Title	Change in Diocesan Council Composition
Proposer(s)	The Rev. Steven King, The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, The Vey Rev. David Wilcox, Ms. Hayley Cobb, Mr. Philip Loflin, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage

Be it resolved, effective at the 138th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri, that Canon IX.1 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as follows:

CANON IX - DIOCESAN COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP

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

(a) The Bishop;
(b) The Bishop Coadjutor, if any;
(c) The Bishop Suffragan, if any;
(d) The Secretary of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);
(e) The Treasurer of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);
(f) The Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);
(g) Six~~Eight~~ (6~~8~~) laypersons elected by the Annual Convention;
(h) Three~~Four~~ (3~~4~~) clergypersons elected by the Annual Convention;
(i) Three~~Four~~ (3~~4~~) laypersons appointed by the Bishop;
~~(j) The President of the Episcopal Churchwomen, ex-officio;~~
(k) The President of the Standing Committee, ex-officio;
(l) The Deans of the Deaneries, ex-officio; and
(m) Any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice, but not vote).

Each Annual Convention shall elect two~~four~~ (2~~4~~) laypersons and one~~two~~ (1~~2~~) clergypersons to serve as members of the Diocesan Council for a three~~two~~-year period, and the Bishop may~~shall~~ appoint one~~two~~ (1~~2~~) laypersons to serve for a three~~two~~-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council may be elected to serve for more than two~~three~~ (2~~3~~) consecutive three~~two~~-year terms.

Explanation

The proposed amendments to Diocesan Council seek to address a number of issues.

First, they acknowledge the reality that the diocese is significantly smaller in membership than when this structure was last addressed. The diocese has consistently faced issues in finding the requisite number of candidates to stand for election. By reducing the number of people on Diocesan Council, we acknowledge a current reality and right-size our governance. These edits also change the terms to a three-year term with one option to renew to reduce both the number of people needing to stand for election and the frequency of elections. Changing the number of elected persons and term length would allow for two laypersons and one clergyperson to be elected every year. The resolution also reduces the composition of council by eliminating several members who have seat, voice, and vote, by virtue of holding office, and removes voting power from those officers who may be in position for significant periods of time, or for whom having a vote seems contrary to their advisory role.

If passed, this would bring the composition of council's voting members to:

Bishop
3 Clergypersons {Elected}
3 Clergypersons {Deans, Ex-Officio}
6 Laypersons {Elected}
Up to 3 Laypersons {Appointed}

If passed, the proposed composition of Diocesan Council would take effect at Diocesan Convention in 2027 so that elections held at the 138th Convention in 2027 would conform to this new composition.