A158

TOPIC: CONSTITUTION

Amend Article VIII of the Constitution [Second Reading]

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 8

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / Ministry

CURRENT FILING STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; not yet reviewed; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution is amended by the addition of a final sentence as follows: No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.

EXPLANATION

This amendment was adopted by the previous General Convention as Resolution 2009-D029. The explanation from the resolution filing stated:

"A small number of clergy in the ELCA since the commencement of full communion status with The Episcopal Church have chosen to be ordained by other pastors, rather than by bishops; the same may be true of some clergy of other churches with which the Episcopal Church enters into full communion in the future. The Covenants by which full communion relationships are established normally 'grandfather' ministers already ordained, but do not address post-covenant exceptions. When this situation with the ELCA came to their attention, the House of Bishops agreed that they would not license such ministers to serve in The Episcopal Church on a temporary basis under Article VIII; however, there is no explicit language in the Constitution to prevent it. The present amendment would clarify how best to handle these anomalous situations. The amendment echoes the current language of Canon III.10.4(a), and would have no effect on present or planned full communion relationships."