The Organization and Conduct of Worshiping Communities

Submitted by:  Faith & Order Commission

RESOLVED, that the 235th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut adopt revisions to Canon V, The Organization and Conduct of Worshiping Communities reflected in Appendix A to this resolution, to be effective upon November 1, 2019.

Explanation:
Our Worshiping Community Canon embodies an outdated “church growth” model, in which individuals form a Worshiping Community that ultimately seeks admission to ECCT as a Parish. Our Canon currently does not address the ways in which an existing Parish of ECCT may, if it chooses, seek to become a Worshiping Community of ECCT. Greater flexibility in the structures through which we gather as congregational communities is required today to live into God’s Mission. The proposed amendment to Canon V will facilitate that flexibility, while preserving the ability to create new worshiping communities.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?
The proposed revisions to Canon V will facilitate the creation of new and flexible ways of coming together as the Body of Christ, participating in God’s mission.

Requirements to Implement:
The proposed Canons are not anticipated to impose any incremental cost on ECCT.
APPENDIX A
Canon V: The Organization and Conduct of Worshiping Communities

Section 1
The entities previously known as “Mission Stations” shall now be known as Worshiping Communities. Entities referenced as a “Mission” in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church shall likewise be known as Worshiping Communities.

Section 2
In addition to the ways in which a Parish may be changed to a Worshiping Community pursuant to the Canons of The Episcopal Church, a Worshiping Community may be established by the Bishop Diocesan on the application of parties individuals or members of a Parish professing a common interest. The form of application may be as follows:

To the Right Reverend __________, Bishop of Connecticut:

We, the subscribers, baptized persons over sixteen years of age, respectfully request that a Worshiping community be established; and we hereby promise obedience of such Worshiping Community, if established, to the authority of the Bishop of Connecticut and conformity to the Constitution and Canons and to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the Diocese of Connecticut. We also hereby signify our intention to attend and to support this Worshiping Community.

The Bishop Diocesan shall consult with such Parishes or Worshiping Communities as may be affected by the formation of the new Worshiping Community.