

Resolution B-181

WiFi Connectivity Assistance for Elected Diocesan Leaders

Submitted by: Metro III

WHEREAS, The Diocese of Missouri encompasses areas where internet connectivity is unstable or nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, the elected leaders of the Diocese (Convention Delegates/Alternates and other committee positions elected at Convention) are dispersed throughout the diocese to assure the rich diversity of our “one church, many locations” is represented in the decisions and

governance of the diocese; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has provided an opportunity to widely utilize remote audio and visual communication for meetings, thus highlighting the barrier for some in more rural areas or outside of larger cities from fully serving and participating in their diocesan-related activities due to lack of WiFi connectivity;

Be it RESOLVED that this 181st Convention of the Diocese of Missouri agrees that assistance with WiFi connectivity in the form of a loaned hot spot be provided, by the Diocese of Missouri, to individuals, during the term of their elected diocesan leadership position, who do not otherwise have adequate internet access and request this assistance. Only basic rates would be provided by the Diocese, with data overages the responsibility of the user.

RATIONALE

During the pandemic, most diocesan, convocation, and even parish business and meetings are being conducted via Zoom or similar format. It is expected that virtual meeting tools will continue to be widely used as a ‘new normal’ even after we emerge from the pandemic,

especially as a convenience for elected leaders who live a significant distance from an in-person meeting location. It is imperative that those individuals in leadership positions have internet access to be able to participate effectively. This resolution addresses not only the exclusion of individuals who live in rural areas (where WiFi and internet access is spotty) but also individuals whose socio-economic status may not enable them to have reliable internet from their home bases and thus felt this limited their eligibility to volunteer for diocesan leadership positions.

Resolutions Committee Input: A survey on internet connectivity was sent out to the approximately 190 people who make up “diocesan leadership positions” as defined as

Cathedral Chapter, Disciplinary Board, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, General Convention Deputies and Delegates & Alternates to Diocesan Convention. Interpolating from the 75 responses received (where 6.7% indicated inadequate WiFi service to properly connect with their leadership committees), approximately 13 hot spots per year would be needed. Using soft

data for 5 different hot spot devices and providers; average cost of unit is \$275, average monthly fee (15-25 GB data/month) is \$25; approximately \$1175 each (service charges for 3 years plus reusable device cost.)