

Proposed Resolution R-1 222nd Diocesan Convention, March 8 & 9, 2013

Offer By: The Standing Committee

Subject: Amendment of the Constitution of the Diocese of South Carolina [2nd Reading]

Resolved, that the Constitution of the Diocese of South Carolina be, and the same is hereby amended, as set forth in the attached copy of the Constitution.



DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CONSTITUTION



ARTICLE I

~~The Church in the Diocese of South Carolina accedes to the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. In the event that any provision of the Constitution of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America is inconsistent with, or contradictory to, the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese shall prevail.~~

ARTICLE II

Of Diocesan Convention Meetings

Section 1. A Diocesan Convention shall be held annually, at such time and place as shall have been determined upon by the preceding Convention; or, on failure of the Convention so to determine, at such time and place as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall have power to call a special meeting of the Convention by giving at least thirty (30) days' notice to every clergyman entitled to a seat in the Convention, and to every Parish and Mission in the Diocese in union with the Convention, and such meeting shall be held when and where the Authority so calling it shall determine and at such meeting no other business shall be transacted than that specified in the notice so calling said meeting: PROVIDED, That whenever a special meeting of Convention is called for the purpose, in whole or in part, of electing a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, Lay Deputies from the several Parishes and organized Missions in union with Convention shall be elected after the call has been issued for such special meeting.

Section 3. If, in the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Authority, there exists sufficient cause to require a change of time or place for the meeting of a Convention either annual or special, the said Authority may designate another time or place of holding such meeting, to be held within 30 days after the time originally designated and after notice to every clergyman and Parish and Mission in the Diocese.

ARTICLE III

Of Diocesan Convention Members

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of clergymen and laypersons, as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The following shall be entitled to all of the privileges as members of the Convention: The Bishop of this Diocese; the Retired Bishops of the Diocese; the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese, when there is one; Suffragan Bishops of this Diocese, if there be any; ~~the Archdeacon of the Diocese, if Non-Parochial;~~ every clergyman who is actually and canonically resident within the Diocese and discharging the duties of his station as Rector, Minister, or Assistant Minister of an organized Parish or organized Mission; and every clergyman, who, after a continued membership of at least twenty years in the Convention is incapacitated by the infirmities of health or age from further active duties of the ministry, and is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese. The following shall also be entitled to all the privileges as members of the Convention: every clergyman canonically resident in the Diocese who is employed either by the Diocese or actively engaged in the work of the Church in the Diocese or at its affiliated institutions, PROVIDED, that no vote shall be received from any clergyman who has failed to deliver the Parochial Report required by Section 4 of Canon XXV by February first (1) preceding the Convention,



unless he be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention. ~~Vocational Deacons~~ otherwise qualified for membership in the Convention shall be entitled to seat and voice but not vote. Clergy Canonically Resident, but not otherwise qualified for membership in the Convention, shall be entitled to seat and voice, but no vote.

Section 3. Each Parish and each Mission in union with the Convention shall be entitled to lay representation in the Convention: a Parish by not more than four laypersons and a Mission by not more than two laypersons. The election of said Lay Deputies shall take place in each Parish and each Mission, which has been admitted to union with the Convention, by voice vote unless the presiding officer in his sole discretion determines that the result is unclear then it shall be by ballot of those in attendance ~~ballot~~, from among the confirmed Communicants, at a meeting of the members thereof, on the Second Monday in January of each year, or some other day thereafter to be appointed, upon not less than one week's notice given by the Rector, or the Vestry, if there be no Rector. An equal number of Lay Deputies may be elected to serve as alternates or substitutes for such Lay Deputies, elected as above, who may not, from any cause, attend the Convention when it assembles, or who may not remain in such attendance; PROVIDED, that no votes shall be received from any Parish or Mission which has failed to comply with the requirements of the Canon as to Parochial Reports by February first (1) preceding the Convention, unless they be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention.

Section 4. The terms of office of Deputies so elected shall continue until their successors are elected, and shall before they are permitted to take their seats, produce written testimonials of their election.

Section 5. No deputy shall represent more than one Parish or Mission or have more than one vote; and, if a Lay Deputy, he/she shall not represent any Parish or Mission unless he/she is a communicant of such Parish or Mission and is not enrolled as a communicant of any other Parish or Mission.

Section 6. When the Convention shall have been called to order, the list of the Clergy prepared by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, shall be laid before the Convention and the names of the Clerical members shall be called therefrom. Immediately thereafter the Secretary shall proceed to call the names of the Lay Deputies; after which, if a quorum be found present, the President shall declare the Convention duly organized. PROVIDED, however, that if the Clerical and Lay Deputies have been registered on the opening day of the Convention and such registration is then in the hands of the Secretary, said roll calls may be dispensed with. PROVIDED, FURTHER, that if a question be made, the right of any clergyman or Lay Deputy shall be determined according to the provisions of the Constitution itself.

ARTICLE ~~III~~ IV **Of a Quorum**

A majority of the Clerical Order, together with ~~and~~ Lay Representatives from a majority of the Missions and Parishes in union with the Convention ~~churches~~ shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business generally, but any number of either Order that shall assemble may recess or adjourn from day to day until a quorum is formed.

ARTICLE IV **Of the President**

The Bishop of the Diocese shall be ex officio President of the Convention, and in his absence the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one. But in case neither of them be present, the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, then the President of the Standing Committee shall be the President of the Convention; and if they be not present, a presiding officer shall be elected from among the attending presbyters.

ARTICLE V **Of the Other Officers of the Diocese**

Section 1. The other officers of the Diocese shall be a Chancellor, ~~an Assistant Chancellor,~~ a ~~an~~ **Executive** Secretary of the Diocese, a Treasurer, and a Historiographer who may also be the Secretary of



the Diocese, all of whom shall be confirmed Communicants, ~~of the Church~~, and a member of a Parish or Mission in union with the Convention.

Section 2. The Chancellor ~~and the Assistant Chancellor~~ shall be nominated by the Bishop and shall be elected by a majority vote of the Convention. Any ~~Before the~~ Assistant Chancellor shall be ~~is~~ nominated by the Chancellor and approved by the Bishop ~~Bishop, the nomination must be approved by the Chancellor.~~ The term of office of any ~~the~~ Assistant Chancellor shall run concurrently with the term of the office of the Chancellor, who shall serve for three (3) years or until his or her successor is elected. ~~They shall serve for three years, and until their successors are elected.~~ Their duties of the Chancellor and of any Assistant Chancellor shall be to act as legal advisors to ~~of~~ the Ecclesiastical Authority and other Diocesan offices and organizations, in matters affecting the interest of the ~~Diocese~~ Church. The Chancellor (but not any Assistant Chancellor) ~~y~~ shall be an EX OFFICIO members of the Convention without the right to vote, unless a deputy from a Parish or Mission in union with the Convention.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be elected at each Annual Convention by ballot (unless the ballot be unanimously dispensed with), and shall continue in office until his successor is elected. His duties shall be as prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, Resolutions, and Rules of Order of ~~both the Convention, of this Diocese and of the General Convention.~~ He shall be EX- OFFICIO a member of the Convention without the right to vote, unless he be a delegate from a Parish or Mission in union with the Convention.

Section 4. The ~~Executive~~ Secretary shall be appointed by the Bishop, and shall continue in office at the pleasure of the Bishop. In case there be no Bishop, or Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop canonically authorized to act, then the Standing Committee shall appoint the ~~Executive~~ Secretary to serve at its pleasure or until there be a Bishop, or Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop canonically authorized to act. He shall act as Secretary of the Convention, and his duties shall be prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, Resolutions, and Rules of Order of ~~both the Convention, of this Diocese and of the General Convention for the Secretary of the Diocese.~~

Section 5. The Historiographer shall be appointed by the Bishop, to serve for three years, and until a successor is appointed. If a Historiographer is not so appointed, the Secretary shall perform t ~~The~~ duties of the Historiographer which shall be prescribed by Canon.

ARTICLE VII **Of Deliberating and Voting in Convention**

Section 1. On all questions coming before the Convention, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution, the members shall deliberate and vote as one body, unless a separate vote by Orders be demanded as below provided. Immediately prior to the putting of the question to be voted upon, the President shall inquire whether there be objection to voting as one body; whereupon, upon demand by any two clergymen or by any two Deputies from separate churches, a separate vote of each Order shall be had; in such case the clergy shall vote individually and the Lay Deputies by churches (a majority from each Parish having one vote and each mission having one-half vote). A majority vote of both Orders shall, in each case, be necessary to a decision.

Section 2. In the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, the vote shall be by ballot, and by Orders, a concurrent majority of the two Orders being necessary to a choice; PROVIDED, that two-thirds of all the clergy entitled to vote and two-thirds of all the churches entitled to representation, be present; otherwise, two-thirds of the vote of each Order present shall be necessary to determine a choice.

ARTICLE VIII **Of Admitting Parishes and Missions Into the Convention**

Section 1.

A. PARISH



Parishes which have been organized as provided by Canon for not less than one year may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention ~~by vote of the Convention~~ by vote of the Convention; provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth have been met:

- (1) Application for admission is made in writing (and in duplicate) by the Wardens and Vestry to the Secretary of the Convention ~~Secretary of the Convention~~, and such application is received by the Secretary ~~by the Secretary~~ at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Convention at its annual meeting].
- (2) Said application may state such facts as the applicant deems pertinent, but it must state:
 - a. ~~the facts of applicant's organization in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and its continued existence thereunder for at least one year,~~
 - a. the facts of applicant's organization in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and its continued existence thereunder for at least one year,
 - b. the number of its adult members and the number of its communicants,
 - c. the names of its Wardens, Vestrymen, Secretary, Treasurer and proposed Lay Deputies,
 - d. evidence that it is self-supporting and the prospects of remaining so, which evidence of self-support shall include its ability to pay the full salary of its minister at or greater than the minimum salary scale approved by the Department of Mission with the approval of the Bishop, ~~and the amount contributed to the Diocese for the preceding year~~ and that the Ecclesiastical Authority approves the admission of the applicant into union with the Convention,
 - e. its willingness to conform to ~~the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and~~ the Constitution and Canons of the Convention of this Diocese, which are, or thereafter may be, enacted by the authority of the Diocese.
- (3) Said application must be accompanied by two certified copies of its corporation charter and two certified copies of its by-laws.

~~(4) Said application shall also be accompanied by a certificate from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese stating that said Authority approves the admission of applicant into union with the Convention and that applicant has been for at least one year duly organized as a Parish under the Canons of the Diocese.~~

(4) In case the applicant be within the limits of one or more existing Parishes or Missions, the application shall also state the reason for its organization, the distance of its place of worship from the other, or from each of the others, together with whatever additional facts may throw light upon the situation.

~~Missions, the application shall also state the reason for its organization, the distance of their place of worship from the other, or from each of the others, together with whatever additional facts may throw light upon the situation.~~

B. MISSIONS

Missions which have been organized as provided by the Canons of the Diocese for not less than one year may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention, by vote of the Convention ~~vote of the Convention~~, provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth have been met:

- (1) Application for admission is made in writing (and in duplicate) by a majority of the members of the Mission seeking admission, to the Secretary of the Convention ~~Secretary of the Convention~~ and such application is received by the Secretary of the Convention ~~Secretary~~ at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Convention at its annual meeting.
- (2) Said application may state such facts as the applicant deems pertinent, but it must state:



- a. the facts of applicant's organization in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and its continued existence thereunder for at least one year,
 - b. that its organization has not been dissolved by the Ecclesiastical Authority,
 - c. the number of its adult members and the number of its communicants,
 - d. the names of its Wardens, Mission Council members, Secretary, Treasurer and proposed Lay Deputies,
 - e. the extent of its ability to support its work, its willingness to conform to ~~the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and~~ the Constitution and Canons of the Convention of this Diocese, which are then, or thereafter may be, enacted by the authority of the Diocese.
- (3) Said application must be accompanied by two certified copies of its corporate charter, and, if it has any by-laws then two certified copies thereof and evidence that the Ecclesiastical Authority approves the admission of the applicant into union with the Convention.

~~(4) Said application shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese stating that said Authority approves the admission of applicant into union with the Convention and that applicant has been for at least one year duly organized under the Canons of the Diocese, and its organization has not been dissolved.~~

In case the applicant be within the limits of one or more existing Parishes or Missions, the application shall also state the reason for its organization, the distance of its place of worship from the other, or from each of the others, together with whatever additional facts may throw light upon the situation ~~the application shall also state the reason for its organization, the distance of its place of worship from the other, or from each of the others, together with whatever additional facts may throw light upon the situation.~~

~~(4) -~~

Section 2. At the annual Convention next succeeding the receipt of application for admission to union with the Convention, the Secretary shall communicate the same to the Convention, the Secretary shall communicate the same to the Convention on the first day of its session; and after reference to both the Committee on Admission of New Parishes and the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, the application shall be acted upon by the Convention.

Section 3. A Parish or Mission shall be accorded full privileges of membership in the Convention when it is admitted into union with the Convention, including the right of a voice and vote in the proceedings.

ARTICLE VIIIX **Of the Standing Committee**

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six Presbyters of the Diocese and six laypersons who are confirmed communicants in good standing of Missions or Parishes in union with the Convention ~~the Church in the Diocese~~. The Chancellor may be an elected member of the Standing Committee. If the Chancellor is not an elected member of the Standing Committee he shall be an ex officio member of the Standing Committee with voice and no vote. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by ballot as follows: Upon the effective date of this article, or as soon thereafter as practicable at the Convention of the Diocese, two Presbyters and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years; two Presbyters and two laypersons for a term of two (2) years; and two Presbyters and two laypersons for a term of one (1) year; thereafter, at each succeeding annual Convention two Presbyters and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No Presbyter or layperson whose term has expired shall be eligible for re-election until the passage of one Convention year from the date of said



expiration. If there be no Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, canonically authorized to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. In all decisions as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee shall vote by Orders; and a majority vote of the members present from each Order shall be necessary for a decision.

Section 2. At their first meeting after the election they shall choose one of the Presbyters of their body to be their President and another member of their body to be their Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep regular minutes of all the proceedings and business of the committee; to preserve them carefully recorded in a book prepared for that purpose alone; to preserve the originals of all letters and papers addressed to the Standing Committee; to attest their public acts; to perform such other duties as they may require and faithfully to deliver into the hands of his successors all books and papers relative to the concerns of the Standing Committee which may have been entrusted to him.

Section 3. They shall present to each Annual Convention an abstract of the minutes of their proceedings since the former Convention.

Section 4. Vacancies in [the Standing Committee](#) ~~this committee~~, caused by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the suffrage of the remaining members, a majority vote of each Order being necessary to a choice.

Section 5. The Standing Committee may adopt standing resolutions, which when adopted shall continue in force until repealed by majority vote of the total membership of the Standing Committee adopting same or by a majority vote of the total membership of a subsequent Standing Committee. The present standing resolutions of the Standing Committee are printed in the [Journal](#) by request.

ARTICLE X **Of Deputies to the General Convention**

~~*Section 1.* At an Annual Convention during the triennium between General Conventions, but preceding each General Convention, four Presbyters and four laypersons, having qualifications established by the Constitution of the Episcopal Church, shall be chosen by ballot to represent the Diocese at the next succeeding General Convention. Four other Presbyters and four other laypersons, having the same qualifications, shall be chosen by ballot, as alternates for those selected. Such representatives and alternates shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.~~

~~*Section 2.* In case any Deputy of those first chosen shall decline such election, or be unable to attend, he shall forthwith inform the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and the said Ecclesiastical Authority shall thereupon summon to the General Convention one of the substitutes, in the order in which their names are on the Journal, which order shall be the order of their election; or when two or more are elected at one balloting, shall be determined by the aggregate vote received; PROVIDED, That in case all of the substitutes so elected shall decline to serve, or be unable to attend, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint a substitute, or substitutes, of like qualifications in his or their stead.~~

ARTICLE IXI **Of the Trial of a Clergyman**

A clergyman shall be subject to a trial for offences enumerated in the Canons of this [Diocese Convention](#), and if found guilty shall be sentenced in accordance therewith. The trial shall be conducted according to the Canons of this [Diocese Convention](#).

ARTICLE XII **Of Altering the Constitution**

No alteration or amendment of, or addition to this Constitution shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing and in duplicate on the first day of a Convention and after reference to the Committee on



Constitution and Canons, is adopted by a majority vote of the Convention at which it is proposed, and further adopted by a two-thirds vote of both Orders present at the next Convention.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLVED**, That when any clergyman of the Diocese shall depart this life, his record shall be inscribed on a memorial page of the Journal. (Passed 1872).

2. **RESOLVED**, That in a vote by Orders, the Secretary shall call the names of the clerical deputies and then call the roll of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Convention, and, if desired by any Deputy record the clergymen and laymen voting affirmatively and negatively. (Passed 1877, revised 1914, and 1961).

3. **RESOLVED**, That the Secretary is instructed to print separately in the Journal so much of the reports of each Parish and Mission as shows the name of the officers and also remarks, if any. It will be sufficient to print the statistics of the churches together in tables. (Passed 1918).

4. **RESOLVED**, That one copy of the Journal of the Convention of the Diocese be mailed to each and every Deputy separately by the Secretary as soon as such Journal may be printed and ready for distribution. (Passed 1913).

5. **RESOLVED**, One of the three Trustees of the University of the South shall be elected at each Convention of the Diocese to fill the expiring three-year term, whether lay or clergy. Should an earlier vacancy have occurred election to fill the un-expired term shall be held. No Trustee of the University of the South shall succeed himself more than once for a three-year term. (Passed 1958).

6. **RESOLVED**, That notices of the Convention sent out by the Secretary shall include a request that proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Canons be sent at least thirty (30) days before the Convention to the Secretary of the Convention for reference to the Committee on Constitution and Canons. (Passed 1961. Amended 1970 and 1971).

7. **RESOLVED**, (A) That whenever there is an election of a Trustee of the University of the South by this Convention, the one receiving the next highest number of votes be designated as the Alternate Trustee and that the Bishop be authorized to appoint him as such; (B) That in case the Alternate Trustee be unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Bishop is hereby authorized to appoint another Alternate Trustee of the same order (Passed 1965).

8. **RESOLVED**, That the Diocesan Council through the Secretary of Convention shall send to every congregation at least twenty (20) days prior to Convention information concerning major matters to be brought before the Convention by the Council, including any action by Council on these matters. Each Parish or Mission is urged to make such information known to the congregation.

9. **RESOLVED**, That the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall appoint, at least sixty (60) days before the convening of each Annual Convention, a nominating committee composed of one Presbyter and one layperson from each Deanery, designating a convener; and such committee shall nominate two persons for each vacancy to be filled at the next Annual Convention of the Diocese, ~~excepting Deputies to General Convention, in which case the Nominating Committee shall nominate all qualified persons whose names have been duly and properly submitted~~; PROVIDED, that before any person is nominated by such committee, it shall secure the consent of such person to serve if elected. (Passed 1970, Amended 1972 and 1989).

10. **RESOLVED**, That all Parishes, Missions, and organizations in the Diocese that are not incorporated are urgently requested to incorporate under the laws of South Carolina; and if a Parish or Mission, then it is



requested to include the provision in its charter that the corporation is formed for the purpose of operating a Parish or Mission, organized pursuant and subject to the Canons of ~~the Protestant Episcopal Church in~~ the Diocese of South Carolina as now in force or as thereafter may be amended, and in the event said charter does not otherwise contain a provision for the orderly distribution of assets upon dissolution in a manner consistent with the intents and purposes of the diocese, said charter shall contain the further provision that upon being dissolved pursuant to the Canons of ~~the Protestant Episcopal Church in~~ the Diocese of South Carolina, automatically the offices of the Vestry, Wardens, and other officers of the corporation shall become vacant, and the Standing Committee ~~of the Protestant Episcopal the Diocese Church in the Diocese~~ of South Carolina shall become the managing body of the corporation, with full power and authority, without restriction, to liquidate the property of the corporation, to sell or mortgage its property or any part thereof, to convey any or all of its property to the Trustees ~~es of the Dioceses of the Prote of stant Episcopal Church in~~ South Carolina, and upon complete liquidation to surrender the charter of the corporation; and that each Parish and Mission in the Diocese that is now incorporated is urgently requested to amend its charter to include the aforesaid provision in its charter. (Passed 1970, Amended 2012). ~~(Passed 1970)~~.

11. **RESOLVED**, That all Parishes, Missions, and organizations in the Diocese which hold any property with reverter clauses to the grantor, grantors, or other persons in the title are urgently requested to make every effort to remove, or have removed therefrom, all possibility of a reverter; and that all Parishes, Missions, and organizations in the Diocese are further urged to avoid, if possible, the taking of any title to property with reverter clauses therein. (Passed 1970).

12. **RESOLVED**, That the Convention elect to the Board of Trustees of The Porter-Gaud Academy one clergyman and one layperson each to serve for a term of four (4) years and thereafter upon the expiration of said terms or in the event a vacancy occurs during a term of office of one of the individuals so elected, the Convention will elect a person to fill the un-expired term of such person provided, however, that in the event it becomes necessary to fill the un-expired term of a clergyman, the successor to him shall be a clergyman, and if said vacancy occurs during the term of the layperson so elected, a layperson shall be elected to fill the un-expired portion of said term. And be it further

RESOLVED, That the Diocese of South Carolina, in recognition of the historic close affiliation between it and The Porter-Gaud Academy continue in such relationship and continue to develop mutually beneficial programs with a view toward serving the mutual purposes of both institutions. ~~And be it further~~

~~**RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of South Carolina, in recognition of the historic close affiliation between it and The Porter-Gaud Academy continue in such relationship and continue to develop mutually beneficial programs with a view toward serving the mutual purposes of both institutions.~~

13. **RESOLVED**, That the Thanksgiving Day Offering received by the Parishes Churches in the Diocese of South Carolina be designated for the work of the Episcopal Church Home for Children in York.

14. **RESOLVED**, That this Diocese renew its endorsement of the tithe of 10 percent of personal income as the minimum standard of Christian giving; that the Convention challenge the people of each Parish and Mission to adopt a plan of proportionate giving as a way to grow toward the goal of the tithe; that the Convention challenge each Parish and Mission to give serious consideration to proportionate giving from their gross receipts and to the goal of 50 percent of their income being spent in ministry and mission beyond the Parish; that the Convention challenge each individual and church of this Diocese to adopt a personal plan for moving toward these goals; and that the Journal of this Convention and the Jubilate Deo publish annually the stewardship statistics of all Parishes and Missions in such a way that our individual and corporate growth in giving can be shared and celebrated.

~~**RESOLVED**, That the Mother's Day offering received by the churches in the Diocese of South Carolina be designated for work with the aging; and be it further~~

~~**RESOLVED**, That the parishes and missions in the Diocese of South Carolina are urged to set aside a budget item for the ministry to the aging; and be it further~~



~~— **RESOLVED**, That this Convention commends to all the valuable resources offered by the Episcopal Society for Ministry to the Aging and requests the Diocese to create a Commission of Ministry to the Aging under the Division of Human Needs to emphasize the Diocese's ongoing concern with a total ministry to the aging and to coordinate efforts with the Episcopal Ministry to the Aging, Inc.~~

~~-16. **RESOLVED**, That the Congregation of Prince George Parish, Winyah in Georgetown urges the 198th meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina to adopt as a Standing Resolution the resolution of the 197th Convention, to wit:~~

~~— "The time-honored and biblically-rooted standard of chastity for Christian people remains unchanged. This means that sexual relations are to be confined to one's partner in marriage.~~

~~— Since Clergy are expected to provide, in their lives and in their teaching, a wholesome example for others, Bishops and other Diocesan officials should not knowingly admit to, nor retain in, Holy Orders, any person who cannot or will not do so.~~

~~— And, furthermore, while we are called by Our Lord to offer love, forgiveness and pastoral care to all persons, neither the Clergy nor the Laity of this Church should encourage any attempt to legitimize any sexual behavior other than that which is appropriate between a man and a woman united in Holy Matrimony."~~

158. RESOLVED, That this Convention commend the clergy and laity of the Diocese of South Carolina to support and actively respond to the admonition found in the rubric on page 445 of The Book of Common Prayer, which reads as follows:

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

16. RESOLVED, Whereas the members of the Standing Committee also serve as the Board of Directors of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina, a South Carolina non-profit religious corporation, that no member of the Standing Committee may be removed, replaced, or a vacancy filled except by compliance with the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Bylaws of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina and the Constitution of the Diocese. (Passed 2012).

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BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, That this Convention challenge each Minister in charge of a congregation to abide by the rubric of The Book of Common Prayer, and annually to instruct the people under his or her charge, regarding the maintaining of valid wills for the State of South Carolina and the making of bequests in their wills for the benefit of the mission of the Diocese of South Carolina Church, including parishes and mission congregations, the Diocese, and other institutions or organizations supported by the Diocese of South Carolina Episcopal institutions.

~~19. **RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of South Carolina hereby implements Resolution D-165-a of the General Convention of 1991 concerning lay employees' retirement benefits as follows:~~

~~—1. All Parishes, Missions, and other ecclesiastical organizations, or bodies of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina which under the regulations of the Church Pension Fund have elected or shall elect to come into the pension system, shall provide all lay employees who work a minimum of 1,000 hours annually retirement benefits through participation in the Episcopal Church Lay Employees Retirement Plan (ECLERP) or in an equivalent plan, the provisions of which are at least equal to those of ECLERP. Such participation shall commence no later than January 1, 1993. At its commencement, if the plan is a defined benefit plan, the employer contribution shall be not less than 9 percent of the employees'~~



~~salary; if the plan is a defined contribution plan, the employer shall contribute not less than 5 percent and agree to "match" employee contributions of up to another 4 percent.~~

~~—2. The employer may impose a minimum age of 21 years and minimum employment period not to exceed one year of continuous employment before an employee would be eligible to participate.~~

~~—3. The Trustees of the Church Pension Fund shall have authority to increase or decrease the contribution percentages required for the lay pension plan.~~

Proposed Resolution R-2

Anglicans for Life Resolution

Sponsors – Clergy

The Rev. Karl Burns
The Very Rev. Craige Borrett
The Rev. Jason Collins
The Very Rev. Paul Fuener
The Rev. Shay Gaillard
The Rev. Tripp Jeffords
The Rev. Arthur Jenkins
The Rev. Canon Jim Lewis
The Rev. Mike Lumpkin
The Rev. Jeffrey Miller
The Rev. Andrew O'Dell
The Rev. Tyler Prescott
The Rev. Greg Smith
The Rev. Greg Snyder
The Very Rev. David Thurlow
The Rev. Matthew McCormick

Sponsors - Lay

Mr. Francis Allston, Christ-St. Paul's, Yonges Island
Mrs. Virginia Bartels, St. James, James Island
Mr. Gerry Graves, Christ-St. Paul's, Yonges Island
Mr. Terence Jenkins, Christ-St. Paul's, Yonges Island
Mrs. Catherine Jones, Good Shepherd, Charleston
Maj. Bruce W Macdonald, St. James, James Island
Mrs. Lisa Newland, Christ-St. Paul's, Yonges Island
Mr. Mark Prince, Good Shepherd, Charleston
Mr. Alan Runyan, St. Helena's, Beaufort
Mrs. Fran Sanders, St. Helena's, Beaufort
Mrs. Frances Tovey, Christ-St. Paul's, Yonges Island

Whereas we are living in a time of increasing cultural confusion regarding issues of human life,

And whereas the "Declaration of Life Statement" (below) made by Anglicans for Life is consistent with the faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3), the "doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them" ("Ordination of a Priest," BCP p. 526) and the vision of Bishop Lawrence to "Make Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age,"

Be it resolved that this 222st Convention of the Diocese of SC endorses the "Declaration of Life Statement" from Anglicans for Life and

Be it further resolved that, recognizing the tragic dimension of all abortion and the call of Christ on his Church to show concern and compassion to all, we emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience and

Be it further resolved that, recognizing the economic, social, and emotional difficulties of a crisis pregnancy, we emphatically encourage the Church to be Christ-like in its witness, sharing the burdens and the joy of a family that chooses life and

Be it further resolved that the Diocese establish a Diocesan-wide Anglicans for Life chapter, which would include voluntary representation from every parish. The goal of which would be to organize and maintain a witness and ministry for life within the Diocese as we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Anglicans for Life

DECLARATION OF LIFE STATEMENT

We believe God, and not man, is the creator of human life. Therefore, from conception to natural death we will protect and respect the sanctity of every human life. Furthermore, we recognize that the unjustified taking of life is sinful, but God gives absolution to those who ask for His forgiveness.



History & Overview of Anglicans for Life

In 1966, with a prophetic sense of abortion's influence on this country, the Rt. Rev. Joseph M. Harte of the Diocese of Arizona founded *Episcopalians for Life*. In 1973, When the United States Supreme Court ruled (*Roe vs. Wade*) to make abortion legal for the entire nine months of pregnancy, Episcopalians nationwide gathered to say, "This is desperately wrong." Chapters formed in dioceses across the country.

On December 6th, 1983, Judith Fink, The Rev. Paul Mericle, The Very Rev. John Rodgers, Rebecca Spanos, and Kathleen Sweet signed Articles of Incorporation making The National Organization of Episcopalians for Life Research and Education Foundation (N.O.E.L.) official. The first Board of Directors met in February 1984 to elect Bishop Harte Chairman Emeritus and the Rt. Rev. John Howe (then rector of Truro, Fairfax) as Board Chairman.

From 1983 to 1996, N.O.E.L. operated from Fairfax, Virginia where it published newsletters and developed chapters for local parish grassroots activism. Through the work of N.O.E.L. Board Members, Presidents, Chapter Leaders, and Volunteers, N.O.E.L.'s ministry reached nationwide with the love of Christ. Educating Episcopalians about the abortion industry practices and seeking to influence the church by introducing pro-life resolutions at General Conventions was the hallmark of N.O.E.L.'s efforts during its Fairfax tenure.

1996 was a year of change for N.O.E.L.; the board elected the Rev. Geoffrey W. Chapman Chairman of the Board after a brief chairmanship by the Rev. Rebecca Spanos. The headquarters moved from Virginia to St. Stephen's Church, Sewickley, Pennsylvania where the Rev. Geoff Chapman is rector. In 1998, the board appointed Georgette Forney as the fifth President of N.O.E.L., a position formerly named "Executive Secretary" and "Executive Director". She followed in the footsteps of her successors, Mrs. Louisa W. Rucker, Mrs. Mary Ann Dacey, Mrs. Marilyn Heigl, and Mrs. Dana Henry. In addition to her marketing background, Mrs. Forney brought her own personal abortion experience and healing to the ministry. Under her influence, raising awareness about both abortion prevention and practical resources for after-care that offer the mercy of Jesus Christ have developed and expanded.

In 2000, N.O.E.L. developed a prayer team that now has over 240 members. The prayer team intercedes on behalf of the work of ministry and the many issues it addresses. In 2001, N.O.E.L. created the Parish Point Person Program that allowed individuals to provide educational materials regarding life issues to people within their diocese, church, and community.

In conjunction with Priests for Life, N.O.E.L. launched the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, in 2002, to educate the public that abortion physically, emotionally and spiritually hurts women, men, and others involved. The Campaign is a non-denominational outreach with no legal or political agenda. It also seeks to promote abortion recovery programs to let people know that there is hope and healing after abortion. The Campaign has created opportunities to work with the many other pro-life organizations on an international level.

In 2003, the Rev. D. Lorne Coyle was elected as the new Board Chairman, and the board voted to change the organizations official name to NOEL, without any acronym. The name change reflected NOEL's broadening outreach to the wider Anglican Church body and the non-Christian.

In February 2004, NOEL's Board of Directors adopted the following statements and strategies to guide its international ministry.

NOEL's *purpose* is to be "a life-affirming ministry in the worldwide Anglican Communion." NOEL's *mission* is to "advocate the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death in the Church and society." Furthermore, NOEL has a *vision* to "stand for the value of every human life as revealed in

Scripture” and “equip people to develop a biblical response to issues that threaten human life.” We are a fellowship of Anglican Christians who *believe*:

- God values each human life and gives it purpose.
- God ordains marriage and family for the creation and nurturing of human life.
- God desires that we respect and love each person, especially the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable.
- God calls us to minister to people in ways that affirm the sanctity of human life.

In September of 2005, the NOEL Board of Directors adopted a Declaration of Life Statement as a recommended guideline for anyone seeking to set a standard. The statement is: *God is the creator of every human life; therefore, from conception to natural death we will protect and respect every person. Furthermore, we recognize that the unjustified taking of life is sinful.*

In 2006, Ray Yorke, a lay person from Rhode Island, was elected to be the new Chairman of the board. Before the year ended, the board decided to change the ministry’s name from NOEL to **Anglicans for Life**. Though the name has changed, the mission will remain the same. Relationships remain the same also. Anglicans for Life will continue to serve those in the Episcopal Church (TEC) as well as all the other continuing groups. Anglicans for Life will work with everyone who affirms the sanctity of life.

Anglicans for Life is the only Anglican/Episcopal organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, protecting embryos from research abuse, and promoting abstinence and adoption.

Anglicans for Life will employ the following strategies to address our belief statements.

1. Prevent abortion by affirming adoption and marriage as alternatives to abortion, encourage people/churches to develop emotional and financial resources to help pregnant mothers, and promote abstinence for pregnancy prevention.
2. Help people hurt by abortion by raising awareness about the physical and emotional pain experienced afterwards and offer help
3. Help people who contact Anglicans for Life to become active in life ministry/outreach.
4. Educate Episcopalians and Anglicans about proposed policies and legislation, so they can be informed, participating citizens working to protect and affirm human life.
5. Market and network Anglicans for Life so that people (Episcopal Church, Anglican Affiliates, Seminaries, and pro-life community) are aware of the organization, its resources, campaigns, and projects.
6. Develop and maintain outstanding resources, materials, and website to educate, inform, and activate people to protect and respect life.
7. Employ good day-to-day management practices and on-going fundraising to support our strategies.

Most of the ministry’s work focuses on the first two strategies, preventing abortion and helping those hurt by abortion. It approaches these two strategies from both the woman’s perspective as well as the unborn baby and believes that by helping pregnant women we can empower them to love their babies and give them life. Furthermore, we have found the voice of women with abortion experience to be the most influential in helping people see that abortion harms women in addition to killing unborn babies. Anglicans for Life wants to extend the love of Christ to those women and their families.

We also approach the abortion issue from a loving, life-affirming perspective, as we have found it opens the door to those who may not identify themselves as ‘pro-life’ but who are willing to help women. Anglicans for Life discourages descriptions like anti-abortion and pro-life to describe our work as it gives people an excuse to dismiss us. Instead we have found hearts are changed when they share in the experience of helping a woman embrace life and give birth.