Resolution 2012-x: Resolution to Give the Diocesan Council Responsibility for Considering Requests to Consider Extenuating Circumstances Made by Congregations in Arrears.
Offered by the Committee on Constitutions and Canons.

RESOLVED, by the 44th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwest Florida meeting at Punta Gorda on the 20th day of October, 2012:

That the Canons of the Diocese of Southwest Florida be amended as follows:

Canon II

Section 1. a. Any congregation in arrears in any amount for the immediately preceding calendar year, or any other preceding year shall be automatically denied the right to voice and vote at the Annual Convention. If the members of the congregation think there are extenuating circumstances giving rise to their arrearage(s) they may request, in writing, to have their extenuating circumstances considered by the Congregation Development Committee DIOCESAN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE. The request shall be made on or before the 15th day of April in the year of the convention. Any request not submitted in writing by the deadline shall not be heard by the Congregational Development Committee, the Diocesan Council, ITS FINANCE COMMITTEE, nor OR the members of the Convention. The Congregation Development Committee DIOCESAN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE shall hear the request of the congregation and make their ITS recommendation to the FULL Diocesan Council on or before their THE August meeting OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL. The Diocesan Council shall consider the request and the recommendation of the Congregation Development Committee ITS FINANCE COMMITTEE and make their A recommendation regarding voice and vote to the members of the convention prior to the first business of the convention requiring a vote. The decision of the convention shall be final.

Explanation:

The reason for the proposed changes is that the Congregational Development Committee and the Diocesan Council both consider Diocesan Council and its Finance Committee to be the group most knowledgeable and capable of dealing with the financial and policy considerations which this canon addresses. It also makes the de facto practice the required procedure. This canon has the support of the CDC, Diocesan Council, and the Diocesan Council Finance Committee.