

## **Resolution 1 -**

### ***To amend the Canons of the Diocese to allow for recognizing “Partner Spiritual Communities”***

***Submitted by: Commission on Ministry***

#### ***Rationale:***

The Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern 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 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portions of Canon XV to read:**

#### **CANON XV -- CONGREGATIONS AND PARTNER SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES**

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan add Canon XV, Section 13 to read**

#### ***Section 13 -- Establishment of PARTNER SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES***

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

*The application form must include the following:*

- Mission, visions, and values of the applying Partner Spiritual Community*
- History of the applying Partner Spiritual Community*
- Summary of conversations between the applying ministry and any other cooperating ministries*
- 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.*
- A statement pledging to follow the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese of Northern Michigan when participating in diocesan governance.*

*(b) If the Bishop determines that the purposes and activities of the organization, chaplaincy, or intentional community are sufficiently related to those of the diocese and that the organization should be considered for designation as a Partner Spiritual Community, an Agreement for Designation as a Partner Spiritual Community shall be executed by the organization and the diocese, which, among other items, shall contain the following provisions:*

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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.*

3. *The Agreement shall be effective for one year and may be renewed for annual periods ending September 30, 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.*

4. *The Agreement may be dissolved at any time by the Bishop in consultation with Diocesan Council or by the Partner Spiritual Community.*

## **Resolution 2 –**

### ***Constitution***

### ***To amend the Constitution of the Diocese to allow for full participation of “Partner Spiritual Communities” in the life of the diocese***

***Submitted by: Commission on Ministry***

#### ***Rationale:***

The Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan proposes a change to our diocesan constitution to allow for non-congregational entities to have full participation in the life and governance of our diocesan community. We believe that members of new and innovative forms of community and discipleship have gifts and wisdom to offer that will contribute to the growth and positive adaptation of our diocese.

#### ***Resolution:***

**Resolved, that the 128<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article VII of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article VII—**Every baptized person of the Diocese *and all members of congregations and Partner Spiritual Communities* shall have the right of a seat and a voice in the Convention.

**And be it further resolved that the 128<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article VIII of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

#### **Article VIII –**

1. Each Congregation in this Diocese which has or hereafter shall, by its Charter or Articles of Association, expressly accede to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of The Episcopal Church in this Diocese, shall be admitted into union, and shall be entitled to send to Convention as many as four delegates.
2. *Each Partner Spiritual Community in this Diocese that has entered into an agreement with the diocese and bishop, shall be entitled to send to the Convention as many as four delegates.*
3. Each delegate to the Convention shall be an adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation in union with the Convention of this Diocese and/or a member of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese *and/or a member of a Partner Spiritual Community.*
4. Each delegate shall have one vote.

5. A certificate of appointment of the delegates, signed by a Warden or Secretary of the Vestry of a congregation or Leader of a Partner Spiritual Community shall be presented to the Secretary of the Convention before such delegation shall be deemed to be present at the Convention.
6. Delegates from any Congregation or Partner Spiritual Community shall be entitled to vote at the same Convention at which the Congregation or Partner Spiritual Community has been admitted.
7. No person who is under Ecclesiastical censure or process shall be a delegate to the Convention.
8. Delegations from ten (10) Congregations or Partner Spiritual Communities shall constitute a quorum for any Convention, regular or special.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article IX of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article IX** -- Questions of Constitutional amendment, Election of a Bishop, and votes requested by a majority of delegates from 3 Congregations and/or Partner Spiritual Communities shall require votes by a single ballot resulting in both of the following:

- (1) A 2/3 majority of all votes cast.
- (2) A simple majority of all delegations of the diocese present.

A majority of delegations shall be determined as follows: Each delegation shall caucus and vote as a unit. A simple majority of the Congregation's and/or Partner Spiritual Community's delegates shall determine that delegation's vote. In the event the delegation is unable to render a majority opinion, the delegation's vote shall be recorded as a negative vote.

All other matters before the Convention shall be by a simple majority vote of all delegates.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article X of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article X** -- The Standing Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, at least three (3) of which shall be members of the Clergy, and at least three (3) Lay persons, each of whom is an adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese or a member of a Partner Spiritual Community. Each year the same number of members shall be elected for three (3) years as the number whose terms expire that year. At their first meeting, they shall choose one of their members to be President, and another of their members to be Secretary. At all meetings, a majority of members shall constitute a quorum. *Not more than one lay and one clergy member may be from Partner Spiritual Communities and they may not serve as President. If the Partner Spiritual Community Agreement is dissolved or not renewed then the term or any member from that Community will end at the time that the Agreement ends.*

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep faithful record of all their proceedings and report such proceedings to the Convention at its annual meeting; to preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the committee, to attest to their acts; and to deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received.

The minutes of the committee, and all papers in their hands relative to the Church, shall be subject to the examination of the Bishop and of the Convention. They shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur in their body for the unexpired term.

The Standing Committee shall perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese or of the General Convention.

**And be it further resolved that the 128th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan amend the following portion of Article XI of the CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN to read:**

**Article XI** -- The election of a Bishop of this Diocese shall be made in an annual Convention or in a special Convention called for that purpose. At least sixty (60) days before the time of the Special Convention, the Secretary of the Standing Committee shall send written notices of the Special Convention, which notice expressly states the purpose of the Special Convention, to every Vestry *and leaders of every Partner Spiritual Community* in the Diocese. The election of a Bishop shall follow the voting procedures identified in Article IX of this Constitution. In the event of a special Convention, each Congregation *and Partner Spiritual Community* will determine its own delegation.