SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR THE 2025 JOINT CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND BETHLEHEM

Preamble: The Episcopal Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem will meet in Joint Convention for purposes, among others, of voting to approve an Agreement and Plan of Merger of the two existing dioceses (the legal document required to formally accomplish the reunification of the two dioceses) and to adopt the Constitution and the Canons, including Transitional Canons, for the new diocese into which the two existing dioceses will be merged, namely, The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. The reunification (merger) has been approved by an Agreement of Union between the two existing dioceses at their Conventions in 2024.

Given that the Agreement and Plan of Merger between the existing dioceses, as well as the Constitution and Canons, including Transitional Canons, of the new diocese constitute amendments to foundational documents of the existing dioceses as well as foundational documents of the new diocese, they must be identical in all provisions and language as adopted by the respective Conventions; and

Given that there will be special Rules of Order in place at the Joint Convention, the rules of parliamentary procedure require that participants in the Joint Convention be provided prior notice of the nature of such special rules prior to the convening of the Joint Convention; therefore,

Accordingly, the Special Rules of Order to be followed at the Joint Convention are as follows:

Rule I: *Procedure of Joint Convention*

Sec. 1. Holy Communion may be celebrated each day the Convention is in session.

Sec. 2. The Bishop's address is in order at any time during the Convention, and, at the Bishop's discretion, may precede the calling of the Convention to order.

Sec. 3. At the opening, the Convention shall be called to order and the Secretary shall ascertain the presence of a quorum of delegates in both the Clergy Order and the Lay Order, who shall have registered, upon entering the Convention, in writing with the Secretary. Should a point of order of no quorum be raised by motion from the floor at the opening of the Convention or prior to a vote requiring a quorum, a roll call is required.

Sec. 4. In the consideration of and action on resolutions and motions coming before the Convention, the following rules of debate shall be followed with regard to each of the issues:

a. Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes.

b. To the extent practicable, the Chair shall recognize speakers of the opposite view in alternate succession.

c. Debate shall be limited to 20 minutes.

d. No motion to lay on the table or otherwise to terminate debate shall be entertained until the conclusion of such debate.

e. Thereafter, two minutes will be allotted for summation.

f. In the discretion of the Chair, any time assigned hereby to the consideration of any motion or resolution, which is not used in such consideration, may be added to the time allotted for debate of any subsequent resolution.

Sec. 5. In general, the procedure of the Convention shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except where other rules have been adopted, from time to time, by the Convention.

Rule II: *Elections*

Sec. 1. The Convention will use a procedure for balloting by electronic means. In lieu of this procedure, the Secretary may prepare and have printed one ballot containing the name, congregation and town of each candidate for all offices to be filled. The order in which the names appear on the ballots shall be determined by lot. Under the title of each office shall be directions as to how many candidates are to be voted for and that such vote is to be indicated by an X after the name(s) voted for.

Sec. 2. Whenever there are no more candidates for any office than there are officers to be elected, the Convention may, by a majority vote, proceed to elect either viva voce or by ballot.

Sec. 3. Upon the inability to determine which of two or more nominees has been elected to fill an office or serve as Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the General Convention by reason of a tie vote, a new ballot shall be taken in which only the nominees involved in the tie shall be eligible for election, and each voter shall vote for only the number of nominees needed to fill the positions remaining unfilled by reason of the tie vote. The votes shall be computed by the Tellers as herein specified, and the results shall determine the winner(s).

Sec. 4. The election of officers shall be conducted as follows: The polls shall be opened where the Convention is assembled and shall remain open until each Clerical and Lay delegate present has had a reasonable opportunity to vote, which fact shall be ascertained by the presider of Convention. If needed, the Tellers shall then compute the votes for each office. When ready to report, their reports shall be presented to the Secretary and shall be read by the Secretary to the Convention. The person or persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the office or offices for which they were nominated. A simple majority shall be sufficient for election.

Rule III: *Consideration of Agreement and Plan of Merger; the Constitution and the Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna and Transitional Canons*

Sec. 1. The Secretary shall make a part of the record of the Convention a certificate attesting to the fact that notice and copies of the Agreement and Plan of Merger; the Transitional Canons, Constitution, and Canons The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna; as well as the Special Rules of Order have been provided to all appropriate and required recipients of notice of the Convention, by appropriate means no less than thirty (30) days prior to the published date of the Convention.

Sec. 2. The Special Rules of Order shall be adopted by a simple majority of the delegates entitled to vote in the Convention.

Sec. 3. Any proposed amendments to the Constitution and the Canons, including the Transitional Canons, of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna must be submitted, in accordance with the Canons of the respective dioceses, no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the published date of the Convention. Amendments to the Agreement and Plan of Merger shall not be in order.

Sec. 4. No amendments from the floor of the Convention to the Constitution and the Canons, including the Transitional Canons, of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, shall be in order.

Sec. 5. The approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger; the Constitution and the Canons, including the Transitional Canons, of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, shall be considered and debated in accordance with the provisions of Rule I, Section 4 herein not inconsistent with this Rule. A simple majority shall be necessary to approve any and all of the documents referenced in this section.

Rule IV: *Order of Business*

After a quorum is declared present at the Convention, and after the adoption of these Special Rules of Order, the following shall be the Order of Business:

Sec. 1. The Bishop Diocesan from the legacy dioceses who is not standing for election as Bishop Diocesan shall preside over Convention business.

Sec. 2. The election of a Bishop Diocesan of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna shall follow the Agreement of Union where one of the Bishops Diocesan from the legacy dioceses shall be elected at this Convention to be the Bishop Diocesan of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. The other of the Bishops Diocesan from the legacy dioceses shall be appointed by the newly elected Bishop Diocesan to be the Assistant Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna.

The election of Bishop Diocesan of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna shall be made in the following manner: after nomination, the vote shall be by Orders, and the required majority in each Order on the same ballot shall be necessary to a choice. If two-thirds of the members of an Order entitled to vote be present at Convention, a majority vote determines the choice of such Order; if less than two-thirds of the members of an Order entitled to vote are present at Convention, the vote of two-thirds of such Order shall be necessary to determine the choice of such Order.

Sec. 3. The election of a Secretary of the Diocese shall be either viva voce or by ballot. The Secretary may appoint an Assistant Secretary. If the Secretary of the Diocese is unable to be present during the Convention, the Bishop shall appoint someone to serve in their stead as Secretary for that Convention.

Sec. 4. The election of a Treasurer of the Diocese shall be either viva voce or by ballot. The Treasurer may appoint an Assistant Treasurer.

Sec. 5. The appointment of a Chancellor of the Diocese shall be by the Bishop Diocesan. The Chancellor may appoint one or more Vice Chancellors.

Sec. 6. There shall be a resolution fixing the hours for meeting and adjournment. The Convention, however, is not to be considered adjourned at any hour fixed by such resolution unless a motion to that effect has been made and carried.

Sec. 7. Resolutions shall be made respecting only the reference or facilitating of business.

Sec. 8. If needed, there may be an appointment by the Bishop Diocesan of a Secretary of Tellers to conduct the election for offices and three or more Tellers appointed in each Order.