Resolution on Christ Church Cathedral

Names of Submitters: The Cathedral Discernment Task Force
The Rev. Jack Gilpin
The Rev. Everitt “Perry” Perine
The Rev. Whitney Edwards
The Rev. Harlon L. Dalton
Anne Watkins
Patricia Wrice
Tim Cole

Resolved, that the 231st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut expresses its appreciation to the members of the Cathedral Discernment Task Force for its faithfulness in assisting the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to consider the role and function of a cathedral in our diocese in the 21st century; and

Be it further resolved, that this Convention affirm that Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut shall continue to serve as the diocesan cathedral as outlined in the Cathedral Discernment Task Force Report; and

Be it further resolved, that the Bishops, Chapter and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral collaborate with the Executive Council/Board of the Missionary Society (or its successor) to assist the Cathedral to realize the vision presented in the Cathedral Discernment Task Force Report and to become an even more vital resource for all Episcopalians in Connecticut to participate in God’s mission.

Explanation
For the past 15 months the Cathedral Discernment Task Force has engaged the ECCT in a broad conversation about what kind of cathedral, if any, is needed to support God’s mission. (See Appendix A: Description of Process). On July 14, 2015, the Task Force submitted its findings and recommendations to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral. (See Appendix B: Cathedral Discernment Task Force Report).

On September 27, 2015, the congregation of Christ Church Cathedral formally embraced the vision articulated in the Task Force report. On October 13, 2015 the Chapter voted unanimously to recommend that the Convention adopt this resolution.
**Statement**
History demonstrates that cathedrals thrive when they exist for the benefit of the entire gathered community within a diocese as it seeks to faithfully follow Christ Jesus. Therefore, in sifting through possible justifications for maintaining an Episcopal cathedral in Connecticut, the Cathedral Discernment Task Force focused on whether they deepened the ability of the ECCT as a whole to further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation -- with God, with one another, and with all of Creation.

**Statement of Requirements to Implement the Resolution**
There are no immediate costs or materials associated with implementing the resolution. The resolution does not specify any time frame for further action by the bishops, Cathedral Chapter, Cathedral Dean, or the ECCT governing body.
Appendix A: Description of Process

In July 2014, Bishop Douglas convened a Cathedral Discernment Task Force and charged it with discerning what type of cathedral, if any, is needed by the ECCT in the 21st Century.

The Task Force entered into a diocesan-wide conversation with the ECCT’s joint leadership gathering, workshop participants at “Spring Training,” clergy gathered on Holy Tuesday, and a cross-section of wardens and lay leaders. Based on that conversation, historical review, and prayerful reflection, the Task Force identified eight distinct ways in which a cathedral can deepen the capacity of the ECCT to participate in God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. See the attached report, dated July 14, 2015.

The congregation of Christ Church Cathedral then conducted a series of forums, conversations and anonymous surveys to discern its particular vocation in this day and age. On September 27, 2015, the congregation’s “Parish Committee” reported that the congregation had eagerly embraced the vision articulated in the July 14, 2015 Cathedral Discernment Task Force report, and encouraged the Cathedral Chapter to do the same.

On October 13, 2015, after reviewing the July 14 Task Force Report together with the report from the congregation, the Cathedral Chapter voted unanimously to recommend that the Convention adopt this resolution.