

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN UTAH

RESOLUTION FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2021

In order that debate may be directed toward the resolution and not toward its justification, only the "RESOLVED..." will be moved. The explanation of the resolution will, however, be distributed to delegates. Resolutions may be submitted to the Convention by the Bishop, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, a member of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, a Warden, a delegate to the Convention, a Diocesan Council representative of any Region of the Diocese, a Vestry, A Bishop's Committee, a Congregation, a Diocesan Commission or a Diocesan Committee.

TOPIC: Updating Canons Pertaining to Congregations

1 **RESOLVED:**

2 **TITLE IV.**
3 **CONGREGATIONS**

4
5 **CANON 19 CONGREGATIONAL FORMS**

6 **Section 19.2 Mission.**

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8 **19.2.1** A Mission is a worshipping community consisting of five (5) or more individuals
9 and capable of operation only with the assistance of Diocesan mission budget support. A

10 Mission may be formed at the discretion of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the

11 Standing Committee, and under such rules and guidelines as the Bishop may establish. [An](#)
12 [established Mission that becomes self-sustaining, in that it no longer receives financial support](#)
13 [from the Diocese, shall remain a Mission of the Diocese until it has applied for union as a Parish](#)
14 [as set forth in Section 19.2.4.](#)

15
16 **19.2.4(d)** Satisfactory evidence that the congregation has been holding regular worship services
17 and contains at least twenty (20) adult ~~Communicates~~ [Communicants](#) in Good Standing.

18
19 [19.2.5 Two or more Missions may be merged into one at the request of either the Bishop or the](#)
20 [Bishop's Committees of each Mission with consent of the Bishop. The Bishop shall decide](#)

21 whether to merge the Missions with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. Prior to
22 the merger, the existing Bishop’s Committees of the established Missions shall meet together as
23 one body to formulate bylaws and select a name for the proposed new Mission under such rules
24 and guidelines as the Bishop may establish.

25
26 **19.3.1** A Parish is a worshipping community capable of maintaining its own church facility and
27 programs from internal resources independent of financial support from the Diocese, and
28 supporting the stipend and benefits of at least a part-time Rector or Priest-in-Charge, ~~Except~~
29 that voluntary universal provision by the Diocese of clergy benefits is not considered financial
30 support for the purposes of this section.

31
32 **CANON 20 WARDENS AND OTHER OFFICERS**

33 **20.1.1(b)** The Bishop’s Warden of a Mission shall be appointed from the membership of the
34 Mission by the Priest-in-Charge, acting with the advice and consent of the Bishop, if there is
35 one, otherwise by the ecclesiastical authority. The Bishop’s Committee shall elect ~~from among~~
36 ~~its members~~ a Junior Warden from among its members unless otherwise provided for by the
37 Mission bylaws.

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Date: January 19, 2021

Moved by Sandra Lee Corp, Esq., Vice Chancellor

Congregation/Organization: Grace Episcopal Church

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EXPLANATION: The proposed change to Section 19.2.1 clarifies that a Mission must apply to Convention in order to change its status to a parish.

Section 19.2.5 is a new provision which establishes a procedure for consolidating two or more missions into one. The language tracks the procedure that was used in a recent consolidation of two missions of the Diocese.

The amendment to Section 19.3.1 codifies the current practice that provision of financial assistance with clergy benefits is not considered “financial assistance” for purposes of establishing whether a congregation is a mission or a parish.

The amendment to Section 20.1.1(b) allows a mission to adopt by-laws permitting selection of a Junior Warden from outside the membership of the Bishop’s Committee in alignment with the current ability of parishes to adopt similar by-laws.

Fiscal Note: None

Note: Filing deadline is 60 days prior to Convention (**February 23, 2021**). Resolutions received in proper form by then will be published on the website for Diocesan Convention 2021 prior to the Pre-Convention Meeting. Pursuant to the Rules of Order, Rule VI.6.0, introductory paragraph, “Resolutions filed after that date shall be referred to the Diocesan Council unless placed on the Calendar of the Convention upon a two-thirds majority vote. . . .”.