Revising Diocesan Canons

Submitters: Faith & Order Commission

Resolved, that the 233rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopt the changes to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, as outlined in Appendix A of this resolution.

Explanation:
Canonical changes in Canon I.11.B and I.11.C clarify the processes the Standing Committee, Mission Council, and Bishops use when parishes and worshiping communities overspend endowment, and/or cannot, or do not, fulfill their obligations to our diocesan common mission support; and delete the no longer operative designation “aided parishes.” These changes do not affect already agreed upon limits on endowment draws.

Canonical changes in Canon VII.1.C and VII.1.D clarify which members of the Mission Council serve ex officio and correct an oversight that omitted membership of the Secretary of Convention and Assistant Treasurer on the Mission Council, both ex officio.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?
As ECCT confronts the end of Christendom, as seen in shrinking church attendance, fewer parishes able to sustain full-time clergy positions, and more reliance on endowments to fund operations, more and more parishes are becoming unsustainable. Part of our participation in God’s mission is the responsible use of financial resources, both to support the local parish and to support the common mission of ECCT. These canonical changes clarify the collective response of the Bishops, Standing Committee, and Mission Council when a parish or worshipping community is no longer fulfilling its obligations.

Requirements to Implement:
The proposed change is not anticipated to impose any incremental cost to the budget of Convention. The Canons of ECCT may be changed upon a majority vote of Convention.