



FEEDBACK SESSION ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Rev. Grant Ambrose, Co-Chair, (CPA)

Rev. Canon Melinda Artman, Co-Chair from April – present, (DioBeth)

Mr. Ty Wells, Co-Chair from Jan – April, (DioBeth)

Rev. Rebecca Myers (CPA)
(DioBeth)

Rev. Rodney Conn, *TLC Liaison*,

Very Rev. Jon Stratton, (DioBeth) Rev. Ryan Tobin (CPA)

Mr. David Heywood, Esq. (CPA) Hon. Kevin Hess, Esq.
(CPA) Mr. Michael Miller, Esq. (CPA)

Michael West, Esq. (DioBeth)

FORMAT FOR TONIGHT

1. The Working Group will offer a brief presentation on the DRAFT Transitional Canons and DRAFT Constitution and Canons for the Diocese of the Susquehanna
1. We will open for questions and ask that you use the raise hand function so we can track as questions come in. You may also ask a question by entering it into the chat.
1. If you've phoned in, we will be sure to invite your input too.

THE PROCESS SO FAR

- **January 2023:** Reunification Discernment Committee's C&C Team formed
- **January 2025:** Working Group on C&C formed to continue this work
- **June 2025:** *Drafts* of Transition Canons and the C&C for the Diocese of the Susquehanna shared and distributed throughout both dioceses
- **July 8-9:** Working Group hosts open Feedback Sessions
- **July 17:** Deadline for submission of feedback
- **August 2025:** Proposed Transition Canons and C & C submitted via resolution

THE PROCESS FORWARD

- **July 17:** Deadline for submission of feedback
- **July-August:** Working Group revises documents
- **August 2025:** Working Group submits the Proposed Transitional Canons and Constitution & Canons via a convention resolution
- **Pre-Convention:** Amendments to the Proposed Transitional Canons and Constitution & Canons may be pre-filed. Exact timeframe for pre-filing TBD.
- **October 2025** The Proposed Transitional Canons and Constitution & Canons will be moved for adoption, pre-filed amendments considered, and final forms adopted at our Joint Convention.



A CONSTITUTION

Establishes foundational principles regarding the basic structure, identity, territory, membership, and governance of a diocese including its relationship to The Episcopal Church.

CANONS

Outline the ways in which a diocese gives shape to and remains accountable to these principles. They include governance detail and structures, rules, and procedures in support of the mission and ministries of a diocese and its relationship to The Episcopal Church.

TRANSITIONAL CANONS

Serve as “a bridge” as we cross over into operating as one diocese. They focus primarily on how we will populate the leadership bodies of the Diocese of the Susquehanna.

THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Title I: Title and Bounds of the Diocese

Title II: Allegiance

Title III: Conventions of this Diocese

Title IV: Election of Bishop

Title V: Standing Committee

Title VII: Admission of Congregations

Title VIII: Canons

Title IX: Amendment

THE DRAFT CANONS

Title I: The Diocese

Title II: Congregations and Parishes

Title III: Clergy

Title IV: Miscellaneous

AREAS of DIFFERENCE

between the Canons of Bethlehem &
the Canons of Central Pennsylvania

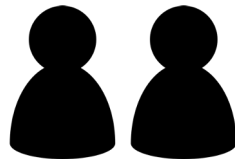
with
RECOMMENDATIONS
for The Diocese of the Susquehanna

LAY DELEGATES to CONVENTION

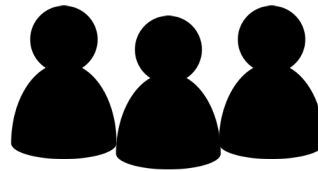
Based on “Average Weekly Engagement” - Parochial
Report



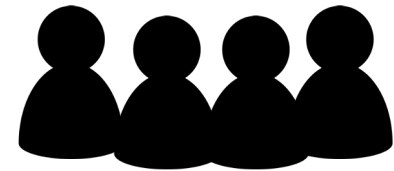
One LAY
Delegate
1-100



Two LAY
Delegates
101-150



Three LAY
Delegates
151-200



Four LAY
Delegates
200-and up

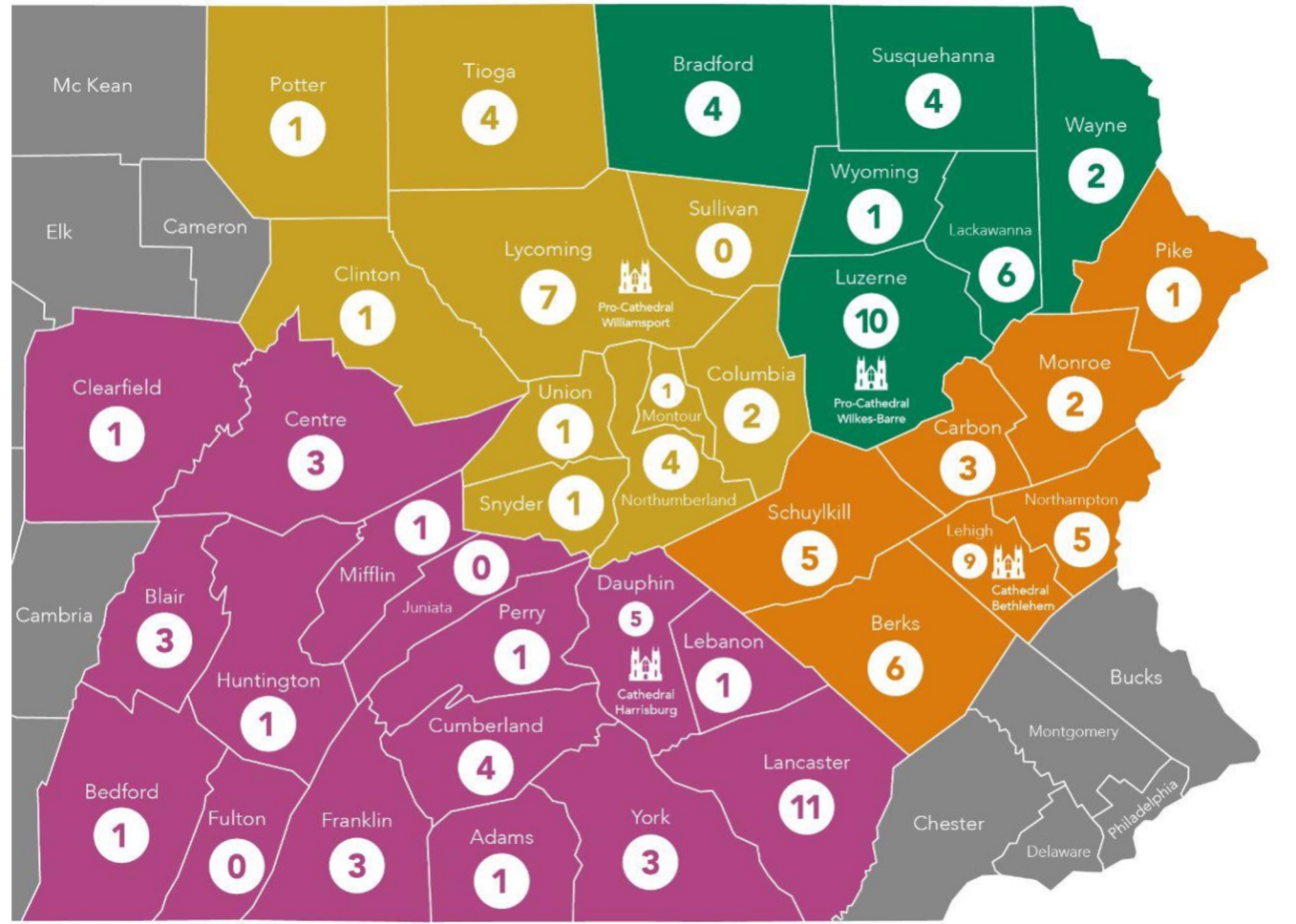
Title 1.Canon1.Section 1(b)

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

- 12 members plus the Bishop & Ex Officio members
- Ex Officio members are the Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor
- Each Convention elects four members: two lay and two clergy
- Three year terms with limit of two consecutive terms
- Duties of DioBeth's Diocesan Council and CPA's Council of Trustees for the Mission of the Diocese overlap significantly and will remain the same.

Title I.Canon 2.Section 2

MISSION REGIONS



CONVOICATIONS

As recommended by the Reunification Discernment Committee, the Diocese will have four Regions with Convocations in each.

Since Convocations function very differently in each current Diocese, these draft Canons seek to provide flexibility by empowering Convocations to determine their agendas and composition.

Title I Canon 5

CATHEDRALS

The draft canon on Cathedrals was originally drafted by the deans of our current cathedrals. It offers a definition of a Cathedral and a description of their mission - serving the diocese, as a local parish, and the greater community and region in a religious and civic role. The canon also offers detail regarding the various roles involved with leading a Cathedral - the Dean, the Bishop, the Parish Vestry, Honorary Canons, and the Cathedral Chapter.

Title I.Canon 5

PARISH BYLAWS

Title II. Canon

4

PARISH BYLAWS: CURRENT

BETHLEHEM

universal bylaws -
every parish has the
same bylaws

CENTRAL PA

f each parish
determines their
own bylaws

PARISH BYLAWS: DRAFTS

Compromise
A

Compromise
B

IMPERILED PARISHES

In drafting this canon, the language of the two dioceses were reconciled, most closely resembling CPA's existing canons and streamlining DioBeth's.

We recommend that smaller congregations read through this draft canon and share feedback with the Working Group.

Title II.Canon 5

THE TRANSITIONAL CANONS

- Will go into effect immediately upon adoption and remain in effect until the first Convention of the Diocese of the Susquehanna.
- Focus primarily on populating leadership bodies
 - **Standing Committee**
 - **Diocesan Council**
 - **Commission on Ministry**
 - **Disciplinary Board**
- Include election of deputies to the 2027 General Convention

THE PROCESS FORWARD

- **July 17:** Deadline for submission of feedback
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- **Pre-Convention:** Amendments to the Proposed Transitional Canons and Constitution & Canons may be pre-filed. Exact timeframe for pre-filing TBD.
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Questions and Feedback

Please use the raise hand function or enter your question in chat.

When you're called on, remember to unmute yourself and please share your name, parish, and diocese.

Written feedback can be submitted through July 17.
Link to the google form found on the website
reunificationdiobethdiocpa.org/constitution-canons/



**Thank you for participating in
this Feedback Session!**