

Originator: The Rev. Alan P. Coudriet  
Parish/Mission: Christ Church, Oil City  
Subject: Term Limits, Second Reading



**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** this Diocesan Convention amends the Constitution, Article VII, section 1,d, eliminating the sentence: “All members of the Standing Committee are subject to re-election upon the expiration of their terms,” and replacing such line with: “Members may serve up to 2 terms of office then they must retire for 1 year before seeking re-election.”

Article and section of constitution or canons affected: **Article VII, Section 1,d**

Budget line item[s] affected: **None**

Originator: The Rev. Alan P. Coudriet  
Parish/Mission: Christ Church, Oil City  
Subject: Vacancies on Standing Committee,  
Second Reading



**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** this Diocesan Convention amends the Constitution, Article VII, Section 5, by adding the words in ***bold italic*** print below to read:

The Standing Committee shall have authority to fill, for the unexpired term all vacancies that may occur during the recess of Convention, ***though not appointing any such person who is serving a year off after two terms, as per Article VII, section 1,d,*** in its own body.

Article and section of constitution or canons affected: **Article VII, Section 5**

Budget line item[s] affected: **None**

Originator: The Rev. Brian S. Reid  
Parish/Mission: Clergy-Retired  
Subject: New Constitution for the Diocese



**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the present Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania be replaced in its entirety by the proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania 2007 consisting of the six pages attached hereto.

**RATIONALE:** It is time to simplify the diocesan structure, clarify some points in our present procedures, and adapt to changes made in the national constitution and canons.

Article and section of constitution or canons affected: **The entire constitution**

Budget line item[s] affected: **None**

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 3 Article I. Territory and accession

4 Section A. That part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church known as The  
5 Episcopal Church, situated in the northwestern portion of the Commonwealth of  
6 Pennsylvania, does hereby establish itself as the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and  
7 does ordain and adopt this constitution for its governance.

8 Section B. The diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania consists of all members of the  
9 Episcopal Church within the Pennsylvania counties of Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield (except  
10 Morris Township), Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer,  
11 Venango, and Warren.

12 Section C. The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is a constituent part of The Episcopal  
13 Church and does accede to, recognize and adopt the Constitution and Canons of The  
14 Episcopal Church as they now exist or may hereafter be amended and acknowledges their  
15 authority *over the diocese*.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 17 **Article II. Ecclesiastical Authority**

18 Section A. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be the Bishop Diocesan.

19 Section B. If there be no Bishop Diocesan, or if the Bishop Diocesan be unable to act or is  
20 absent from the diocese for an extended period, then the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one,  
21 shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority

22 Section C. If there be neither a Bishop Diocesan nor a Bishop Coadjutor able to act under  
23 the provisions of Sections A and B, then the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical  
24 Authority.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 26 Article III. Convention

### 27 Section A. Meetings

#### 28 i. Annual Convention

29 a) There shall be a regular convention of the church in this diocese to be  
held annually

30 at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding annual convention. The  
action of

31 fixing the time and place of the regular annual convention shall constitute  
adequate

32 notice of such meeting.

33 b) For good and sufficient cause the time or place of meeting of the annual  
convention

34 may be changed by the ecclesiastical authority. Notice of such a change  
must be

35 given by regular mail to all canonically resident clergy and to all  
congregations *in union with the convention*

36 at least thirty days prior to the convention.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

37           ii. Special conventions

38                   a) Special conventions may be held upon the call of the ecclesiastical  
authority.

39                   b) Special conventions shall be called by the ecclesiastical authority upon  
written

40                   petition stating the reason for such convention signed by at least five clergy  
41                   canonically resident in the diocese and **twenty** adult communicants in good  
standing of

42                   any **five** or more congregations in the diocese.

43                   c) The special convention shall be held at a time and place fixed by the  
ecclesiastical  
44                   authority.

45                   d) Notice of such special convention shall be given by regular mail to all the  
clergy

46                   canonically resident in the diocese and to all the congregations in union  
with the

47                   convention at least thirty days prior to the date of such special convention.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

48 e) The notice shall include the reason for calling such special convention  
and the

49 business to be done by such special convention.

50 f) No business, other than that stated in the notice, shall be transacted at  
such special

51 convention except by three fourths majority vote of the members of the  
convention.

52 Section B. Membership in convention

53 i. The Convention shall be composed of the following members with voice and vote:  
The

54 the officers of the Convention, at least one lay delegate from each of the  
congregations

55 in union with the Convention, and all other clergy who have been canonically resident  
in

56 the diocese for at least six months preceding the convention.

57 ii. The mode of determining the number of lay delegates, of electing lay delegates, and  
of

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

- 58 admitting congregations into union with the Convention shall be prescribed  
59 by Canon.
- 60 iii. The mode of identifying and determining those other clergy (deacons, presbyters,  
61 and  
62 other bishops) entitled to voice and vote in convention shall be prescribed by Canon.
- 63 iv. Provision may be made in the Canons for the denial of vote, but not voice, at  
64 Convention to the lay delegates **from** congregations which have failed  
65 to submit the Annual Parochial Report.
- 66 v. Provision may be made in the Canons for the denial of vote, but not voice, at  
67 Convention to the lay delegates **from** congregations which have failed  
68 to provide evidence, adequate to the ecclesiastical authority, of the annual audit  
69 required  
70 by canon.
- vi. Provision may be made in the Canons for the denial of vote, but not voice, at  
Convention to the lay delegates **from** congregations which have failed

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

71 to pay assessments levied upon such congregation by the authority of convention.

72 vii. No person under ecclesiastical *discipline*, whether clergy or lay, shall be  
73 entitled to membership.

74 viii. The Convention shall be the sole judge of the election and qualification of its  
75 members.

76 Section C. Officers of convention

77 i. President of Convention

78 a) The Bishop Diocesan shall be president and presiding officer at all  
conventions. In

79 the absence of the Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one  
present,

80 shall preside at convention.

81 b) If there be no Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor to preside as called  
for in

82 Article III. Section C.i.a, then the senior presbyter present (in order of  
length of

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

83 canonical residence in the diocese) shall call the convention to order and  
preside

84 until the convention shall nominate and elect a president pro-tempore.

85 ii. Secretary of Convention

86 a) The annual convention shall elect a Secretary of Convention.

87 b) The mode of nomination, qualifications for office, duties, and term of  
office shall be

88 prescribed by canon.

89 iii. Treasurer of Convention

90 a) The annual convention shall elect a Treasurer of Convention.

91 b) The mode of nomination, qualifications for office, duties, and term of  
office shall be

92 prescribed by canon.

93 iv. Chancellor of Convention

94 a) The annual convention shall elect a Chancellor of Convention.

95 b) The mode of nomination, qualifications for office, duties, and term of  
office shall be

96 prescribed by canon.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

97 Section D. Conduct of Convention

98 i. Quorum: A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of one third of the  
99 clergy

100 entitled to vote and at least one lay delegate from each of one **half** of the  
101 congregations

102 in union with convention. In the absence of a quorum a majority of those present may  
103 adjourn the convention from time to time.

104 ii. Voting. The members shall deliberate in one body and each member with voting  
105 privileges shall have one vote. A majority of votes cast shall be required to adopt any  
106 measure, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in the Canons.

107 iii. Voting by orders: On the call of any five members, ***not all of whom may represent***  
108 ***the same congregation,***

109 or when called for in the Constitution or Canons, a vote by  
orders shall be taken. In a vote by orders the clergy delegates and lay delegates vote  
separately and a concurrent majority of votes cast in both orders shall be required to  
adopt any measure, ***unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in the Canons.***

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

110 iv. Elections:

111 a) All elections to any office under this Constitution or the Canons of this  
112 diocese shall

112 be by **secret ballot**.

113 b) All delegates must vote for the number of persons to be elected to the  
114 various

114 offices.

115 c) In order to be elected a person must receive a majority of votes cast  
116 ***unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in the Canons***. When the  
116 Constitution or Canons call for an election by the clergy and lay delegates  
117 voting

117 separately then, in order to be elected, a person must receive a concurrent  
118 majority

118 of votes cast in each order, ***unless otherwise specified in this Constitution  
119 or in the Canons***.

119 d) If in any election only one person should be nominated for that office,  
120 then the

120 election may be had by acclamation and no **further** balloting is required.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

- 121 e) If any office remains unfilled after three ballots the Convention may  
decide to elect
- 122 persons to the remaining offices by a plurality of votes cast rather than by  
requiring
- 123 a majority of votes cast or may decide to drop from the ballot the person  
with the
- 124 lowest number of votes. Any motion to make such alteration in the  
election process
- 125 shall require a majority of three fourths.
- 126 f) **All persons** elected to any office in the Diocese of Northwestern  
Pennsylvania shall
- 127 assume office at the close of the convention at which they are elected.
- 128 g) **All persons** elected or appointed to any office in the Diocese of  
Northwestern
- 129 Pennsylvania or in any of its congregations shall continue in office until  
their
- 130 successor is chosen and shall at all times well and faithfully discharge the  
duties of
- 131 their office to the best of their ability.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

132 h) **All persons** elected or appointed to any office in the Diocese of  
Northwestern

133 Pennsylvania, or in any of its congregations or other organizations, when  
they leave

134 office shall deliver to their successor all records and documents  
appertaining to that

135 office in whatever form they may exist.

136 v. Other matters

137 a) All actions of convention shall take effect upon the adjournment of that  
convention

138 unless otherwise provided in the Constitution and Canons or in the act  
itself.

139 b) The convention may make provision in the Canons of the diocese for the  
adoption

140 and amendment of rules of order to govern and organize the convention  
for the

141 conduct of its business.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 143 Article IV. The Standing Committee

144 Section A. The annual convention shall elect, **by the clerical and lay orders voting**  
145 **separately**, persons to serve upon the Standing Committee

146 of the diocese.

147 Section B. The Standing Committee shall consist of an equal number of **presbyters**  
148 and lay

149 members.

150 Section C. The number of members, mode of nomination, qualifications for office,  
151 duties,

and terms of office shall be prescribed by canon.

152 Section D. The Standing Committee shall have authority to fill, for the unexpired term,  
153 all

154 vacancies that may occur in its own body.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 153 **Article V. Diocesan Council**

154 Section A. The Diocesan Council shall consist of the Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop  
155 Coadjutor, if any, the Secretary of Convention, the Treasurer of Convention, the  
Chancellor

156 of Convention and such other persons, elected by the annual convention, as may be  
157 prescribed by canon.

158 Section B. The number of members, mode of nomination, **election**, qualifications for  
office, duties,

159 and terms of office shall be prescribed by canon.

160 Section C. The Diocesan Council shall have authority to fill, for the unexpired term, all  
161 vacancies that may occur in its own body or among the officers of council, other than  
the

162 bishop, that were elected by the convention.

163 Section D. The Diocesan Council shall be the board of directors of the Pennsylvania  
non

164 profit corporation known as The Diocese Of Northwestern Pennsylvania and shall have  
all

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

165 the legal powers incident thereto and shall have the power to authorize any person to  
act on

166 its behalf.

167 Section E. The Bishop Diocesan will be the chair and president of council and the  
168 corporation. A vice president for the council and corporation may be elected by council  
169 from among its members. The Secretary of Convention shall serve as secretary of the  
170 council and corporation. The Treasurer of Convention shall serve as treasurer of the  
council

171 and corporation. The Chancellor of Convention shall serve as chancellor of the council  
and

172 corporation.

173 Section F. It shall be the duty of the Diocesan Council to develop, prosecute, and oversee  
174 the mission and ministry of the church in the diocese, to develop a budget or budgets  
for the

175 work of the diocese, to fulfill all other duties laid upon the Council by the corporate  
charter,

176 by the Constitution and Canons, or by resolution of Convention, and to make full reports of

177 its work to the Annual Convention.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 179 **Article VI. Deputies to General Convention and Provincial Synod**

### 180 Section A. Deputies to General Convention

181 i. The Annual Convention, in the second year preceding that in which a  
stated meeting of

182 the General Convention will be held, shall elect, by the clerical and lay  
members voting

183 separately, deputies and alternate deputies to the General Convention.

184 ii. The number of deputies, mode of nomination, qualifications for office,  
duties, and terms

185 of office shall be prescribed by canon provided that a sufficient number  
shall be elected

186 so as to assure that the diocese have the full number of deputies permitted  
by the

187 Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

### 188 Section B. Deputies to the Provincial Synod

189 i. The Annual Convention shall elect, by the clerical and lay members voting  
separately,

190 deputies and alternate deputies to the Provincial Synod

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

191                   ii. The number of deputies, mode of nomination, qualifications for office,  
                          duties, and terms  
192                   of office shall be prescribed by canon provided that a sufficient number shall be  
                          elected  
193                   so as to assure that the diocese have the full number of deputies permitted by  
                          the  
194                   Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the ordinances of the  
                          Province.

195

## 196 **Article VII. Canons**

197               Section A. Canons, not in conflict with this Constitution, may be adopted by the  
                          Convention  
198               to implement the provisions of this Constitution and to prescribe the operation of this  
199               Diocese. Such proposed Canons or amendments thereto may be adopted, which shall require  
200               a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote at such Convention.  
201               Section B. A Committee on Constitution and Canons is *hereby* established whose  
                          membership,  
202               mode of nomination, qualifications for office, duties, and terms of office shall be  
                          prescribed  
203               in the canons. The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall have authority to fill, for  
204               the unexpired term, all vacancies that may occur in its own body.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 206 **Article VIII. Election of bishops**

207           Section A. Call for election and nomination process

208                     i. The requirements needed for the call to elect a bishop diocesan, a bishop  
                              coadjutor, or a

209                     bishop suffragan together with the method and process for nominating  
                              persons to the

210                     office of bishop shall be prescribed by canon.

211           Section B. Qualification of voters

212                     i. In order to vote in the election of any bishop the members of convention  
                              shall meet the

213                     requirements of Article III, Section B, but with the following changes:

214                                 a) It is required that all bishops, deacons and presbyters shall  
  have been canonically

215                                 resident in the diocese for at least one year preceding the  
  convention.

216                                 b) No member who is otherwise qualified shall be denied a vote  
  in the election because

217                                 of the provisions of Article III, Section B. subsections iv, v, or vi.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

218 Section C. Voting

219 i. Voting shall be by **secret** ballot with the clergy and lay members voting  
separately.

220 ii. If at least two thirds of the clergy eligible to vote are present and at least  
two thirds of

221 the full number of lay delegates are present then a concurrent majority of  
votes cast in

222 each order shall be necessary to elect.

223 iii. If a lesser number of clerical or lay delegates are present than are called  
for in Article

224 VIII, Section C subsection ii but a quorum as specified in Article III, Section  
D

225 subsection i exists then a concurrent majority consisting of three fourths of  
votes cast in

226 each order shall be necessary to elect.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 228 Article IX. **The Cathedral:**

229 Section A. The Cathedral of St. Paul in the city of Erie, established as such through the  
230 amendments of the Charter of St Paul's Church, Erie, and thus established upon a  
Cathedral  
231 Foundation, according to the tradition of the Anglican Communion and in conformity  
with  
232 the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is a constituent part of the church  
and  
233 convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The Cathedral and the  
Cathedral  
234 Congregation shall be governed by the Chapter in accordance with the Cathedral  
Charter,  
235 the statutes and by-laws of the Cathedral, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese  
of  
236 Northwestern Pennsylvania and the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 238 Article X. Ecclesiastical Discipline

239 Section A. An Ecclesiastical Court is hereby established in accordance with the  
Constitution

240 and Canons of The Episcopal Church. The court's membership, mode of nomination,  
election,

241 qualifications for office, duties, and terms of office shall be prescribed in the canons.

242 Section B. The Ecclesiastical Court shall have authority to fill, for the unexpired term,  
all

243 vacancies that may occur in its own body.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

## 245 **Article XI. Amendments of the Constitution**

246 Section A. A proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to  
the

247 Secretary of Convention not later than 60 days prior to the meeting of an Annual  
248 Convention.

249 Section B. The proposed amendment shall be referred to the Committee on  
Constitution and

250 Canons which shall report on the proposed amendment at that Annual Convention.

251 Section C. Voting on a proposed amendment shall be done by a vote by orders.

252 Section D. If the proposed amendment is approved by a concurrent majority of both  
orders,

253 the proposed amendment shall lay over to the next Annual Convention where its  
254 consideration shall be one of the first orders of business. If again approved by a  
concurrent

255 majority in both orders voting separately, then the Constitution shall be amended and  
the

256 amendment shall take effect at the end of that Convention.

# Proposed Constitution of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

- 257 Section E. The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall review this Constitution  
during
- 258 the year following every meeting of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church  
and
- 259 propose amendments to this Constitution as they *deem* necessary *or advisable*.

Originator: The Peace and Justice Task Force

Subject: On Diocesan Support of the  
Millennium Development Goals



**The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania recommends that the Peace and Justice Task Force make a recommendation to Diocesan Council of how to distribute the \$5,464.00 in the 2008 budget for support of the Millennium Development Goals**

Article and section of constitution or canons affected: **None**

Budget line item[s] affected: **Commitment to MDG**