First Consideration of an Amended Diocesan Constitution

**Sponsors:** Faith & Order Commission

RESOLVED, that the 235th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopts the amendment to Article II, Section 3(C) of the Constitution, as set forth in Appendix A to this resolution, to be effective upon the adjournment of the 236th Convention, if that Convention adopts a second consideration of the proposed amendment.

**Explanation:**
A new canon has been proposed for adoption by the Convention that will allow and facilitate the formation of Intentional Episcopal Communities. If adopted, that canon will encourage the creation of new and different structures for our common life that will help sustain and grow our ability to participate in God’s Mission. The revision to the Constitution proposed in this Resolution would grant Intentional Episcopal Communities to have lay representation at Convention, with the permission of the Bishops and the Standing Committee. Such representation would help Intentional Episcopal Communities to live as full participants in the life of ECCT.

**How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?**
The Constitution of the Diocese provides the basic structure for our common life together. Through and out of the framework provided by the Constitution, we participate in God’s mission in Connecticut and the world.

**Requirements to Implement:**
The proposed change is not anticipated to impose any incremental cost on the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. A two-thirds vote by two successive Annual Conventions is required to amend the Constitution.
APPENDIX A

Constitution of the Diocese of Connecticut

Article II. Convention
Section 3
C) The lay members to any Convention shall be the delegates elected by the Cathedral Congregation, Parishes, as well as any Worshiping Community and Intentional Episcopal Community with the permission of the Bishops and the Standing Committee. Each shall elect, from the adult communicants in good standing of the same, two lay delegates to the Convention. In the case of a vacancy, the governing body of that community shall have the authority to appoint a replacement. Lay members of the Mission Council and of the Standing Committee, current elected lay Deputies and lay Alternate Deputies to General Convention, and the lay Delegate to the Provincial Synod shall be *ex officio* members of the Convention unless they be otherwise delegates from their respective Parish, or Worshiping Communities, or Intentional Episcopal Communities. All duly elected lay members of Convention who are not serving on the Vestry, or Council of Advice, or governing body of their respective Parish or Worshiping Community, or Intentional Episcopal Community shall become, upon their election, *ex officio* members of the Vestry or Council of Advice with voice but without vote.