

RESOLUTION #2:

I. Type of Resolution: Constitution

II. Title & Author:

Constitutional Clarification on Lay Quorum at Convention

Constitution and Canons Committee

III. Intent: Revise the Constitution of the Diocese of New Hampshire to fix an error and clarify the quorum requirement for lay members of convention.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 221st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, in response to a request by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, pursuant to Article XII of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, amend Article VI of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, by making the following deletions (indicated by strike-through text) and additions (indicated by italic text):

ARTICLE VI, Section 1 (b), revise to:

(entire section 1 presented below for context)

ARTICLE VI. Transaction of business

Section 1. A quorum for the transaction of the business of the Convention means at least:

- (a) one-third of clerical members with vote, and
- (b) *one* delegates from one-third of the congregations *in union with convention in accordance with the canons of the diocese* ~~represented under Article V. Section 4.~~
- (c)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that per Article XII of the Constitution and Canons, these constitutional changes shall then be submitted to the Bishop of the diocese and voted on again at the 222nd Diocesan Convention.

IV. Rationale: In the process of reviewing the canons it was discovered that the constitution contained a typographic error in a reference to the lay member quorum. It referenced Article V, Section 4, which speaks to congregations losing their vote at convention, and says nothing about convention membership. The proper reference would be Section 3, which speaks broadly about lay delegates. However, it is simpler to directly state the requirement as in the proposed amendment, stating that it is at least one delegate from at least one-third of the congregations in union with convention that constitutes a quorum. Canon 3 defines and speaks extensively about congregations in union with convention.

V. Plan of Action: Upon approval by Convention, the Committee on Constitution and Canons will ensure that an updated version of the Diocese of New Hampshire Constitution and Canons is published electronically on the diocesan website.

VI. Projection of Cost: There is no direct cost associated with the implementation of resolution.

VII. Accountability: Publication of the updated Canons will be announced through e-news, the diocesan website, and other diocesan communications channels.

VIII. Supporters: The Constitution and Canons Committee, The Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire

Approved November 3, 2023