

## **I. Task Force to Review and Propose Revisions to Diocesan Canon 28 “Of Congregations”**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 169<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee create a Task Force of ~~six to eight~~ **eight to twelve** people appointed by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, for the purpose of reviewing the existing diocesan Canon 28 “Of Congregations” and proposing revisions for consideration at the 170<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee in 2017; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that membership to the Task Force shall be named by December 1, 2016 and made up of a balanced representation of members from small and large congregations; a member of the Standing Committee; a member of Executive Council; a member of the Commission on Mission and Development; and balanced representation of clergy and laity; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the language of the revisions shall be consonant with language used in the remainder of the canons; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the revised canon shall reflect and authorize the variety of congregational structures as they currently exist in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the revised canon shall reflect the respect and care that we have for one another in the Diocese of Milwaukee and the desire that we have to work together to share the Good News of God in Christ, encouraging one another even as we hold ourselves mutually accountable to our communion as the Body of Christ; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the revised canon shall provide a clear process whereby the Bishop and the Standing Committee may bring a congregation under the direct pastoral oversight of the Bishop and the Executive Council.

### **EXPLANATION**

Our diocesan Canons define and describe many aspects of our communal life as people of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Canon 28 “Of Congregations” uses language that is occasionally unclear and inconsistent with other portions of the diocesan Canons. Specifically, the phrase “known and styled as Parishes” as used in Canon 28 is vague and not reflective of current practice in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Canon 28 also fails to provide a clear process for the invocation of a canonical process whereby the Bishop and the Standing Committee may bring a congregation under “under the direct pastoral oversight of the Bishop and the Executive Council.” In its current form, Canon 28 “Of Congregations” does not adequately reflect the desire of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee to facilitate congregational health and vitality while holding us accountable to one another as the Body of Christ in Southern Wisconsin.

Submitted by: The Rev. Steve Capitelli  
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