

The Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri hereby moves that this 181st Convention approve the following amendments to the Diocesan Canons:

1. Amendment to Canon III.4

Amend Canon III.4 by adding a new Section 4 thereof which shall read as follows:

Sec. 4. All reports and resolutions required to be mailed to the Members of Convention in accordance with Sections 1.d. and 1.e. of this Canon III.4 may be delivered or furnished by electronic systems pursuant to procedures approved by the Secretary of Convention. "Electronic systems" means any electronic system, including email and any Internet or extranet-based sites providing for access to data protected by passcodes or other security systems.

Rationale: Canon III.4 describes the procedures for Convention's consideration of resolutions and it utilizes the word "mailed" in two places. New Section 4 provides that the mailing requirement may be satisfied by the use of email or an Internet site as determined by the Secretary of Convention. This process is fairly mechanical/procedural in nature such that the Secretary's discretion in choosing a means of communicating with Members of Convention should be acceptable. Every Parish and Mission in the Diocese has the ability to communicate via email, so should an individual Member of Convention not have Internet access, communicating with such Member through his or her church should be workable without undue difficulty. Staff in the Offices of the Bishop has had an interest in streamlining the process of getting materials to Members of Convention for a number of years, but the Canons are either silent as to the mechanics of communication or direct that certain items be "mailed" to Members of Convention. Additionally, reducing the volume of paper Convention generates should reduce costs and would be consistent with Convention resolutions from the past which have urged the Diocese to adopt environmentally friendly practices in administering Convention.

2. Amendment to Canon III.5

Amend Canon III.5 by adding a new Section 5 thereof which shall read as follows:

Sec. 5. All notices and other transmittals made by the Secretary of Convention in accordance with this Canon III.5 or in accordance with Articles III.1 and 2 of the Constitution of this Diocese may be delivered or furnished by electronic systems pursuant to procedures approved by the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. All other notices and transmittals to Members of Convention may be delivered or furnished by electronic systems pursuant to procedures approved by the Secretary of Convention. The Secretary of Convention may agree to accept notices and other communications to be provided to the Secretary of Convention in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese by electronic communications pursuant to procedures approved by the Secretary of Convention.

Rationale: Canon III.5 provides for the appointment of a Secretary of Convention and sets forth various obligations of the Secretary. The notices specified in Articles III.1 and 2 of the Diocesan Constitution are notices of annual and special meetings of Convention. It is appropriate that the Bishop and Standing Committee approve the mechanics of providing such important notices. Similarly, the transmittals specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Canon III.5, should the Secretary effect them other than by means of physical delivery of hard copies, should be in accordance with procedures approved by the Bishop and Standing Committee given the canonical import of such transmittals. Other notices and transmittals to Members of Convention and communications to the Secretary from Members of Convention are typically administrative in nature and are generally orchestrated by Convention planning staff. Accordingly, leaving the mechanics to the Secretary's discretion seems reasonable, with the expectation that such procedures may evolve over time to take advantage of new software or meeting applications. We would not expect the need to have the Bishop or Standing Committee weigh in on such mechanics.