



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF  
**FORT WORTH**



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**CONVENTION 2019**

# **THE WAY OF LOVE**

**Resolutions to be considered  
At the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Decatur Convention Center**

**Resolution FC1 – Approve the 2020 Table of Assessments**

Proposer: Executive Council – September 14, 2019

Submitted : September 9, 2019

*Resolved,* That the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth in the Episcopal Church approves the following amounts to be assessed each Parish and Mission during 2020 to support the operating budget of the Diocese for 2020.

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>2020 Assessment</b>
All Saints, FW	\$ 242,333
Good Shepherd, Granbury	\$ 16,490
St. Alban's, Arlington	\$ 30,020
St. Andrew's, FW	\$ 13,798
St. Christopher, FW	\$ 50,400
St. Elisabeth & Christ the King, FW	\$ 8,837
Episcopal Church, Parker County	\$ -0-
St. Luke's, Stephenville	\$ 27,292
St. Luke's in the Meadow, FW	\$ 30,145
St. Martin in the Fields, Keller	\$ 77,999
St. Mary's, Hillsboro	\$ 2,448
St. Stephen's, Hurst	\$ 11,184
The Episcopal Church of Hamilton Co.	\$ 2,311
The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls	\$ 5,000
Trinity, FW	\$ 147,359
Church of the Resurrection, Decatur	\$ 3,437

**Resolution FC2 - Approve 2020 Triennial (2020-2022) Budget**

Author: Finance Committee, approved at 9/7/2019 for submittal to Executive Council

Date: Final as of 9/7/2019

Resolved, That the 35th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth in The Episcopal Church approves the 2020 Triennial (2020-2022) Budget as proposed by the Executive Council. The triennial budget is presented for planning purposes and reflects the opportunities and priorities of the Diocese at this time. The 2020 portion of the triennial budget will be approved as the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020.

2020 Budget as Approved at Convention	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget as Approved	2020 As Entered 9/5/2019	2021 As Entered 9/5/2019	2022 As Entered 9/5/2019	Comments
<b>FUNDS BUDGETED FOR OPERATIONS</b>						
41100 · Assessments (current congregations)	633,914	646,255	669,052	695,814	723,647	The 2020 assessment is based on the 3 yr average of operating revenues...2016, 2017, & 2018 as depicted on the Parochial Reports. It is based on 10% of the first \$50,000 plus 16.5% over \$50,000. It is increased by ~4.0% per yr.
41400 - Reserves Budgeted for Operations	8,112	0	0	0	0	
41401 - Temp Restricted Funds Donated for Operations	131,507	163,198	160,070	169,514	142,006	Donation(s) to cover CTO costs plus additional from designated reserves to fund Operations, if required
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BUDGETED</b>	<b>773,534</b>	<b>809,453</b>	<b>829,122</b>	<b>865,328</b>	<b>865,653</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>50000 · SHARED LIFE IN LARGER CHURCH</b>						
<b>50110 · DFMS Asking</b>	85,412	91,001	95,030	98,831	102,784	For 2020= (\$773,534 - \$140,000)=\$633,534 X .15 = \$95,030. Increased 4% for 2020/2021. Increase from 2019 to 2020 is 4.4% based on final audit.
50120 · Province VII Synod Assessment	200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Estimate
50200 · Charitable Giving Beyond the Diocese						
50210 - ERD, Millennium Development Goals	4,453	4,524	4,683	4,871	5,066	0.7% of assessments per GC recommendation
50225 - Council of Churches	0	250	250	250	250	
50231 · Sewanee School of Theology	3,181	3,231	3,345	3,479	3,618	0.5% of assessments per GC recommendation
50232 · The Seminary of the Southwest	3,181	3,231	3,345	3,479	3,618	0.5% of assessments per GC recommendation
50250 · University of South, General Fund	1,908	1,939	2,007	2,087	2,171	0.3% of assessment; diocese is part-owner
50260 · Outreach Impact Program	4,771	4,847	5,018	5,219	5,427	0.75% of assessments less 50225
50270 - Other Giving Beyond Diocese	0	1,366	1,928	2,009	2,157	Estimated Expense
<b>Total · Charitable Giving Beyond the Diocese</b>	<b>17,494</b>	<b>19,388</b>	<b>20,577</b>	<b>21,394</b>	<b>22,307</b>	

2020 Budget as Approved at Convention	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget as Approved	2020 As Entered 9/5/2019	2021 As Entered 9/5/2019	2022 As Entered 9/5/2019	Comments
50520 · Diocesan ERD Coordinator	808	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Includes travel, booth fees & setup
50530 · Univ. of South Trustees	1,187	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	Includes travel for 3 trustees to annual meeting
50540 · General Convention Deputy Expenses	24,000	11,000	11,000	28,000	11,000	\$11,000/Yr in off years. \$28K in year of convention. To be held in Baltimore in 2021 which will necessitate airfares/increased travel costs.
50545 · ECW Triennial	0	0	0	0	0	Budgeted expense in 2018, nothing thereafter
50552 · Province VII Synod Deputation	0	0	0	0	0	Budgeted expense in 2018, nothing thereafter
50555 · Province VII Synod ECW Expense	0	0	0	0	0	Budgeted expense in 2018, nothing thereafter
<b>Total · SHARED LIFE IN LARGER CHURCH</b>	<b>129,101</b>	<b>127,289</b>	<b>132,507</b>	<b>154,125</b>	<b>141,991</b>	
<b>51000 · DIOCESE MISSION &amp; MINISTRY</b>						
51100 · Diocesan Giving within Diocese						
51111 · Epis Progs at Brite Divinity School	3,120	3,231	3,345	3,479	3,618	0.5% of Assessments
51112 · Support for Seminarians	4,680	4,847	5,018	5,219	5,427	0.75% of Assessments
51114 · Matching Grant Outreach Program	24,979	32,313	33,453	34,791	36,182	5% of Assessments
51120 · Other Giving within Diocese	0	4,846	4,511	4,698	4,828	Estimated Expense
<b>Total · Diocesan Giving within Diocese</b>	<b>32,779</b>	<b>45,237</b>	<b>46,327</b>	<b>48,186</b>	<b>50,056</b>	For 2019, total of \$19,519 out side of diocese plus \$45,583 within diocese = \$64,625 which is 10% of assessments
51200 · Support to Congregations						
51202 - St. Andrew, FW	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51204 - St. Alban's, Arlington	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51205 - St. Stephen's, Hurst	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51206 - TEC, WF	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51207 - St. Lukes in the Meadow	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51208 - Good Shepherd, Granbury	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51175 - New Church Plants	0	0	0	0	0	No funds budgeted or guaranteed in 2019-2021
51299 - General Support Activities	2,210	0	0	0	0	No transition or post litigation funds at this time
<b>Total 51200 - Support to Congregations</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
51300 · Campus Ministry (CM)						
51310 · Tarleton State	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	Need plan for use of funds
51320 · TCU Ft Worth	435	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Need plan for use of funds
51330 · UT Arlington	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	Need plan for use of funds
<b>Total 51300 · Campus Outreach</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	
51400 · Commission on Ministry	1,391	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	Budget is net of fees and reimbursements; temporary restricted funds will be used as needed
51500 · Ministry Development						
51501 - New Ministry Development Opportunities	5,160	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	Funds for new undefined program initiatives to take advantage of opportunities not foreseen in the planning process
51503 - Latino Ministry	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	Funds to develop & expand Latino/ Hispanic ministry
51504 - Clergy Calls and Conferences	16,748	21,000	22,000	23,000	24,000	\$1,500 Discernment; \$1,500 Clergy Days (2); \$18K Clergy Retreat
51504-1 - Compensation	700					

2020 Budget as Approved at Convention		2018 Actuals	2019 Budget as Approved	2020 As Entered 9/5/2019	2021 As Entered 9/5/2019	2022 As Entered 9/5/2019	Comments
51505 - Defined Ministry Development Programs	2,547	10,750	10,750	10,750	10,750	10,750	Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes,CEEP (\$4750); The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, TENS (\$500), Ministers in Training Workshop (\$500), Community of Hope (\$500), Diocesan Administrator Group (\$500) & Leadership Training (\$3,500)
<b>Total 51500 - Ministry Development</b>	<b>25,155</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>49,000</b>		
51700 - Christian Formation	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	Estimated Expense
51705 - Cursillo	0	0	0	0	0	0	
51710 - Education for Ministry	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	Cost is annual fee to Sewanee; EFM restricted account used for scholarships and mentor trainers & training
<b>Total 51700 - Christian Formation</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	
51860 - Diocesan Youth Ministry	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	Estimated expense/EY Event in 2020
<b>Total 51800 - Other Ministries and Cmtes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
51920 - Diocesan Functions/Hospitality	4,985	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	Estimate
<b>Total 51000 - DIOCESE MISSION &amp; MINISTRY</b>	<b>72,705</b>	<b>107,487</b>	<b>112,577</b>	<b>112,436</b>	<b>115,306</b>		
<b>52100 - THE EPISCOPATE</b>							
52110 - Bishop Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0	
52110-1 - Payment to NWT for Provisional Bishop	81,000	84,000	87,000	90,000	93,000	93,000	Annual expense is increased \$3,000/year. (Comment amended per 9/7/2019 Finance Committee meeting.
52169 - Bp Housing in Fort Worth	10,504	15,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	Estimated
52510 - Bishop Mileage	0	0	0	0	0	0	
52520 - Bishop Registrations and Travel	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	Bp travel strictly for EDFW
52620 - General Convention Bishop Expenses	430	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Estimated expenses
52630 - Lambeth 2020 Bishop Reserve	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Estimated expenses
52850 - Asst Bishop Expenses	5,901	10,000	6,000	10,000	10,000	6,000	To support two assistant bishops as needed
<b>Total 52100 - THE EPISCOPATE</b>	<b>98,835</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>109,000</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>		
<b>53000 - ADMINISTRATIVE AND DIOCESAN SUPPORT</b>							
<b>53299 - Administrative Services</b>							
53300 - Diocesan Office Expenses							
53320 - Office Space	16,800	16,800	19,200	19,200	19,200	19,200	Includes additional office space; Increase of \$200/mo in 2020
53321 - Utilities (gas & electric)	3,051	3,000	3,173	3,331	3,498	3,498	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53324 - Office Maintenance	1,213	1,082	1,262	1,287	1,313	1,313	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53325 - Office Supplies	892	2,706	928	946	965	965	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53330 - Postage	773	1,082	804	820	837	837	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53335 - Printing/Copy Machine	10,362	9,976	10,776	10,992	11,212	11,212	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53345 - Telecommunications	3,211	2,706	4,400	4,488	4,578	4,578	Increased to \$4,400 pending known increase, +2% for 2021 & 2022
53346 - Internet Services	5,878	5,846	6,113	6,235	6,360	6,360	4% inc for 2020 vs 2018; 2%/yr 2021/2022
53350 - Books, Subscriptions, Licenses	496	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	Estimate based on history; includes new version of Quick
53355 - Office Equipment	625	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	To include one computer replacement/year
<b>Total 53300 - Diocesan Office Expenses</b>	<b>43,301</b>	<b>46,198</b>	<b>49,656</b>	<b>50,302</b>	<b>50,962</b>	<b>50,962</b>	Total will increase 2%-3% per year
53370 - Accounting Services							
53371 - Accounting Support	996	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	Payroll service fees; bank charges
53372 - Audit	10,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	Engagement letter received; Finance Committee voted to continue for 3 years 2018-
<b>Total 53370 - Accounting Services</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,200</b>	
53380 - Insurance Expense							

2020 Budget as Approved at Convention	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget as Approved	2020 As Entered 9/5/2019	2021 As Entered 9/5/2019	2022 As Entered 9/5/2019	Comments
53381 · Insurance and Surety Bond	9,550	8,090	8,575	9,090	9,635	Increase in property insurance...6%/Yr
53382 · Worker's Comp	732	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	As staff costs increase, WC will probably increase
53384 · Life Insurance for Retired Clergy	1,041	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	Budget is net of reimbursements
<b>Total 53380 · Insurance Expense</b>	<b>11,323</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>11,375</b>	<b>11,890</b>	<b>12,435</b>	
53389 · Background Checks	250	750	750	750	750	Estimate; budget is net of reimbursements
<b>Total 53299 · Administrative Services</b>	<b>65,869</b>	<b>70,038</b>	<b>73,982</b>	<b>75,142</b>	<b>76,347</b>	
<b>53390 · Diocesan Support</b>						
53392 · Staff Mileage	1,873	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	Errands, out-of-office meetings; congregation visits and meetings
53393 · Staff Reimbursements	7,321	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	Registration fees/Travel
53400 · Office of Communications						
53405 · Director of Communications	29,000	29,000	30,000	31,000	32,000	Independent contractor; new contract; increase in 2017; supports the Bishop in communicating the mission and ministry of the Diocese
53410 · Website Developer	3,011	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	Independent contractor; new contract; paid per preauthorized work
53415 · Website/ Social Media Manager	7,700	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	Independent contractor; new contract; paid monthly; support for staff
53420 · Diocesan Photographer	0	600	600	600	600	Independent contractor; new contract; paid per preauthorized work
53440 · Newsletter "Common Purpose"	8,363	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	Diocesan-wide newsletter in 2015-2019 Currently running \$2,100/qtr
53455 · Websites for Congregations	0	500	500	500	500	Estimated expense for set-up charges, licenses, etc.
53465 · Communication Expense	0	0	500	500	500	New Account for 2019; equipment, materials
53475 · Communicators Reimbursements	2,199	3,300	2,800	2,800	2,800	Reimbursement for communicator
<b>Total 53400 · Office of Communications</b>	<b>50,272</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	
53800 · Office of the Chancellor	20,072	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	Estimate; usually paid out in December
53870 · Chancellor Office Expenses	2,128	200	200	200	200	
53880 · Historiographer	35	400	400	400	400	As requested by Historiographer
53886 · Ecumenical Officer	0	0	0	0	0	combined with 51500, ministry development
53900 · Diocesan Convention	12,000	13,000	14,000	15,000	16,000	Revised estimate for convention
53950 · Executive Council	390	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	Estimated expenses
53960 · Standing Committee	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Estimated expenses
53963 · Title IV Reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0	Reserve up to \$10K; reach by 2020. Title IV for ecclesiastic discipline
53965 · Funding for the Future Campaign	0	0	0	0	0	No further expenses at this time
<b>Total 53390 · Diocesan Support</b>	<b>96,592</b>	<b>115,100</b>	<b>117,100</b>	<b>116,600</b>	<b>118,600</b>	
<b>55001 · Personnel</b>						
55100 · Canon to the Ordinary						
55110 · CTO Compensation	91,788	93,604	95,476	97,386	99,333	Stipend, Housing Allowance & SECA @ 15.3%; 2% Inc 2018-2020
55130 · Pension	16,518	16,849	17,186	17,529	17,880	Pension = 18% of stipend, housing & SECA
55140 · Health Insurance	4,410	5,111	5,622	6,184	6,803	Parity for employees > 1500 hrs per yr
55160 · Reimbursements	18,790	12,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	Mileage, Professional Expenses & CE; includes GC expenses
<b>Total 55100 · Canon to the Ordinary</b>	<b>131,507</b>	<b>127,564</b>	<b>134,284</b>	<b>137,099</b>	<b>140,016</b>	
55200 · Ministry Support and Communications Officer						
55210 · MSC Officer Compensation	48,471	49,441	46,846	47,783	48,739	Full time employee; 2% annual increases
55220 · ER SS & Medicare	0	0	3,584	3,655	3,729	Required since position is no longer a clergy member.
55230 · Pension	8,725	8,899	4,216	4,300	4,387	Pension = 9.0% of compensation
55240 · Health Insurance	10,541	10,740	11,814	12,995	14,295	Parity for employees > 1500 hrs per yr.
<b>Total 55200 · MSC Officer</b>	<b>67,737</b>	<b>69,080</b>	<b>66,460</b>	<b>68,734</b>	<b>71,149</b>	

2020 Budget as Approved at Convention	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget as Approved	2020 As Entered 9/5/2019	2021 As Entered 9/5/2019	2022 As Entered 9/5/2019	Comments
55300 · Administrative Assistant						
55310 · AA Compensation	43,205	44,069	44,950	45,849	46,766	Full time employee; 2% annual increases
55320 · ER SS & Medicare	3,305	3,371	3,439	3,507	3,578	Employer payroll tax =7.65% of compensation
55330 · Pension	3,888	3,966	4,046	4,126	4,209	Pension = 9.0% of compensation
55340 · Health Insurance	3,155	3,434	3,936	4,330	4,763	Health insurance through spouse
<b>Total 55300 · Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>53,553</b>	<b>54,840</b>	<b>56,371</b>	<b>57,813</b>	<b>59,316</b>	
55400 · Treasurer's Assistant/ Bookkeeper						
55410 · TA Compensation	25,705	21,479	23,011	23,471	23,941	Part-time employee; 2% increases...increase partially due to health ins inc in salary
55420 · ER SS & Medicare	1,967	1,643	1,760	1,796	1,831	Employer payroll tax =7.65% of compensation
55430 · Pension	2,313	1,933	2,071	2,112	2,155	Pension = 9.0% of compensation
<b>Total 55400 · Treasurer's Assistant</b>	<b>29,985</b>	<b>25,055</b>	<b>26,842</b>	<b>27,379</b>	<b>27,927</b>	
<b>Total 55001 · Personnel</b>	<b>282,782</b>	<b>276,540</b>	<b>283,957</b>	<b>291,025</b>	<b>298,408</b>	
<b>Total 53000 · ADMINISTRATIVE AND DIOCESAN SUPPORT</b>	<b>445,243</b>	<b>461,678</b>	<b>475,039</b>	<b>482,767</b>	<b>493,355</b>	
59999 - Uncategorized Expenses	2,268	0	0	0	0	
80000 · Contingency Reserve	0	(0)	0	0	0	Check to balance to zero
<b>Total</b>	<b>748,152</b>	<b>809,453</b>	<b>829,122</b>	<b>865,328</b>	<b>865,652</b>	
Check must be -0-	25,382	0	(0)	0	0	

**Resolution CC1 - Proposed Canonical change to clarify election of Deanery Representatives to Executive Council and officers of the Deanery as required by term schedules.**

Proposer: Constitution and Canons Committee

Submitted: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Be it resolved*, Canon III.11.5.2, concerning selection of Deanery officers and Representatives to Executive Council, be amended as follows:

**III.11.5.2** Deaneries shall meet at least twice each year; once in January or early February to elect Deanery Representatives to Executive Council and officers of the Deanery and again within 30 days prior to the first day of the Diocesan Convention in order to be briefed and to provide feedback on the diocesan budget and other matters that will be coming before the Executive Council and the Diocesan Convention.

Amended Text:

**III.11.5.2** Deaneries shall meet at least twice each year; once in January or early February to ESTABLISH THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR and again within 30 days prior to the first day of the Diocesan Convention in order to be briefed and to provide feedback on the diocesan budget and other matters that will be coming before the Executive Council and the Diocesan Convention AND TO ELECT DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS OF THE DEANERY AS REQUIRED BY TERM SCHEDULES. THE DEANERY ELECTIONS MAY ALSO BE HELD AT AN ADDITIONAL MEETING AFTER THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION BUT BEFORE THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR, SO THAT THE NEW OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

*Explanation:*

By changing the election of new deanery officers and executive council representatives to occur before the end of the year, all new personnel on the executive council ( at large representatives elected at the convention and deanery representatives) will be known / elected before the year starts and there will be no confusion over who should attend the January EC meeting, regardless of when a deanery has their first meeting relative to the first EC meeting. For those deaneries that want to have their elections and review the budget at the same meeting, a post convention deanery meeting would not be necessary.



**Resolution CC2 - Proposed change to the allowable scheduling of Annual Meetings in parishes and missions.**

Proposer: Constitution and Canons Committee

Submitted: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Be it resolved*, propose extending the allowable date for Annual Meetings to allow for scheduling problems as they arise.

Current text:

**8.1. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of each Parish or Mission of this Diocese shall be held in the month of January. Due notice of said meeting, including its time and place, shall be given by the Rector or Priest in Charge, or if there is no Rector or Priest in Charge, by the Wardens.

Proposed text:

**8.1. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of each Parish or Mission of this Diocese shall be held in the month of January WHEN POSSIBLE. Due notice of said meeting, including its time and place, shall be given by the Rector or Priest in Charge, or if there is no Rector or Priest in Charge, by the Wardens. IF A JANUARY DATE IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN DUE NOTICE OF THE MEETING DATE, TIME, PLACE AND REASON SHALL BE MADE; THE NEW DATE SHALL BE IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

**Resolution CC3 - Change to Canon III.10.5 to incorporate a change from the 79th General Convention Resolution D074**

Proposer: Constitution and Canons Committee

Submitted: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Be it resolved*, an approved resolution, D074 from the 79th General Convention, affects the wording of Canon III.10.5 related to intake reporting.

Current text:

10.5. Action of Intake Officer. Upon receipt of information regarding possible offenses, the Intake Officer may make such preliminary investigation as he or she deems necessary, and shall incorporate the information into a written intake report and provide copies to the other members of the Reference Panel (Bishop and Chairman of the Board) and to the Church Attorney.

Proposed change:

10.5. Action of Intake Officer. Upon receipt of information regarding possible offenses, the Intake Officer may make such preliminary investigation as he or she deems necessary, and shall incorporate the information into a written intake report, INCLUDING AS MUCH SPECIFICITY AS POSSIBLE, and provide copies to the other members of the Reference Panel (Bishop and Chairman of the Board) and to the Church Attorney.

*Explanation:*

This addition maintains conformance with the approved Canons of the Episcopal Church as amended by the 79th General Convention.

**Resolution R1: Defining Policy Concerning Weapons in Places of Worship**

Proposers: Harold and Melissa Parkey, St. Elizabeth's and Christ the King

Endorsed by: Gloria Long, Delegate

Submitted: August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*"Resolved, by the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, that it shall not be permissible for any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers and visitors, even if licensed to carry a weapon under Texas law, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools."*

*Explanation:*

Under SB 535, which goes into effect on September 1, 2019, firearms can be carried legally at any church, synagogue, or other established place of worship in Texas. Yet our baptismal vows require us to *"seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself"* and to *"strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being"*.

We perceive that the epidemic of violence and injustice in our communities is encouraged and enabled by the presence of guns. As followers of the Prince of Peace we are commissioned to work towards that perfect kingdom where *"no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love"*.

This was affirmed by the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention in resolution 2012-D003 which requested every parish and every diocesan place of work to declare their establishments as Gun Free Zones. For us the Church is a house of peace, prayer and sanctuary. We believe the question we should be asking is: Does it honor God to have a gun in Church?" It is our opinion that it does not.

Does the presence of a gun in Church distract us from focusing on our reason for being there? We believe the very presence of an implement whose purpose is to harm or kill is an offense to our understanding of the way of Christ. In this place, in this sanctuary, we are in the presence of Christ and under the grace, mercy and protection of God. It is our belief that to bring a weapon into God's holy house is disrespectful of such a sacred space.

We believe fear is not a Christian virtue or habit of being therefore as a Christian we are called to walk through this world unarmed and unafraid. In our baptismal vows we promised to *"seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself"* and to *"strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being"*. We feel the presence of weapons in our Church serves to defile such a consecrated space and should not be permitted.

The Diocese of Texas has the following policy:

Weapons Policy

Section 3.6 of the Clergy Manual

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. Law enforcement officers are the only exception to this policy.