Selection of a Bishop

Submitters: Faith & Order Commission

Resolved, that Faith and Order Commission examine the changes in the Canons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopted in 2016 that render our current plan for electing bishops obsolete, study the selection processes in other dioceses as to the election of bishops in God’s church, and work with the Bishops, Chancellor, and leadership bodies, to identify a process which would be faithful to the work of the Task Force for the Re-Imagining of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC-CT); and be it further

Resolved, that the Faith and Order Commission report back no later than the 234th Annual Convention with a plan for the selection of bishops in the diocese and propose any policy or canonical changes necessary to implement a new process for electing a bishop.

Explanation:
Article II of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church requires that each Diocesan Convention prescribe rules for choosing Bishops. Our Convention last established rules for choosing Bishops in 1980. Changes adopted by Convention in 2016 have rendered those rules obsolete. Accordingly, Convention should adopt new rules. The Faith and Order Commission, which regularly examines our Canons and proposes amendments, is the appropriate group to consider the issues and to work with the Bishops, the Standing Committee, and the Mission Council to develop new rules for consideration by Convention in 2018.

How does this resolution further our participation in God’s mission?
This resolution allows the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to continue living into our new life together by updating the procedures for selecting a bishop so that they are in line with the TREC-CT work that has taken place in Connecticut.

Requirements to Implement:
This resolution will be implemented through the work of the Faith & Order Commission, and requires no additional resources for implementation.