

MEMO FROM THE CHANCELLOR
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Constitutional and Canonical issues arising from Primates' Communique:

1. The Communique demands (a) creation of and deference to a Council to appoint one or more Primatial Vicars, (b) that the HOB unilaterally suspend or otherwise change actions taken by the General Convention, and (c) that the HOB unilaterally override the authority of dioceses in the processes of episcopal elections. In each case, the demands fundamentally disregard the essential constitutional and canonical foundations of the Episcopal Church. Neither the Presiding Bishop or the HOB have the power or authority to accede to these demands (even if they were so inclined).
2. The Preamble to our Constitution describes our Church as a "fellowship of dioceses..." upholding the historic faith and order as set forth in the BCP. The Constitution and the BCP create the governing order of our Church, the oversight and authority for interpretation or revision vested exclusively in the General Convention.
3. All actions of the General Convention require adoption by BOTH houses.
4. The election of bishops, consents to election and the limitations of jurisdiction to which bishops are held, are prescribed in the Constitution and Canons and in diocesan canons. These may not be altered unilaterally by the HOB.
5. The Presiding Bishop is our Chief Pastor and Primate, elected by the General Convention with limited authority. The PB may delegate certain authority to positions created by the Executive Council, but may not delegate jurisdiction, and any delegation may not be usurped by an outside entity (proposed Council).