

## Resolution H-183

### **Resolution H-183: A Resolution of the Committee on Constitution and Canons Regarding Election of Lay Members of Diocesan Council by Convocations**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 6 of Canon III.6 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese (the "Canons"), each Convocation elects one lay and one clerical representative; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Canon I.2 of the Canons, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of Standing Committee, reduced the number of Convocation Districts from six to four; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to enhance the mission of the Convocations and promote lay participation in the leadership of the Diocese, the Bishop and Standing Committee have determined that it is in the best interests of the Diocese to provide for each Convocation to elect two lay representatives to Diocesan Council;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Sections 6 and 8 of Canon III.6 of the Canons be amended in their entirety to read as follows:

**SEC. 6.** . The voting members of Diocesan Council shall consist of elected and appointed members. The elected membership of Diocesan Council shall consist of six at large lay members elected by Convention and two lay representatives and one clerical representative elected by each Convocation. The appointed members shall consist of three persons selected by the Bishop, subject to ratification by the elected members..

**SEC. 8.** Members of Diocesan Council elected by Convocation shall serve a two-year term. Each Convocation shall elect one lay representative per year and shall elect its clergy representative every two years. The Convocations shall, in consultation with the Bishop, conduct elections for clergy representatives in alternating years so that a total of two clergy representatives shall be elected by the Convocations each year. Lay members of Diocesan Council elected by Convocation shall be Convention delegates or alternates at the time of their election but this requirement shall not apply to the reelection by Convocation of any member of Diocesan Council. The representatives of a Convocation, in order to be eligible to serve, shall be members of Congregations within that Convocation; a representative removing to a Congregation outside the Convocation shall thereby vacate the office. Vacancies in the representation of a Convocation shall be filled by that Convocation. In the event of a vacancy in the Clergy order, Diocesan Council may, upon such Convocation's request, permit election of a lay representative to serve out the vacating member's unexpired term.

**Rationale:** Convocations have the potential to fulfill an important mission for the Diocese and having three members from each Convocation as members of Diocesan Council should enhance communications among the groups and provide a broader range of voices at Diocesan Council meetings.