

Title                      Composition of Diocesan Council  
Proposer                  Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Be it resolved that the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as  
2. follows:

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4. **CANON IX - DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

5.

6.

**MEMBERSHIP**

7.

8. SECTION 1. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the following members, all  
9. with seat, voice, and vote, unless otherwise noted:

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11. (a) The Bishop;

12. (b) The Bishop Coadjutor, if any;

13. (c) The Bishop Suffragan, if any;

14. (d) The Secretary of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);

15. (e) The Treasurer of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);

16. (f) The Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);

17. (g) Eight (8) laypersons elected by the Annual Convention;

18. (h) Four (4) clergy elected by the Annual Convention;

19. (i) Four (4) laypersons appointed by the Bishop;

20. ~~(j) The President of the Episcopal Churchwomen, ex-officio;~~

21. (kj) The President of the Standing Committee, ex-officio (seat and voice,  
22. but not vote);

23. ~~(k)~~ The Deans of the Deaneries, ex-officio; and

24. ~~(m)~~ Any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice, but not vote).

25.

26. Each Annual Convention shall elect four (4) laypersons and two (2) clergy to serve as  
27. members of the Diocesan Council for a two-year period, and the Bishop shall appoint  
28. two (2) laypersons to serve for a two-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council  
29. may be elected to serve for more than three (3) consecutive two-year terms.

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## Explanation

This amendment addresses several issues.

-- It converts the other primary officers of the diocese (other than the bishops) to non-voting members of Diocesan Council. This is consistent with the practice of other dioceses in which diocesan officers are ex-officio, non-voting members.

-- It retains the Standing Committee President as an ex-officio member of Diocesan Council, but with seat and voice only (not vote). Standing Committee and Diocesan Council have different roles in the governance of the church. While it makes sense for the Standing Committee President to serve in an ex-officio capacity on Diocesan Council, to keep Council abreast of its work, it does not follow that the Standing Committee President should be a voting member of Diocesan Council.

-- It removes Episcopal Churchwomen President as a member of Diocesan Council. The original goal was to increase the number of women in church governance, at a time when the composition of church governing bodies skewed male. There is much more parity in those numbers today.

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