

## Resolution G-183

### **Resolution G-183: A Resolution of the Committee on Constitution and Canons Regarding Province V, Provincial Synods, and Provincial Synod Deputies**

**WHEREAS** Article VII of the Constitution of the General Convention allows that Dioceses may be united into Provinces as provided by Canon of the General Convention; and

**WHEREAS** Canon I.9.1 of the Canons of the General Convention provides that the “Fifth Province” consists of the Diocese of Missouri along with Dioceses within the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS** Canon I.9.5 states that “There shall be in each Province a Synod consisting of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies, which Houses shall sit and deliberate either separately or together. . .” and Canon I.9.8 establishes that each Diocese within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies by canonically resident Presbyters or Deacons and Lay Persons, in such number as the Provincial Synod, by Ordinance, may provide and that each Diocese and Area Mission shall determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be elected;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri be amended by adding a new Canon III.21 in its proper numerical order and which shall read as follows:

#### **CANON III.21 Deputies to the Provincial Synod**

**SECTION 1.** At each synod of the province of the Episcopal Church which encompasses this Diocese, as such province is from time to time established by the Canons of the Episcopal Church (each, a “Provincial Synod”), the Diocese shall be represented by (a) one clerical deputy and (b) two lay deputies.

**SEC. 2.** An individual is qualified to be a deputy to the Provincial Synod, if that individual is either (a) a Cleric entitled to seat, voice and vote at Convention; or (b) a Communicant in good standing.

**SEC. 3.** Prior to each meeting of the Provincial Synod, the Secretary of Convention shall call a meeting of the Clerical and Lay Deputies to the General Convention. At such meeting (a) the Clerical Deputies shall designate from among themselves one Clerical deputy to the Provincial Synod and one Clerical alternate deputy to the Provincial Synod; and (b) the Lay Deputies shall designate from among themselves two Lay deputies to the Provincial Synod and two Lay alternate deputies to the Provincial Synod. The designation of such deputies and alternate deputies shall be by majority vote and with the advice and consent of the Bishop.

**SEC. 4.** To the extent required under the ordinances of the Provincial Synod, the Secretary of Convention shall certify to the President of the Fifth Province the individuals elected as deputies and alternate deputies for each meeting of the Provincial Synod.

**SEC. 5.** If there is a vacancy in the office of a deputy to the Provincial Synod or there is an opening because a deputy is unable to attend the meeting of the Provincial Synod, that vacancy or opening shall be filled by an alternate deputy (as designated pursuant to Section 3 above) identified by the Bishop. If there is an insufficient number of alternate deputies, the Bishop, in consultation with the Clerical and Lay Deputies to the General Convention,

shall appoint a sufficient number of other canonically eligible Clergy or Lay Communicants as deputies in their stead.

**Rationale:** Provinces and Provincial Synods of the Episcopal Church are defined within the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. In the past, the Bishop has appointed deputies to Provincial Synods from the ranks of the General Convention deputation, but this practice has not been memorialized in the Diocesan Canons. Adding the proposed canon to the Diocesan Canons will add a measure of certainty to the process.

Canon I.9.2 of the General Convention states that “The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate inter-diocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts”

Provincial Synods focus on the work of the Province, which is to support people in their local ministry contexts: parish, community-based, or diocesan. Province V endeavors to build projects and networks that can help people connect, network, and support one another at the provincial level of the church. While Province V has a history of hosting Synods only during General Convention years, a Synod can be called at any time, so deputies should understand that they might be called upon for additional service during their term. Synod deputies have responsibility for electing Province V Representatives to Executive Council (of General Convention) and electing the officers of the Province V Executive Board.