FULL INCLUSION OF DEACONS AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Sponsoring Parishes: St. Luke’s, Birmingham; St. Luke’s, Jacksonville; St. Matthias, Tuscaloosa; St. Michael and Angels, Millbrook; St. Thomas, Huntsville

Background for this resolution

In last year’s address to the Convention, Bishop Sloan told those assembled that “it was time to reconsider the role of Deacons in our Convention”, and so he asked that the 187th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama consider a resolution calling for every deacon to be eligible to vote on each matter coming before the Convention. This is the resolution for your consideration.

FULL INCLUSION OF DEACONS AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this 187th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama amend the first sentence of Canon 3, Section 2 Membership to read

“The membership of the Convention shall consist of the Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons canonically resident in the diocese and the lay delegates from the Parishes, and two (2) lay delegates duly elected by the Diocesan Department of Youth who meet the same eligibility requirements as those eligible for election to a Parish Vestry, each Bishop, Presbyter, Deacon and lay delegate having one vote on each matter coming before the Convention.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canon 3, Section 2 Membership be additionally amended by striking the sentence “The Deacons canonically resident in the diocese shall have one vote for every seven deacons or fraction thereof as duly determined and elected by caucus of the Deacons prior to the annual Diocesan Convention.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fourth sentence of Canon 3, Section 6 Voting be amended by striking the portion that reads: “and in which case, each Bishop and Presbyter and each lay delegate shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote and Deacons shall be entitled to cast one (1) for every seven Deacons or fraction thereof.”

Explanation

We believe that the Deacon’s call to proclaim the Gospel and to bring the needs of the world to the attention of the Church is diminished by preventing them from a full vote at Convention. Therefore, in consultation with the Bishop and the Archdeacon this resolution is brought to the 187th Convention for consideration.

Passed, as amended, by paper ballot by more than 75% in each order.