

RESOLUTION AMENDING CANON 15, SECTION 9

WHEREAS, Canon 14.1 of the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church provides that:

Canon 14.1. In every Parish of this Church the number, mode of selection, and term of office of Wardens and Members of the Vestry, with the qualifications of voters, shall be such as the State or Diocesan law may permit or require, and the Wardens and Members of the Vestry selected under such law shall hold office until their successors are selected and have qualified.

AND WHEREAS, Canon 1.17(b) of the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church provides that:

Canon 1.17(b). Members sixteen years of age and over are considered to be adult members.

AND WHEREAS, Canon 15, Section 4 of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee provides that:

Canon 15, Section 4. Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing in the Parish sixteen years of age or older may vote at a Parish Meeting, and no proxies shall be allowed. A parish may allow absentee voting, the procedures for which shall be approved in writing by the Bishop and the Chancellor.

AND WHEREAS, Canon 15, Section 9 of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee provides that:

Canon 15, Section 9. The Vestry shall consist of Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing in the Parish not less than eighteen years of age.

AND WHEREAS, the first sentence of Canon 18, Section 2(a) of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee provides that:

Canon 18, Section 2(a). In any Mission there shall be formed a Mission Council consisting of not less than three nor more than twelve persons who shall be Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing of the Mission, at least eighteen years of age, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

AND WHEREAS, the first sentence of Canon 1, Section 7(b) of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee provides that:

Canon 1, Section 7(b). It shall be the duty of the Vestry or Mission Council of each Congregation to elect its Lay Delegates and an equal number of Alternates, each of whom shall be a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing of the Congregation and at least eighteen years of age.

AND WHEREAS, Canon 6, Section 7(a) of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee provides that:

Canon 6, Section 7(a). Lay persons eligible to serve on the Council include all Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing eighteen years of age or more, except

that no lay person whose compensation in whole or in part is paid by the Diocese, or by an Organization or Institution of the Diocese, shall be eligible to serve.

AND WHEREAS, the Church needs to continue to share the Christian story through the formation and support of Christian leaders. The inclusion of youth in all levels of ministry is a primary way to accomplish this. This commitment is already affirmed in Canon 15, Section 4 of the Diocese of Tennessee;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee that:

the current text of Canon 15, Section 9 be amended to lower the age limit of serving on Vestries from eighteen to sixteen so that Canon 15, Section 9 will hereafter provide, as follows:

Canon 15, Section 9. The Vestry shall consist of Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing in the Parish not less than sixteen (16) years of age. However, no Vestry shall take any action to legally bind its parish unless said action is taken on the affirmative vote of a majority of the Vestry members necessary to constitute a quorum who are present, voting and who are eighteen (18) years of age or older. No Vestry member shall serve as Warden, nor shall the Vestry appoint any Secretary or Treasurer unless said person is eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of taking said office. However, any Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing not less than sixteen (16) years of age may serve as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

the current text of the first sentence of Canon 18, Section 2(a) be amended to lower the age limit of serving on Mission Councils from eighteen to sixteen so that the first sentence of Canon 18, Section 2(a) will hereafter provide, as follows:

Canon 18, Section 2(a) In any Mission there shall be formed a Mission Council consisting of not less than three nor more than twelve persons who shall be Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing of the Mission, at least sixteen years of age, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. However, no Mission Council shall take any action to legally bind its mission unless said action is taken on the affirmative vote of a majority of the council members necessary to constitute a quorum who are present, voting and who are eighteen (18) years of age or older. No Mission Council member shall serve as Warden, nor shall the Mission Council appoint any Secretary or Treasurer unless said person is eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of taking said office. However, any Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing not less than sixteen (16) years of age may serve as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Carolyn Coleman and Vestry of Saint David's Episcopal Church, Nashville
The Rev. Amy Lamborn, Vicar of STEM

