

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to
The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

The Committee on Constitution and Canons is pleased to submit its report to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real.

The following resolutions use “marked-up” text. The “normal” font is existing text with no changes. The text with the strike-out (~~like this, for example~~) is to be deleted, while the underlined text is to be inserted (like this, for example). The deleted or inserted text may be shown in several colors, but it is the same insertion or deletion. In some cases, vertical change bars are shown in the margin (to the left, in this case) to flag the change and make it easier to see. In all cases, the text of the resolution proper is shown in italics, as is any commentary from the resolution’s proponents, which is shown in italics and indented.

In addition, the Committee would remind Members of the Convention that per Canon 25.4, when new Canons are added, the Secretary “shall adjust any references to such ... as necessary.” Thus these resolutions will not delineate all such changes.

Resolution 1

RESOLVED, that Canon 1.1 be amended as follows:

Canon 1. Membership of the Convention

1.1. The membership of the Convention is defined in Article VI of the Constitution of the Diocese of El Camino Real. A Parish or Mission shall be entitled to elect the following number of lay delegates, based upon the number for ~~a~~Average Sunday ~~a~~Attendance, defined as the total Sunday attendance divided by the number of Sundays, for the year previous to the year of the meeting of the Convention:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1-49 Average Sunday Attendance | 2 delegates |
| 50-74 Average Sunday Attendance | 3 delegates |
| 75-99 Average Sunday Attendance | 4 delegates |
| 100-149 Average Sunday Attendance | 5 delegates |
| 150-199 Average Sunday Attendance | 6 delegates |
| 200-299 Average Sunday Attendance | 7 delegates |
| 300-399 Average Sunday Attendance | 8 delegates |
| 400-499 Average Sunday Attendance | 9 delegates |
| 500-599 Average Sunday Attendance | 10 delegates |
| 600-699 Average Sunday Attendance | 11 delegates |
| 700 or more Average Sunday Attendance | 12 delegates |
| <u>1-10 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>1 delegate</u> |
| <u>11-20 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>1 delegate</u> |
| <u>21-30 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>2 delegates</u> |
| <u>31-50 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>3 delegates</u> |
| <u>51-70 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>4 delegates</u> |
| <u>71-90 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>5 delegates</u> |

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to
The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

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|--|--------------------|
| <u>91-119 Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>6 delegates</u> |
| <u>120 or more Average Sunday Attendance</u> | <u>7 delegates</u> |

Explanation

The breakdown of Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) groupings has been in place since the inception of the Diocese while the delegate numbers have been adjusted. However, the current ASA numbers are far from the breakdown envisioned in 1980 (let alone the ability to attend online). For 2023 ECR congregations broken down by ASA were as follows:

| <i>Average Sunday Attendance</i> | <i>Number of Congregations</i> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>1-10</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>11-20</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>21-30</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>31-50</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>51-70</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>71-90</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>91-119</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>120 & +</i> | <u><i>3</i></u> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>40</i> |

Using the new table would today yield 137 delegates to the annual Convention whereas the 2023 table now yields 116 delegates.

Below is a table showing congregations in ascending order by 2023 ASA reported numbers with the number delegates under the proposed change:

| Parish/Mission | ASA | Total # of Sundays | Number of Delegates |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------|
| St. Matthew's, San Ardo | 5 | *44 | 1 |
| St. Luke's, Jolon | 9 | *40 | 1 |
| St. Mark's, King City | 14 | *39 | 1 |
| St. James', Monterey | 18 | *53 | 1 |
| St. Stephen's in-the-Field, San Jose | 19 | *37 | 1 |
| St. Luke's, Hollister | 20 | *52 | 1 |
| Good Samaritan, San Jose | 20 | *52 | 1 |
| St. Paul's, Cambria | 21 | *52 | 2 |
| St. Luke's, Atascadero | 22 | *52 | 2 |
| St. John's, Morgan Hill | 23 | *37 | 2 |
| St. Andrew's, Ben Lomond | 25 | *53 | 2 |
| St. George's, Salinas | 25 | *52 | 2 |
| St. Philip's, Scotts Valley | 30 | *52 | 2 |
| St. Peter's, Morro Bay | 34 | *53 | 3 |

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to
The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

| Parish/Mission | ASA | Total # of Sundays | Number of Delegates |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------|
| Episcopal Church in Almaden | 35 | *53 | 3 |
| All Saints'/Cristo Rey, Watsonville | 36 | *52 | 3 |
| St. John's Chapel, Monterey | 45 | *43 | 3 |
| St. Stephen's, Gilroy | 47 | *52 | 3 |
| St. Benedict's, Los Osos | 49 | *53 | 3 |
| Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal, Marina | 50 | *52 | 3 |
| Calvary, Santa Cruz | 50 | *52 | 3 |
| St. James', Paso Robles | 54 | *52 | 4 |
| St. Mary's, Pacific Grove | 54 | *52 | 4 |
| All Saints', Carmel | 55 | *52 | 4 |
| All Saints', Palo Alto | 60 | *53 | 4 |
| Holy Family, San Jose | 60 | *52 | 4 |
| St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo | 61 | *53 | 4 |
| St. Thomas', Sunnyvale | 69 | *52 | 4 |
| St. Luke's, Los Gatos | 73 | *53 | 5 |
| St. Timothy's, Mountain View | 76 | *53 | 5 |
| Good Shepherd, Salinas | 78 | *52 | 5 |
| St. John's Aptos | 82 | *52 | 5 |
| St. Dunstan's, Carmel Valley | 83 | *53 | 5 |
| Trinity Cathedral, San Jose | 89 | *52 | 5 |
| St. Jude's, Cupertino | 91 | *52 | 6 |
| St. Francis', San Jose | 97 | *52 | 6 |
| St. Barnabas', Arroyo Grande | 120 | *53 | 7 |
| La Iglesia de San Pablo, Seaside | 121 | *53 | 7 |
| St. Paul's, Salinas/San Pablo Salinas | 134 | *52 | 7 |
| St. Andrew's, Saratoga | 167 | *52 | 7 |

Proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Resolution 2

RESOLVED, that Canon 3.9 be amended as follows.

Canon 3. Officers of the Diocese

- 3.9.** A Chancellor who shall be a communicant of the Church in this Diocese and shall be learned in the law shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority at each Annual Meeting of the Convention, or at such other times as necessary, and shall serve until a successor is appointed. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Diocese. In addition, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint one or more similarly qualified persons to serve as a Vice-Chancellor and be an additional legal advisor to the Diocese. Any such Vice-Chancellor shall also be an officer of the Diocese.

Explanation

Our diocese has had vice-chancellors for a number of years as do many other dioceses. This change will formalize the position and provide that position is one of the officers of the diocese for insurance and other purposes. Such formalization is likely to encourage others to serve in this capacity.

Proposed by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

Resolution 3

RESOLVED, that be amended to add a new section 17.2.3 as follows:

Canon 17. Missions

17.2.2. The Bishop's Committee shall elect a Clerk and a Treasurer. Officers of the Bishop's Committee shall perform the duties usually pertaining to these offices in a Parish. The Wardens, Clerk and Treasurer shall perform the duties pertaining to like offices in a Parish. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount and by a surety approved by the Bishop.

17.2.3. Upon an affirmative vote at its Annual Meeting, any Mission which has an Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of twenty-five or less for the previous calendar year may apply to the Ecclesiastical Authority for authorization to use a "Bishop's Committee of the Whole" for a period of one year. Upon request by the Mission, such authorization may be renewed annually in the sole discretion of the Ecclesiastical Authority so long as the Mission's ASA is twenty-five or less. The Bishop's Committee of the Whole shall consist of all persons in the congregation who meet the voting qualifications specified in these canons for Parishes and each meeting must have at least four such members present. The Bishop's Committee of the Whole shall operate under a set of written guidelines approved by the Ecclesiastical Authority and published to all members. The Wardens, the Treasurer, the Clerk and, if there is one, the Vicar (i) shall meet in executive session with respect to any legal, personnel or other matters required by law to be confidential, and (ii) shall have full authority to act on such matters except that the Treasurer shall not vote on any matters involving Parish finances. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the other provisions of this Canon 17 shall apply to the Bishop's Committee as a Whole.

Explanation

The proposed option of a "Bishop's Committee of the Whole" parallels what is being proposed for Parishes and may be used in a congregation with a previous year's Average Sunday Attendance of twenty-five persons or less. The concept is based on the identity and context of a smaller Mission, often located in a small community, where formal leadership is traded off between a central group, and communication is often informal, and usually received by word-of-mouth. The

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to
The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

Bishop's Committee of the Whole would allow for full participation in governance by all congregants, and for the building of leadership, consensus, trust, and transparency. The responsibility for the life of the parish is shared by the entire body, as leadership is based on the words from Ephesians (4:15-16), "speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love." The Bishop's Committee of the Whole would be in place only with the permission of the Bishop or other constitutional Ecclesiastical Authority and the consent of the congregation beginning with a vote at their Annual Meeting. Under our Constitution, the Bishop is our Ecclesiastical Authority unless there is no Bishop or the Bishop is absent or disabled. Use of the term "Ecclesiastical Authority" in the wording of the Canon covers all circumstances. Once the arrangement has the consent of the congregation and the required approval, the "Vestry of the Whole" is in place for a minimum of one year.

Proposed by the Bishop and the congregations of St. Luke's, Atascadero, Good Samaritan, San Jose, St. James, Monterey, St. Paul's, Cambria, and drafted by the Committee on Constitution and Canons

Resolution 4

RESOLVED, that Canon 19 shall be amended to add a new section 19.14 to read as follows:

Canon 19. Parish Organization

19.13. The Convention delegates and the vestry of each Parish shall hold at least one meeting annually to discuss program, budget, and other matters in preparation for each Annual Meeting of the Convention.

19.14. Upon an affirmative vote at its Annual Meeting, any Parish which has an Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of twenty-five or less for the previous calendar year may apply to the Ecclesiastical Authority for authorization to use a "Vestry of the Whole" for a period of one year. Upon request by the Parish, such authorization may be renewed annually in the sole discretion of the Ecclesiastical Authority so long as the Parish's ASA is twenty-five or less. The Vestry of the Whole shall consist of all persons in the Parish who meet the voting qualifications specified in Canon 19.3.1 and each meeting must have at least four such members present. The Vestry of the Whole shall operate under a set of written guidelines approved by the Ecclesiastical Authority and published to all members. The Wardens, the Treasurer, the

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to
The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

Clerk and, if there is one, the Rector or Priest In Charge (i) shall serve as the board of directors and the officers of the Parish corporation, (ii) shall meet in executive session with respect to any legal, personnel or other matters required by law to be confidential, and (iii) shall have full authority to act on such matters except that the Treasurer shall not vote on any matters involving Parish finances. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the other provisions of Canon 19 shall apply to the Vestry as a Whole.

- 19.154.** The requirements of Canon III.9.3(a) of the Episcopal Church shall be followed prior to the election of a Rector.

Explanation

The proposed option of a “Vestry of the Whole” may be used in a congregation with a previous year’s Average Sunday Attendance of twenty-five persons or less. The concept is based on the identity and context of a smaller parish, often located in a small community, where formal leadership is traded off between a central group, and communication is often informal, and usually received by word-of-mouth. The Vestry of the Whole would allow for full participation in governance by all congregants, and for the building of leadership, consensus, trust, and transparency. The responsibility for the life of the parish is shared by the entire body, as leadership is based on the words from Ephesians (4:15-16), “speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.” The Vestry of the Whole would be in place only with the permission of the Bishop or other constitutional Ecclesiastical Authority and the consent of the congregation beginning with a vote at their Annual Meeting. Once the arrangement has the consent of the congregation and the required approval, the “Vestry of the Whole” is in place for a minimum of one year.

Proposed by the Bishop and the congregations of St. Luke’s, Atascadero, Good Samaritan, San Jose, St. James, Monterey, St. Paul’s, Cambria, and drafted by the Committee on Constitution and Canons