

Resolutions to Change Diocesan Constitution and Canons

Resolution 1

Amend Canon 402 Of the Department of Missions

Purpose: To amend Canon 402 **Of the Department of Missions** by adding a new sub-section to Canon 402.03 **Duties of Department** to increase the responsibilities of this Department.

This amendment is requested by the Department of Missions, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons recommends its adoption.

Resolved, that Canon 402.03 **Duties of Department** be hereby amended to add Sec. 402.031 (d) as follows:

Canon 402 Of the Department of Missions

Sec. 402.03 **Duties of Department**

“Sec. 402.031(d) Equip baptized persons for the ministry of evangelism, including the study, interpretation, training and practice of evangelism in this Diocese.”

Explanation: The current canons have served us well, linking parishes and missions with the role of our Bishops for mutual support and stability. With the provisions of this new responsibility we hope to build upon these links and point to some recent initiatives of the Department. These initiatives were the hosting of teaching days on the subjects of changing contexts for communicating the Gospel and the five marks of growing churches. Both events were well received with wide participation from throughout the Diocese. We also are very appreciative of regional initiatives that are bringing together small congregations for vision and relationship building.

We believe, however, that these changing contexts for communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ are calling us to break new ground, mentor leaders, and engage parishes in the relevance of evangelism for the future. Said simply, the motivation and aims of evangelism require understanding where we are today and how the proclamation of the Gospel in a changing culture is central to the future we envision as a community of congregations.

We are mindful of the limits a top-down approach presents to making real differences for all congregations in their core values, traditions, and identities. In this respect we have much to learn from one another and to pray about. Yet if we are to assist the growth of our Diocese together, then linking evangelism and nurture for the growth of new Christians must become an increasing priority for us all. The Department is willing to accept some of the challenges a transforming ministry of evangelism involves, and seeks the participation of gifted leaders and congregations for the missionary growth of our Diocese.

Submitted by: The Rev. Charles Osberger, Old Wye Parish

Resolution 2

Procedure at Convention for Resolutions to Change Canons

Purpose: To prevent confusion and to fully involve delegates at Convention by requiring that only those proposed amendments to the Canons which have been submitted to the Vestries ninety (90) days ahead of time are introduced on the floor of Convention. Once the Committee on Constitution and Canons has introduced the circulated proposal, all amendments to it, including “friendly” amendments made by the sponsor of the resolution for any purpose, must be made on the floor of Convention, seconded and voted on as provided in Robert’s Rules of Order.

This change is requested by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, which recommends its adoption.

Resolved, that Canon 803.02 be amended as follows:

Sec. 803.02 Action of Convention

.021 *Action of Convention*. The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall submit all proposals for amendment and alteration made to the Committee, *as submitted to the Vestry of each Parish*, together with their recommendations thereon. The Convention shall consider the same, and if approved by a majority of those entitled to vote, an amendment shall become effective. (New text is in italics.)

Explanation: Proposed amendments to the Canons must be submitted to the Committee on Constitution and Canons one hundred twenty (120) days prior to Convention. Then, the Committee is required to send the Vestry of each Parish a copy of the proposed amendments at least ninety (90) days prior to Convention. If adopted, this amendment would prohibit any changes to the proposed amendments once they have been sent out to the Vestries and prior to Convention. Of course, the text of a proposed amendment could still be changed during the course of debate at Convention itself.

Resolutions with Debate

Resolution 3 Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Resolved, That the 142nd Convention urge the Bishop of the Diocese of Easton to designate during each liturgical year the first Sunday in Lent as “Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday”; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage all congregations and individuals to support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief and Development through prayer and a special offering.

Explanation: In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and as an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development’s role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons. The 2009 General Convention passed a resolution encouraging all dioceses, congregations, and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief and Development during Lent through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

Financial Impact: There will be no financial impact on the Diocese. Bulletin inserts and other promotional materials are available free from Episcopal Relief & Development.

Submitted by: Roberta R. Gribbon, Diocese of Easton Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development.

Resolution 4 General Convention Deputies

Resolved, That it is the expectation of the Convention of the Diocese of Easton that all deputies elected to the General Convention will serve the diocese throughout their three-year term and will assist in the implementation of any resolutions for which they voted and which are referred to the diocese for action; and be it further

Resolved, That the clergy and lay deputies who represent the Diocese of Easton at any General Convention report to a subsequent Convention of the Diocese of Easton on all resolutions adopted by the General Convention which were referred to the dioceses for action, beginning at the Diocesan Convention in 2011.

Explanation: After every General Convention, many resolutions are referred to the dioceses for implementation. In 2009, there were 63 resolutions referred to all dioceses. Some do not require much action, but many require action and a diocesan report to the next General Convention. This is a large burden for a diocese with a small staff. While our diocese cannot mandate the job description of deputies, this resolution sets forth an expectation from our Convention that those who vote for resolutions will also help implement them. It is already the case that deputies serve until their replacements are elected, and many of our current deputies should be commended for their continuing work for the diocese.

Submitted by: The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Gribbon, Rector, Old Trinity, Church Creek