

# DIOCESE OF THE SOUTH — ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

*Proposed Amendment to the By-laws of the DOS | Article III, Section 2  
Diocesan Council — Lay Representative Nomination, Confirmation, and Terms*

## Purpose

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This Amendment replaces the Assembly-floor caucus process for selecting lay Deanery representatives to the Diocesan Council with a deliberate pre-Assembly nomination process led by the District Deans, subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Bishop, and changes the term to two years.

## Article III, Section 2 — Nomination and Confirmation of Lay Representatives

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### Existing Text

2) Lay members of the Diocesan Council elected from the Deaneries must be accredited delegates present at the Diocesan Assembly at which they are elected. At a time designated by the agenda of the Assembly, the clergy and lay delegates shall caucus by Deaneries. Each Deanery's delegates shall elect by majority vote from among the laymen present a representative and an alternate to serve on the Diocesan Council for the next year.

### Proposed Language

2) Lay members of the Diocesan Council shall be selected from within each Deanery through a deanery-based nomination and approval process. The Dean of each Deanery shall coordinate the identification and selection of qualified lay candidates from among the faithful of the Deanery, ensuring broad representation across the parishes of the Deanery. The Dean shall submit the name of the selected candidate, together with the name of an alternate, to the Diocesan Chancellor. Final approval of each Deanery's lay representative and alternate shall be granted jointly by the Diocesan Chancellor and the Diocesan Bishop. Approved lay representatives shall serve on the Diocesan Council for a term of two years, commencing on the first of January after approval and continuing through two full calendar years (ending December 31 of the second year). If a term begins before January 1 out of necessity, then it will continue for two years starting January 1. Members may serve up to three terms before being required to step down for one term. The selected lay representative and alternate must be members in good standing of a parish within the Deanery and otherwise qualified to serve as delegates to the Diocesan Assembly.

## Transition

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Existing Council members continue without interruption. Within sixty (60) days of the Diocesan Bishop's approval of this Amendment, each District Dean shall submit nominations under the process above. The Bishop shall confirm initial appointees directly; terms shall begin upon confirmation and be reported at the next Assembly.

## Adoption

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This Amendment must be approved by the Diocesan Council and shall be submitted to all parishes within the required sixty (60) day notice, and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Diocesan Assembly. It takes effect upon the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.