

PROVINCE IV SYNOD 2017

COLLABORATION, VITALITY AND SHARED MINISTRY

The following resolutions for the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City serve as the basis for the discussion on collaboration, vitality and shared ministry. General Convention requested that discussions on these issues take place. Your responses will be summarized and given to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, the Task Force on the Episcopacy, and the Task Force to Study Provinces, to be reported to the 79th General Convention. Please note your brief responses to these questions prior to the panel discussion the morning of June 9 and bring them with you.

Resolution 2015-C031 - Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses

Assigned to Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention ask that the bishops and dioceses of The Episcopal Church create, nurture, and develop a culture of collaboration that results in new structures, partnerships, and practices on the interpersonal, group, and organizational levels; measurable outcomes of performance; standards of accountability, reporting and mutual ministry reviews at all levels (bishops, clergy, diocesan bodies); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages Dioceses to explore opportunities for collaboration, and possibly merging, with contiguous Dioceses, to better carry out their common mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the bishops and diocesan leadership of The Episcopal Church to engage in frank discussion about the number and size of our dioceses across the church, diocesan collaboration, vitality, and shared ministry, and what change is needed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Planning Committee of the House of Bishops is requested to set aside time this Triennium to discuss issues of diocesan vitality; and be it further

Resolved, That The Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church is directed to seek input from the above conversations and to study opportunities and challenges of diocesan collaboration, vitality, shared ministry, and the number and size of dioceses, and to report back to the 79th General Convention.

Resolution 2015-D004 - Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy

Assigned to Task Force on the Episcopacy

Resolved, That a Task Force on the Episcopacy be appointed by the Presiding Officers composed of three bishops, three presbyters or deacons, and six lay persons; and be it further

Resolved, That at least one member of the Task Force will have been a finalist in an Episcopal search who did not receive enough votes for election in the last three years; at least one member of the Task Force will have served as a Transition Consultant in an Episcopal search over the past three years; and at least two members of the Task Force will have served on an Episcopal Search and/or Transition Committee in an Episcopal search process over the past three years; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force will study the election, appointment, roles, and responsibilities of the Episcopate, including the use of Bishops Diocesan, Bishops Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Provisional Bishops, Missionary Bishops, and Assistant Bishops in this Church; looking specifically at the particular gifts, life experience, and expertise required for episcopal office; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force will pay particular attention to the recent trend away from a diverse House of Bishops, and seek ways to encourage diversity in the Episcopate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force will propose to the 79th General Convention a new process for discernment, nomination, formation, search, election, and transition of bishops in The Episcopal Church including, but not limited to: the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Pastoral Development; the selection of, roles and responsibilities of Transition Consultants; how adjoining dioceses may aid and inform the discernment of a diocese in transition; and any required Constitutional and Canonical changes necessary; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force will work with the Office of Pastoral Development to develop best practices and educational materials to be published electronically and made publicly available, and may use some of its budget to retain consultants who will help with this task; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Resolution 2015-D011 - Eliminate Provinces

Assigned to Task Force to Study Provinces

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, that a Task Force consisting of three bishops, three clergy persons, and six lay persons representing the geographic diversity of the Church, including persons who have been involved in the creation of churchwide networks through social media and other electronic communications, be appointed by the presiding officers to study the potential effects of eliminating provincial structures in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force study issues and potential effects of eliminating Provinces, including consideration of what structures might replace Provinces to facilitate or create networks to support mission and ministry; how such networks might be formed, function,

funded, connected to other networks, and be constituted; how geographic diversity in elections, appointments, and other churchwide roles might be accomplished; and what effect the elimination of Provinces would have on overall costs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force shall collaborate with the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons in order to create recommendations to the 79th General Convention.

Resolution 2015-C027 - Amend Canon I.9 [Of Provinces]

Assigned to Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

Resolved, That Canon I.9 be amended to insert a new Section 2, to read as follows:

Sec 2. The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate interdiocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts.; and be it further

Resolved, That the final sentence of Canon I.9.7 be amended as follows:

Each Diocese and Area Mission shall determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be ~~chosen~~ *elected*.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Provincial Leadership Council, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons and any other person or group the Provincial Leadership Council deem appropriate, review the Provinces in order to develop best practices and other recommendations for Provinces, including (a) facilitating mission opportunities, communications, networking and collaboration and (b) reviewing potential geographic, affiliation and/or composition changes to Provinces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons is directed to study whether there should be a revision to the Canons to provide for a single Court of Review for Priests and Deacons instead of Provincial Courts of Review (Canons IV.5.4 and IV.15), and report back to the 79th General Convention.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are three things already happening in your diocese that make your diocese vital and alive for mission?

2. What are the most important challenges facing your diocese?

3. What would be necessary and/or helpful in order to develop or nurture a “culture of collaboration” within your diocese?

4. What resources would be necessary and/or helpful to develop a “culture of collaboration” that also empowers organizational collaboration across and between multiple diocesan structures?

5. How would you measure outcomes that would assist in knowing whether such collaboration is growing, being used, or happening?

6. Does Province IV currently play a role in your diocese in furthering collaboration, vitality, and/or shared ministry? Describe the role(s) played by Province IV. Are there other ways in which Province IV can assist your congregation, ministry, or Diocese?

7. How can the structures or resources of Province IV and/or the Episcopal Church assist you and your diocese to engage in frank dialogue about diocesan collaboration and vitality? In what ways do existing structures hinder such dialogue?"

8. What other suggestions or comments do you have regarding collaboration, vitality and shared ministry in the Episcopal Church?

Diocese: _____

Name of person completing these questions: _____
(optional)

Are you:

Bishop: _____ Priest/Deacon: _____ Lay: _____

Member of Diocesan Staff: yes: _____ no: _____

You may email your responses to The Rev. Sharon Alexander, member of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, at sharonannalexander@yahoo.com