Consideration Of Revisions to the Diocesan Canons

Names of Submitters: The Reimagining of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC-CT)

Ian Douglas    Tim Hodapp    Hilary Greer
Laura Ahrens    Tim Cole    Miguelina Howell
Bates Lyons     Harlon Dalton    Rowena Kemp
Diana Rogers    Suzy Burke    Amy Welin
Ron Kolanowski  Bart Geissinger    Sandra Cosman
Shirley Wick    Nancy Horn    Bradford Babbitt
Kris Lewis-Theerman    Molly James
Karin Hamilton    Danielle Gaherty

Resolved, that the 231st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut adopt the revisions to the Canons set forth in Appendix A to this resolution, to be effective upon July 1, 2016; and

Be it further resolved, that the 231st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Convention adopt the transition plan set forth in Appendix B to this resolution, to be effective upon the adjournment of this Convention.

Explanation:
The proposed revisions to our Canons is one of the products of the work over the past year of TREC-CT, and represent an essential part of the transformation of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to better serve God’s mission. Further explanation of the proposed transformation of ECCT may be found in the report of TREC to the 231st Convention in accordance with Resolution 9 adopted by the 230th Convention in 2014.

How does this resolution further God’s ministry of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?
The Canons of the Diocese provide the basic structure for our common life together. Through and out of the framework provided by the Canons, we pursue God’s mission in Connecticut and the world.
Requirements To Implement:
The proposed change is not anticipated to impose any incremental cost on the Diocese. The Canons of the Diocese may be changed upon a majority vote of Convention.

APPENDIX B: TREC-CT Transition Plan

1. By January 1, 2016, the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Executive Council, shall name and convene a TREC-CT Transition Team that will facilitate the transition from the existing structures of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to the new structures established by the revisions to the Canons that will be effective July 1, 2016.

2. The Bishop shall nominate at least eighteen (18) candidates from Ministry Networks to serve as members of the Mission Council from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The Executive Council shall elect nine (9) representatives from these candidates before July 1, 2016, to serve as members of the Mission Council from the Ministry Networks through December 31, 2016. The 232nd Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut shall elect nine (9) representatives from Ministry Networks to serve as members of the Mission Council in staggered, three-year terms, from eighteen (18) candidates nominated by the Bishop.

3. Those interested in forming a Ministry Network will gather for a plenary session with bishops, the Canon for Collaboration, and the Transition Team between January 1 and July 1, 2016, to prayerfully and diligently explore the criteria for establishing a Ministry Network, evaluate ways to participate more fully in God’s mission, and develop ways to expand their respective networks.

4. Each Region will gather with bishops, the Canon Mission for Collaboration, and the Transition Team between January 1 and July 1, 2016, to prayerfully and diligently determine how to conduct Regional governance, explore desires for participating in God’s mission, develop a Missionary job description and recruitment and hire process, and to elect representatives to serve as members of the Mission Council. The Mission Council shall assign its members to classes so that its members serve in staggered classes.