

CONVENTION BUSINESS

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1 -

To amend the Canons of the Diocese to allow for recognizing “Cooperating Ministries”

Submitted by: The Taskforce for Evangelism

Rationale:

The Taskforce for Evangelism of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan proposes a change to our diocesan canons to allow for non-congregational entities to be formally recognized as participating members of our community. We believe that by making ourselves hospitable and expecting of new and innovative forms of community and discipleship, we might allow for new ministries to flourish within our diocese.

Resolution:

Resolved, that the 144th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan amend the following portions of Canon 1.1, Canon 1.8, Canon 1.28 to read:

CANON 1 DEFINITIONS

Terms used in these Canons are defined, for purposes of this document, as follows:

- a. “Bishop” refers to a Bishop Diocesan elected to that position as provided by the Constitution and Canons of this diocese.
- b. “Calendar Year” refers to a year beginning at the first moment of the day on January 1 and ending at the last moment of the day on the following December 31.
- c. “Church” refers to The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion.
- d. A “Communicant in Good Standing” shall include all persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church. An “Adult Communicant in Good Standing” in a Congregation is a communicant in good standing who is sixteen (16) years of age or older in that Congregation; and who, for the previous year, have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]
- e. A “Cooperating Ministry” is an organization, located within the diocese, whose mission, purposes, and activities have been determined by the Bishop and Diocesan Council, and ratified by the Diocesan Convention, to merit an established and recognized status as an ongoing partner in ministry with the diocese.

(Further Text of Canon 1, unchanged, will be saved for re-lettering to reflect the amendment per Canon 71.02).

CANON 8.02 MISSION REGIONS

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Section 8.02 The Mission Region provides a vehicle for parishes, new congregations, and *cooperating ministries* in proximity to each other to undertake projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the diocese, which would be too difficult for one parish or new congregation to undertake alone, or which would so drain the resources of one parish or new congregation as to make the effort impracticable.

The Mission Region shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

(a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of ~~cooperation~~ *collaboration* among the congregations and *cooperating ministries* in the Region;...

CANON 28 AUDITS and INSURANCE

Section 28.01.AUDITS

As soon as may be after the close of each fiscal year, the accounts of all officers handling funds, whether of the Diocese or its auxiliaries, or of congregations and their auxiliaries, *or of all cooperating ministries* shall be audited in accordance with the Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Policy “Annual Audit of Congregations”. Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer for review by September 1 following the close of the fiscal year.

And be it further resolved that the 144th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan add Canon 15 to read

CANON 15 COOPERATING MINISTRIES

Section 15.01 APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING MINISTRY STATUS

(a) If a chaplaincy or organization, formed or to be formed for religious, educational or charitable purposes within this diocese *desires to enter into an agreement with the diocese as a Cooperating Ministry, such organization shall file an application with the diocese on forms approved by the Bishop.*

The application form must include the following:

- *Financial records;*
- *Summary of demographic research and/or asset mapping;*
- *Summary of conversations between the applying ministry and any other cooperating ministries and parishes within ten miles.*

Section 15.02 ESTABLISHMENT OF A COOPERATING MINISTRY

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If the Bishop determines that the purposes and activities of the chaplaincy or organization are sufficiently related to those of the diocese and that the organization should be considered for designation as a Cooperating Ministry, an Agreement for Designation as a Cooperating Ministry shall be executed by the organization and the diocese, which, among other items, shall contain the following provisions:

- a. The Agreement shall not be effective until it is approved by the action of the Diocesan Council. Upon such approval, the agreement shall be deemed provisionally approved, and in temporary effect until such time as it is ratified by the Diocesan Convention at its next regular meeting. The initial term of the agreement shall commence on the effective date and expire on March 31st of the second calendar year following the effective date.*
- b. The terms upon which the cooperating ministry shall be governed under relevant state and federal statutes, including a complete copy of its proposed by-laws.*
- c. The organization shall be required to deliver to the diocesan council within sixty (60) days after the end of its fiscal year an annual report describing its activities and present a financial statement for such fiscal year, including an operating statement in reasonable detail and a balance sheet.*
- d. The organization may use the title A Cooperating Ministry only so long as the agreement shall remain in force and effect.*

Section 15.03 RENEWAL OF COOPERATING MINISTRIES

The agreement may be renewed for annual periods ending March 31, upon agreement by the organization and approval by the Diocesan Council acting upon the recommendation of the Bishop, but only if the organization shall have been in compliance with the agreement and if the Bishop determines that the activities of the organization and the continued use of the title Cooperating Ministry by the organization is consistent with the mission and purpose of the diocese.