

Resolution

To amend the Constitution of the Diocese to allow for full participation of “Partner Spiritual Communities” in the life of the diocese (second action)

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 129th 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 129th 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 the 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 129th 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 129th 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 129th 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.