jurisdictional Conference Delegation.

WHEREAS, The current Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are silent on the method that shall be used to endorse an episcopal candidate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference amend the Rules of Order to include the following process for endorsing an episcopal candidate:

~~1. The jurisdictional delegation shall determine its own process by which the delegation will recommend a nominee (or nominees) for the episcopacy to the annual conference for endorsement. The delegation may also decide not to recommend any nominee.~~

The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during which episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the members both lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate the number of Elders for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided the nominees are Elders in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at least 10 nominations will have their biographical details and personal statement printed in the conference newspaper to be mailed/distributed for study prior to the electing conference session.

2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may present one or more names to the annual conference for endorsement. The jurisdictional delegation may also choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the delegation places one or more names before the conference, annual conference delegates shall then proceed to confirm the recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3 vote by those present and eligible to vote. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.

3. If the opening ballot fails to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority to confirm the delegation's recommendation(s), additional nominations from the floor shall then be in order, *provided*:

- a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall have given consent prior to the making of the nomination, and will at the time the nomination is made present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual conference with the names and signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who as laity are full members of a local church and as clergy are members of the annual conference.

- b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such nominees will be distributed to all annual conference delegates at the time the nomination is made.
- c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been received from the floor, before a ballot is taken.

4. The annual conference shall then proceed to endorse a nominee (or nominees) by ballot as follows: all nominees shall be listed on the ballot, and a ballot taken. Any person(s) receiving a 2/3 vote would move forward as the endorsed episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; *provided* that annual conference delegates may not vote on any ballot for more candidates than the number of open episcopal seats anticipated at the ensuing Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

5. After ~~two~~ **five** such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be in order, requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3 majority shall be considered the endorsed episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. If no person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no person shall be considered to have been endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the annual conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the Jurisdictional delegates cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (§405.1, 2012 *The Book of Discipline*).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new rule shall be titled "NOMINATION OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES."

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new rule shall be listed in the Rules of Order as Article XVII, and that all rules beginning with the current Article XVII of the Rules of Order (Petitions to General Conference), and following, be renumbered accordingly.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Joe DiPaolo, Jane Bonner, Krystl Johnson