

Resolution # 3

Resolved, that Article VIII of the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as follows:

ARTICLE VIII MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

SECTION 1. The members of the Convention shall be the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Suffragan Bishop, and Archdeacons, when there be such, every cleric in good standing in the Church who is canonically resident in this Diocese; also the Treasurer and the Associate Treasurer of the Diocese; also the Secretary of the Diocese; also the Chancellor and the Associate Chancellor of the Diocese; also the Registrar of the Diocese, and also lay delegates from every Parish and Congregation in union with the Diocese duly chosen and entitled to seats *and youth delegates*, as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. Canonical residence of a cleric shall date from the cleric's ordination within the Diocese, or from the date of the acceptance of Letters Dimissory by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

SECTION 3. Every parish and congregation in union with the Diocese shall be entitled to be represented in the Convention by one Lay Delegate; and in addition thereto, by one Lay Delegate for each 100 communicants or major fraction thereof, up to 500; and in addition thereto, parishes having more than 500 communicants shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate for each 250 communicants or major fraction thereof, up to 1,000 communicants; furthermore, in addition thereto, parishes having more than 1,000 communicants shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate for each 500 communicants or major fraction thereof, in excess of 1,000. For the purpose of determining the number of Lay Delegates to which a parish or congregation is entitled, the number of communicants of such parish or congregation shall be the number of communicants reported by such parish or congregation in its Parochial report immediately preceding that date on which its Lay Delegates are chosen. *In addition to the Lay Delegates for parishes and congregations, there shall be up to four Youth Delegates who shall be at least 16 years of age and no more than 19 years of age and have not matriculated at a college or university at the time of the Diocesan Convention to which they are elected.*

SECTION 4. Lay Delegates representing a Parish shall be chosen by its Vestry. Lay Delegates representing a Congregation shall be chosen by its Committee. *Youth Delegates will be selected in a manner designated in the Canons of the diocese.*

SECTION 5. The Lay Delegates chosen as above shall be adult communicants of the Church in good standing, who shall have been for six months preceding worshipers in the Parish or Congregation which they severally represent, and who shall be canonically entitled to vote for Vestry persons. *The Youth Delegates chosen as above shall be adult communicants of the Church in good standing, who shall have been for six month preceding worshipers in a Parish or Congregation in union with this Diocese, and who shall be canonically entitled to vote for Vestry persons.* ~~but~~ No Postulant or Candidate for Holy Orders shall be admitted as a Lay Delegate to the Convention.

SECTION 6. No Lay Delegate shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention or take any part in the deliberations thereof until the parish or congregation which the Delegate represents has paid in full all assessments duly levied against such parish or congregation for the current year through the last calendar quarter prior to the opening date of Convention, unless the Convention then in session shall remit or extend the time of payment for such delinquent assessments.

SECTION 7. No person under ecclesiastical censure or process, whether Cleric or Member of the Laity, or who has not conformed to the decisions of the Convention, or who disclaims or refuses conformity to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of this Diocese, as the same now exist or may be hereafter adopted, or who does not accede to recognize and accept

unqualifiedly the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church, shall be allowed a seat in the Convention, or take part in the deliberation thereof.

SECTION 8. *Lay and Youth* Delegates shall serve as such at the annual Convention to which they are elected, and also at all adjourned meetings thereof.

SECTION 9. *Lay and Youth* Delegates to every special meeting of the Convention shall be chosen to serve as such for that meeting and adjournments thereof.

SECTION 10. In all other articles of this constitution, the Youth Delegates elected under this article shall be deemed to be part of the lay order.

Submitted by:

Cynthia Carter Howard, Sidney Breese, Douglas Johnson, Mark McGuire, Marty Byer, Jose Palma, Frank Sierra, Leslie Hoover, Jerry Grabher, Al Jewson, Susan Sommer, Beck Schubert, Peisha Roumas, Mary Cay Armer, Marshall Scott, Kenneth Chumley, Tom Punzo, Lawrence Lewis, Mimi Savidge, Sam Mason, Barbara Beam, Todd Bruce, Steven Wilson, Bill Fasel, Stan Runnels, Jason Lewis, Kent McCall, Russ Johnson, Gordon Mesley, Larry Allen, Jon Egger, Mike Kyle, Suzy Lynch, Christine Gilson, Anne Hutcherson, John Spicer, Margaret Kay Pumphrey, Frederick Mann, Susan McCann, John McCann, Joe Behen, David Myers, Jim Moon, and Bill Lusk.

Rationale

At a meeting held on August 28-30, 2009, the Youth Action Council passed a resolution to prepare for presentation to the Diocesan Convention a plan to add up to four Youth Delegates with seat, voice, and vote to the convention.

The Youth Action Council of the Diocese is beginning its sixth year of planning programs for youth from sixth grade through high school. Youth of this diocese have also participated in the planning of Happening and have been active in Missionpalooza. During this time, over 400 youth from the Diocese of West Missouri have benefited from activities planned by other youth in the diocese. In addition, youth are active in our congregations as acolytes, ushers, choir members, assistants in Sunday Schools, and a host of other activities. We believe that the youth of this diocese have shown a willingness to engage in tough, demanding work, and should have a voice and vote in the councils of this diocese. This proposal would allow up to four youth aged 16-19 to be given seat, voice, and vote at the Diocesan Convention.

In 1994, the General Convention passed a resolution (D115) that allowed seat and voice for an Official Youth Presence at General Convention, and called on diocesan conventions allow, support, and accept seat and voice for youth. Several dioceses have gone beyond this call, and allowed for youth to vote at their diocesan conventions. In response to an e-mail query posted by Curtis Hamilton to a list-serve for Bishops and Deputies to General Convention, it was found that 11 of the 16 dioceses from which a response was received have some mechanism for allowing youth to serve as deputies with seat, voice, and vote to their Diocesan Convention/Convocation/etc. without reference to congregational affiliation. Of the others, one diocese allows congregations to add a young person as a delegate, one diocese allows seat and voice to young persons, one allows college chaplaincies to have a voting delegate, and two do not have any special provision for youth delegates.