

**DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST  
SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR  
VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**February 26-27, 2021**

**I. General Supplemental Rules**

- A. Supersede Regular Rules. These Supplemental Special Rules of Order for Virtual Attendance at Annual Convention shall supersede the regular Rules of Order for Conducting the Business of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and, to the extent they are in conflict with the regular Rules of Order, these Special Rules shall prevail.
- B. Purpose. The purpose of these Special Rules is to facilitate the calling and meeting of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in a situation where it is impractical and risky to hold a face-to-face physical meeting of the Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related governmental restraints, public health concerns or as otherwise determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. These Special Rules of Order will be in effect only for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to be held on February 26-27, 2021.
- C. Interpretation of Certain Constitutional and Canonical Terms. These terms shall have the following interpretation:

“Convention”: The meeting of clergy and laity of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast conducted wholly or in part via remote electronic participation by its members.

“Seat”: The ability to participate in the Convention via electronic connection.

“Voice”: The right to make oral statements electronically during the Convention.

“Vote”: The right to cast an oral voice or electronic vote or to file an electronic ballot during the Convention.

- D. Secretary to Send Login Information. No later than three days before such meeting, the Secretary of Convention, or his, her or their designee, shall send an email to every registered member of Convention at the e-mail address specified by the member setting forth (a) the time of the meeting, (b) the URL and codes necessary to connect to the Internet meeting service (Zoom), and, as an alternative and backup to the audio connection included within the Internet service (Zoom), the phone number and access codes the member needs to participate aurally by telephone, and (c) if a registered, voting delegate, a VPOLL login code.
- E. Convention Officer. In order to facilitate the conduct of an electronic meeting of the Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint one or more Convention Officers to assist the Chair and Secretary of the Convention.

## **II. Opening of Meeting and Quorum**

- A. Login Time. The Secretary or his, her or their designee shall schedule Internet meeting service availability to begin at least 60 minutes before the start of each meeting.
- B. Signing in and out. Members shall identify themselves as required to sign in to the Internet meeting service, and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
- C. Quorum. The Convention Officers shall determine and report to the Secretary the presence of a quorum as required by the Constitution on the basis of the VPOLL login information of registered, voting delegates.

## **III. Conduct of Meeting**

- A. Technical requirements and malfunctions. Each member is responsible for his or her audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- B. Forced disconnections. The Chair of Convention or Convention Officers may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Chair's decision to do so,

which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.

- C. Assignment of the Floor. To seek recognition by the Chair, a member shall use the Zoom “hand raise” request and await recognition. Once the pending action is completed, the Convention Officer shall clear the online queue.
- D. Seconding of motions and related posts. Members responding “so moved” to a request from the Chair for a motion, or seconding any motion that requires a second, may do so using the Zoom hand raise feature without needing to be recognized by the Chair.
- E. Display of motions. A Convention Officer shall attempt to display the immediately pending question and other relevant pending questions to be displayed therein until disposed of. If that is not possible, the Chair will announce the immediately pending question before each vote.
- F. Video display. The Convention Officer shall attempt to cause a video of the Chair to be displayed throughout the meeting, and if technologically feasible, shall also cause display of the video of the member currently recognized to speak (if such display is permitted by the Chair) or report.

#### IV. Elections and Voting

- A. Nominations from the floor. Any completed application, i.e., signed nomination form, biography, and picture, received after the stated nomination deadline shall be considered a nomination from the floor. Completed applications must be submitted online on the Diocesan Convention Hub **on or before February 15, 2021**. All nominations from the floor will be emailed to clergy and delegates prior to the call to order. **No nominations may be made during the virtual Convention.**
- B. Voting. Ballots will be administered by an internet voting service, VPOLL, using members’ assigned VPOLL login code. Results of votes may be reported to the Bishop by the Convention Officers or the Secretary.

On all elections, on the first two ballots for each office a majority vote is necessary for election. On the third ballot, the candidate with the most votes (plurality) shall be elected.

## V. Resolutions

- A. Resolutions from the Floor. Any resolutions submitted after the prescribed due date of January 12, 2021 must be approved by the Committee on Resolutions and then accepted by Convention before discussion or voting can occur. If an individual or group that missed the prescribed due date of January 12, 2021 is confident of the importance of a resolution, it should be submitted to the Secretary for Convention **on or before February 15, 2021** so that it can receive appropriate attention and be sent to delegates prior to Convention. Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding a “virtual” gathering, **no resolutions may be introduced during the virtual Convention.**
- B. Voting on Resolutions. Resolutions will be voted on using the Internet voting service, VPOLL.