Intentional Episcopal Communities

Submitted by: Faith & Order Commission

RESOLVED, that the 235th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopt a new Canon set forth in Appendix A to this resolution, to be effective upon November 1, 2019.

Explanation:
Our existing Canons recognize only two organizational structures for congregational life: Parishes and Worshiping Communities. This Canon would allow and encourage the creation of different forms of congregational life together, while remaining true to the Episcopal tradition and participating fully in the life of ECCT. As we live into this new missional age, the ability to create new and different structures for our common life will help sustain and grow our ability to participate in God’s Mission. Representation at Annual Convention of Intentional Episcopal Communities is addressed in a resolution to amend the ECCT Constitution.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?
The proposed Canon facilitates the creation and recognition of new and flexible ways of worshiping and participating in God’s Mission in ECCT.

Requirements to Implement:
The proposed Canons are not anticipated to impose any incremental cost on ECCT.
APPENDIX A

Canon VI: Intentional Episcopal Communities

Section 1
An Intentional Episcopal Community shall be defined as a Christian community, located in Connecticut, that identifies primarily with the Episcopal/Anglican way of following Jesus, worships regularly in the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer, lives beyond itself in visible and tangible ways, and contributes to the common life of the Episcopal Church of Connecticut.

Section 2
A)
A group of individuals or an organization wishing to form an Intentional Episcopal Community may petition to be recognized by the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut as an Intentional Episcopal Community upon the recommendation of the Bishops, with the consent of the Standing Committee.

B)
A Parish wishing to become an Intentional Episcopal Community must first become a Worshipping Community, as defined in these canons, for a period to be determined by the Bishops and not less than two years.

Section 3
A)
Every Intentional Episcopal Community is responsible to live within a system of support and accountability that links its life and ministry with that of the Episcopate and with the whole ECCT, including financial contributions to the budget of Convention at a level determined by the Mission Council in consultation with the Bishops.

B)
The Bishops shall make available to the Intentional Episcopal Community a system of support and accountability to encourage and enable the development of its life and ministry, including but not limited to: ministry from and visitation by a Bishop of the
Episcopal Church in Connecticut; access to ECCT grants, loans and insurance plans; participation in the life of the Regions of ECCT; and Episcopal Church in Connecticut identity and brand designation.

C) An Intentional Episcopal Community that fails to provide financial contributions to the Annual Convention’s Budget at the rate determined by the Mission Council for two consecutive years shall be considered out of relationship with the Episcopal Church of Connecticut and shall forfeit all privileges therein.

D) The Bishops, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may terminate the status of any group of individuals or organization as an Intentional Episcopal Community of ECCT.

Section 4
Every Intentional Episcopal Community must have a governance structure agreed to by the Bishops.

Section 5
Each Intentional Episcopal Community shall provide a report of their activities, ministry, and leaders annually to the Office of the Episcopate, in the format determined by the Bishops.