

Acts of the 204th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

Act 2019-1 (Resolution 204.4 as substituted)

On Spousal and Partner Activities at Convention

The 204th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina enacts:

Resolved, that the 204th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina invites the Diocesan Council to explore future opportunities for clergy and lay delegate spouses and partners to engage in at least one community-building activity, and that childcare be provided for funded for children of clergy, staff, and delegates during Convention.

Act 2019-2 (Resolution 204.5 as substituted and amended)

On Affordable Housing

The 204th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina enacts:

Resolved, that the 204th Annual Convention calls for the appointment of a Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing to support missions and parishes in following the Biblical call to become Beloved Community, which includes taking action to ensure that all of God's children have good, safe, and dignified places to live and thrive (Lev. 25: 35-36); and

Be it further resolved, that the Convention calls for the following actions to serve God's children through partnerships with organizations in each community to promote housing that is fair, safe, and affordable:

A. That the Committee compile resource information which includes but is not limited to practical assessment tools for community based assets for convocations and meet with each Convocation to expand their understanding of the complex issues related to affordable housing including their relationship to systemic racism and other social/environmental factors;

B. That the Committee compile reports from each convocation concerning the various housing and housing-related ministries in which the congregations and members are engaged, including ministries done in partnership with organizations in local communities;

C. That the Committee share the housing ministry stories and photos received from convocations to inform and inspire congregational and convocational efforts; and

D. That the Committee report annually to Convention on their work identifying the ministries and partnerships and opportunities for congregational and convocational engagement beginning with the 205th Annual Convention.

Act 2019-3
(Resolution 204.7 as substituted and amended)

On Resources and Advocacy for Mental Health

The 204th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina enacts:

Resolved, that the 204th Annual Convention calls upon all congregations to discern how to and act on becoming more supportive and safe places, where those living with mental illness, especially children and their families, can come for acceptance, information and the unconditional love of God; and

Be it further resolved, that the Diocese of North Carolina and the Committee on Children's Mental Health help equip congregations and leaders with the tools, referral resources and support they need to become agents of reconciliation for those living with mental illness; and

Be it further resolved, that Diocesan staff and congregational leaders partner to communicate with local, state, and federal policy makers and service providers to eliminate dangerous stigmas pertaining to brain disorders, and advocate for urgent reforms and funding for mental health care, especially in the young.

Act 2019-4
(Resolution 204.9 as substituted and amended)

On Education about Reform of Pre-trial Release and Money Bond

The 204th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina enacts:

Resolved, that in keeping with our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being, the 204th Annual Convention commits to moving forward with its intent to support pre-trial release and bail bond reform, as articulated in Act 2018-12 of the 203rd Annual Convention; and

Be it further resolved, that a curriculum and other educational materials will be developed to educate every congregation and foster their engagement in this effort; and

Be it further resolved, that these materials will be developed by a joint subcommittee comprised of persons serving on the Bishop's Committees on Prison Ministry, Racial Justice and Reconciliation, and Christian Formation, already at work within the structure of the Diocese; and

Be it further resolved, that we strongly encourage congregations to implement use of the materials upon receipt.

**Act 2019-5
(Resolution 204.1)**

On Amending the Constitution to Comply with the Canons of General Convention Pertaining to Voting Privileges for Clergy Without Canonical Residence

The 204th Annual Convention enacts:

Article III, Section 3, of the Constitution is amended as follows:

“Section 3. The members of the Clergy Order of the Convention include (i) every active and resigned bishop of this Diocese whose principal residence is located therein, (ii) every member of the clergy of the Church who is canonically resident in the Diocese and whose principal residence is located therein, and (iii) every other member of the clergy of the Church, or pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who is regularly serving a parish or mission in union with the Convention, or another ministry within the diocese recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authority. All members of the Clergy Order are entitled to seat and voice in the Convention. The restriction of residence as above required shall not apply to professors, tutors, or students in any recognized theological seminary of this Church, or college maintained and governed in part by the Diocese, or to any officers or members of the staff of the Executive Council, or to chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, or to members of the clergy in charge of congregations of this Diocese.

Except as otherwise provided in Article IX, Section 7, every member of the Clergy Order who is canonically resident in this Diocese and is regularly serving the diocese, a parish or mission in union with the Convention, or another ministry within the diocese recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authority is entitled to vote.”

Adopted on Second Reading and effective upon adjournment.

Act 2019-6
(Resolution 204.2 as amended)

On Churches that Fail to File Timely Reports or Audits

The 204th Annual Convention enacts:

Rule of Order III of the Convention is rewritten as follows:

“(a) The clergy and lay delegates of a parish or mission that fails to comply with Canon 21.4(g) or Canon 20.6(a), as the case may be, concerning the timely filing of an audit or with Canon 30.5 concerning the timely filing of a parochial report shall be deprived of vote at Convention and shall be excluded from the calculation of clergy and lay delegates required to attain a quorum.

(b) No later than 21 days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of Diocesan Council immediately prior to Convention, the Secretary shall inform every such parish and mission of the process established by Diocesan Council to request a waiver of this Rule.

(c) Diocesan Council, at its discretion, may grant a waiver of this Rule to a parish or mission upon a showing of good or unavoidable causes. Additionally, no waiver shall be given to the same parish or mission for three consecutive years.

(d) The report of the Secretary to Convention shall identify parishes and missions whose clergy and lay delegates were deprived of vote under this Rule, requests for waivers, and waivers granted.”

Act 2019-7
(Resolution 204.3)

On Amending the Constitution to Clarify the Qualifications for Standing Committee

The 204th Annual Convention enacts:

Article VIII, Section 1, of the Constitution is amended as follows:

“*Section 1.* The Standing Committee or Council of Advice to the Bishop, shall consist of five clergy of the Diocese and four members of the laity who are enrolled confirmed adult communicants in good standing. The term of office shall be for three years, with three members being elected at each annual Convention. Any member of the Committee whose immediately prior service has been for less than three continuous years shall be eligible for

re-election to a full three year term; otherwise, no elected member shall be eligible to serve again until two years have elapsed following the expiration of their term of office.”

Adopted on First Reading. Second Reading will occur at the 205th Annual Convention.

Act 2019-8
(Resolution 204.8 as substituted)

On the Historic Properties Commission

The 204th Annual Convention enacts:

Canon 45, Section 1 is rewritten as follows:

“*Section 1.* Historic Properties Commission. There shall be a Historic Properties Commission responsible for oversight of historic churches, cemeteries, and other historic diocesan properties other than those facilities which are occupied, used and/or maintained by parishes and missions in union with the Convention. The Commission shall promote and encourage historic preservation. The membership of the Commission shall be named by the Bishop, with one member being chosen from nominee(s) submitted by each active support group for Preserved Historic Churches (as defined in Section 2, category 1), and six being chosen at large. In addition, the following three members shall serve ex officio: the diocesan Historiographer, the diocesan Archivist, and a representative from the Diocesan Council. The members who do not serve ex officio shall serve staggered three-year terms. The Bishop shall appoint a Chair of the Commission. The Commission shall report annually to the Diocesan Convention.”

Act 2019-9
(Resolution 204.6)

On the Commemoration of Cecilia Foster Lawrence

The 204th Annual Convention enacts:

Resolved, that the 204th Annual Convention memorialize the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to recommend that the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church add a commemoration on or about January 21 of each year for Cecilia Foster Lawrence, Episcopal nun of the Order of the Good Shepherd, to the sanctoral calendar; and

Be it further Resolved, that the Secretary of the Convention forward this resolution to the Secretary of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and the Secretary of the General Convention.