

Resolutions Submitted 45 Days Prior to Convention (Canon I, Sec. 9)

As passed by the 184th Convention

Resolution on Canon 14 of the Diocese of Tennessee

Proposed by: Bishop and Council

Whereas, Canon 14 was enacted in by the 162nd Annual Convention, in January of 1994, to establish four (4) Missionary Convocations of the congregations of the Diocese, grouped by specific territories, for the purposes of meeting a minimum of four (4) times per year, designing programs to mutually benefit congregations and reporting those programs to Annual Convention, as well as for the purpose of convocational election of members of Bishop and Council at Annual Convention in accord with provisions of Canon 6; and

Whereas, after several attempts by the Missionary Convocations to meet and develop programs following the enactment of Canon 14, the Missionary Convocations found it not feasible to meet and operate as proposed; and

Whereas, while the other provisions of Missionary Convocations have not proven to be feasible, it appears that the meeting at Annual Convention of delegates and clergy by Missionary Convocation for the purposes of electing members of the Bishop and Council has proved to be a popular, effective and efficient election mechanism for voting members of Convention to elect members of Bishop and Council and, for that reason, that election procedure should be preserved in a completely revised Canon 14.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee that all the existing provisions of Canon 14 be, and hereby are, deleted and the following provisions be substituted and enacted as the new Canon 14, which will provide, as follows:

Sec 1. With the consent of the Bishop, the Bishop and Council has created four (4) Missionary Convocations in the Diocese of Tennessee and has designated the geographic area for, and the congregations included in, each Missionary Convocation. The composition of, and geographic area for, a Missionary Convocation may be changed by the Bishop and Council, with the consent of the Bishop. Any such change will take effect at the following Annual Convention.

Sec. 2. The sole purpose and authority for the Missionary Convocations is to elect members of the Bishop and Council at Annual Convention.

Sec. 3. The voting members of a Missionary Convocation will be those same lay and clergy delegates who are certified to vote at Annual Convention as voting representatives of their respective congregations. Canonically resident non-parochial clergy, and canonically resident retired clergy, who are certified to vote at Annual Convention shall be entitled to vote in the Missionary Convocation encompassing the geographic area where they reside.

Sec. 4. At Annual Convention each Missionary Convocation will convene, at the time and place designated by the convention agenda, and elect one (1) member of Bishop and Council in accord with the provisions in Canon 6 of the Diocese of Tennessee. The Bishop will designate a convener for each Missionary Convocation to preside at its election.

Resolution on the Commemoration of the Martyrs of Charleston on June 17

Proposed by: The Reverend Cynthia Seifert, St. Anselm's, Nashville
The Reverend Carolyn Coleman, Holy Cross, Murfreesboro
The Reverend Rick Britton, St. Ann's, Nashville
Bill Gittens, St. Anselm's, Nashville
Natasha Deane, St. Bartholomew's, Nashville.

Whereas, on the night before He suffered and died, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to “love one another” (John 13:34), and

Whereas, in response to His commandment we are aggrieved by the tragic event of June 17, 2015 at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC where nine African-American congregants were killed by a lone white gunman during Bible Study; and

Whereas, days later in response to these killings, family members and friends demonstrated the teachings in Ephesians 4:32 (“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”) by publicly forgiving the gunman who had taken their loved ones from them; and

Whereas, the Christian vocation manifests itself in the “striving for justice and peace among all people”; and

Whereas, everyone is diminished when the dignity of any human being, created in the image of God, is compromised; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the church to speak, challenge, lead the call to repentance, and assist with the kind of bridge building that will participate in the unfolding Kingdom of God; now be it therefore

Resolved, that the Bishop and Council appoint an ad hoc committee to investigate the opportunity to commemorate the Martyrs of Charleston on June 17 each year throughout the Diocese of Tennessee, to encourage other dioceses to likewise commemorate this event on June 17, and to explore potential future national recognition of the Martyrs of Charleston on June 17th with inclusion in “A Great Cloud of Witnesses” as approved under Resolution A056: **“Authorize New Liturgical Resources: A Great Cloud of Witnesses; Weekday Eucharistic Propers” as adopted by The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church on July 1, 2015.**

Resolution on Pastoral Response to the LGBTQ Members of the Diocese of Tennessee

Proposed by: The Vestry and Rector, St. Ann's Church, Nashville

Whereas, same-sex marriage is now legal in Tennessee and The Episcopal Church authorized at the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City the Use of Trial Liturgies for Marriage to celebrate the marriages of same-sex couples and to bless civil unions; and

Whereas, our Bishop has decided not to permit the Use of the Trial Liturgies for Marriage in any church or church-owned property in the Diocese of Tennessee; nor to permit clergy canonically resident in the diocese to officiate at or bless same-sex marriages locally or in other dioceses where such marriages and blessings have been authorized; nor to permit clergy licensed in the diocese to officiate locally; and

Whereas, in the Baptismal Covenant in our Book of Common Prayer (page 305) we state the promise to grow in the knowledge and love of God as “we strive for justice and peace among all people” and “respect the dignity of every human being”; and

Whereas, we recognize and affirm the essential contributions of LGBTQ members in our congregations, in the diocese, and in our communities; and

Whereas, delegates to this Convention are mindful of the need of LGBTQ members for pastoral support from clergy, fellow lay members, and our Bishop; and many in our Diocese believe that LGBTQ members are painfully excluded from the full sacramental ministry of the Episcopal Church in our Diocese; and

Whereas, our Bishop has expressed his commitment to “continued prayer, study, and conversation” regarding this matter; now therefore be it

Resolved, that this 184th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee recognize, celebrate and lift up the gifts, talents, ministries and faith of LGBTQ members in our congregations, the diocese, and the wider community; and be it further

Resolved, that our Bishop and the Bishop and Council initiate a task force to engage with the congregations of the diocese in “continued prayer, study, and conversation” concerning the inclusion of LGBTQ members in the life of the church and report to the 185th Diocesan Annual Convention; and be it further

Resolved, since we as a diocese are not of one mind on this matter, we urge our clergy, lay leadership, and members to maintain the unity and support of the diocese and to stand in continued solidarity with our Bishop.

Late Resolution Received less than 45 days before Annual Convention

As passed by the 184th Convention

Reaffirmation of Resolution ‘A Diocesan Call to Prayer, Dialogue and Community Bridge Building’

Whereas, the incidents of tragic deaths similar to those in Ferguson, Staten Island, New York City, Cleveland, Denver and other parts of the country continue throughout our nation; and

Whereas, the 183rd Diocesan Convention passed a resolution calling lay and clergy to pray for those whose lives have been personally and painfully affected by these events; that resources from the Book of Common Prayer be used to confront the sin of racism, the culture of violence that fosters it and the indifference to injustice that undermines the pursuit of holiness; and

Whereas, the resolution called for all Rectors, Vicars, Chaplains and Wardens in the parishes, chapels and missions of the diocese to create opportunities for dialogue among church members, the communities served by local churches and law enforcement officials to nurture the highest degree of safety, mutual respect and understanding; and

Whereas, the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in resolution C019, affirmed as a top priority in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action; now therefore be it

Resolved that this 184th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee joins with the larger body of The Episcopal Church and reaffirms its continued support of that resolution; and be it further

Resolved that the bishop is invited to create an Anti-Racism Taskforce to assist Episcopalians in upholding their Baptismal Covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people” in the area of race.

Explanation

The incidents of deaths of people of color caused by the use of deadly force involving police officers continues to burden our communities causing anger, pain, controversy and conflicts. This resolution calls us as Christians to remain mindful and aware of these incidents and to do our part as a faith community to bring healing and justice.

Proposed by:

The Rev. Rick Britton, Rector, St. Ann’s, Nashville
The Mission Council of St. Anselm’s, Nashville (Includes Lay Delegates Dr. William Gittens and Ms. Stephanie Blocker)
The Rev. Cynthia Seifert, Vicar, St. Anselm’s, Nashville
The Mission Council of Holy Cross, Murfreesboro
The Rev. Carolyn Coleman, Vicar, Holy Cross, Murfreesboro
The Rev. Jerry Smith, Rector, St. Bartholomew’s, Nashville
The Rev. Travis Hines, Associate Rector, St. Bartholomew’s, Nashville
Dr. Natasha Deane, Sr. Warden and Lay Delegate of St. Bartholomew’s Nashville

Resolutions of Invitation, Gratitude, and Greeting

Committee Resolution #1: Resolution of Invitation

BE IT RESOLVED that the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee acknowledge and greet in the name of Jesus Christ all seminarians, all religious, the dean and faculty of the School of Theology of the University of the South, the headmaster and faculty of St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, seminarians and candidates for Holy Orders of this diocese, all retired clergy, and all lay delegates unable to attend this convention, and acknowledge their ministry and service in the Diocese of Tennessee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordained ministers of this church canonically resident in this diocese, officiating under license and in charge of congregations, designated representatives of university chapels and mission stations, and of the Episcopal youth of the diocese be given seat and voice in the deliberations of this convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ministers of other communions resident in Middle Tennessee and present at this convention be cordially welcomed by this convention.

Committee Resolution #2: A Resolution of Gratitude

BE IT RESOLVED that the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee express its heartfelt thanks to the Rector, staff, and people of St. George's Episcopal Church for hosting this convention and for their flexibility in dealing with the unforeseen weather of January 22-23, 2016, and for their gracious hospitality to the clergy, lay delegates, and guests of the convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the convention expresses its gratitude to the officers and various members of delegations and convention committees for their diligent work in the preparation of this convention.

Committee Resolution #3: A Resolution of Greeting and Appreciation

BE IT RESOLVED that the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee send greetings and appreciation to The Right Reverend H. Julian Gordy, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for his words to those delegates of the convention able to gather in January.

Resolution to Ratify Budget Decisions of the B&C During 2015

May 9, 2015

- ☒ The B&C approved the request from the Rev. Joe Davis that his compensation for serving at Our Savior, Gallatin be coded as housing.
- ☒ The B&C authorized that \$500 be paid to retain counsel to represent St. Agnes, Cowan in a property dispute.

August 8, 2015

- ☒ The B&C was informed that all funds associated with the nonprofit entity known as Venture in Mission have been expended and that paperwork to close the entity has been prepared.

October 17, 2015

- ☒ The B&C was updated on payments being made to the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church according to the original agreement between St. Augustine's Chapel and the Wesley Foundation of the United Methodist Church. The remaining indebtedness of \$250,000 will be paid over a ten year period, with St. Augustine's assistance.
- ☒ The B&C approved the provision of family medical coverage for qualified clergy and lay employees serving on the diocesan staff for 2016.
- The B&C approved a \$7,500 loan to All Saints', Smyrna for repairs to the stained glass window.

December 5, 2015

- ☒ The B&C accepted the recommendation of the Dandridge Trust Advisory Board to award \$68,000 of outreach grants to grant applicants whose proposed projects fall within the guidelines of the Dandridge Trust.

Resolution to Ratify Real Estate Transactions of the B&C During 2015
As related to Canon 10

January 17, 2015

- ☒ The B&C approved the nomination of Christ Church, Tracy City to the National and Tennessee Registers of Historic Places.

May 9, 2015

- ☒ The B&C approved a request from Church of the Redeemer, Shelbyville to allow the parish to sell a home which was previously used as a rectory and to use the proceeds to purchase property adjacent to the church.

October 17, 2015

- ☒ The B&C approved a five year lease renewal between the Church of the Good Shepherd and the YMCA.

