Resolution Recognizing a Dormant Parish

Presented for adoption to the 186th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama
By the Diocesan Council

Be it resolved by this 186th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama that the request of St. John’s Deaf Church, Vestavia Hills, Alabama to be declared dormant and the subsequent report by the Bishop Diocesan of its dormancy is hereby affirmed by this Convention with gratitude for the 81 years of service and witness in the Greater Birmingham metropolitan community.

The parish has been struggling for a number of years with dwindling membership. Many people attribute the decline to changes within the deaf community. The norm now is to be fully integrated into “hearing” society through the use of interpreters. St. John’s Deaf Church as a congregation composed primarily of deaf persons reflected attitudes common in the early Twentieth Century which supported special or segregated non-hearing communities.

The congregational buildings were originally located in Ensley but a new building, using land donated by St. Stephen’s, Birmingham and building funds from around the diocese, was constructed in the early 1990s. The building is located across the street for St. Stephen’s, Birmingham.

The Diocesan Canons (Canon 9, Section 1) provide for dormancy to be reported by the Bishop to the Convention and calls upon the Convention to accept the report. Once accepted, the assets of the parish flow to the Diocese. It is the plan of the Diocese to make the building available to St. Stephen’s, Birmingham. Should the building be sold (no current plans to do so) at some point, a portion of the proceeds would flow to the Diocese in recognition of the contributions from the Diocese for construction of the building.

This resolution was adopted by the Diocesan Council on December 15, 2016 for presentation to the 186th Diocesan Convention.

The Rev. Rob Morpeth, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Date

12.15.16