Resolution # 20-001

A Resolution of Amendment to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming
Creating Canon 17 - Fresh Expressions
and Renumbering Existing Canons 17 and 18

The Committee on Constitutions and Canons ("the Committee") has considered a proposed amendment to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming in regard to Fresh Expressions and the Committee has approved, and hereby presents, the following proposed Resolution of Amendment:

WHEREAS, Canon 18 provides that the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming may be altered, amended, added to, or repealed at any Convention by a majority vote; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to formalize the creation of Fresh Expressions of Church in the Diocese of Wyoming, to wit:

Canon 17 – Fresh Expressions

Section 1: A Fresh Expression of Church is a faith community intended to bring people to God’s kingdom beyond the traditional walls and membership of a Congregation. Fresh Expressions of Church are permitted to be formed within the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming as set forth in this Canon.

Section 2: A Fresh Expression of Church shall organize under the auspices of a Congregation (the sending church) and shall adhere to the philosophy of Fresh Expressions of Church:

(a) Missional – The main target is bringing NEW people to God’s kingdom.

(b) Contextual – It seeks to fit the environment or setting in which it exists such as a community with similar interest, need, or hobby outside the walls of established churches.

(c) Ecclesial - It has an identity, interacting with local Christians, God, the wider church and the world. It intends to become a faith community.

(d) Formational - It is aiming to form disciples by helping people find a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus.

Section 3: A Fresh Expression of Church does not have formal canonical status as a congregation of the Diocese. The power of formation, suspension, and
termination of a Fresh Expression of Church is vested in the Bishop, acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council.

**Section 4:** A report shall be submitted by the Diocese at the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention stating the number of Fresh Expressions of Church existing, their location, sending church, the means provided for their maintenance, and their condition and ministry.

**Section 5:** A Fresh Expression of Church shall be granted voice and seat at Diocesan Convention but shall not be entitled to vote.

**Section 6:** A Fresh Expression of Church shall not be considered a congregation of the Diocese and shall not be entitled to the same rights or privileges or have the same obligations attendant therewith.

WHEREAS, the addition of a new Canon 17 requires renumbering “Canon 17 – Procedure for Filling Vacancies” as Canon 18 and renumbering “Canon 18 – Amendment of Canons” as Canon 19 and said renumbering shall occur upon the adoption of the new Canon 17.

NOW THEREFORE, the above proposed amendments should be, and are hereby, approved and adopted by Convention.

The Committee hereby submits these proposed canonical amendments to the Secretary of the Convention as of the date shown below, which date is at least forty (40) days prior to the date of the meeting of the next annual Convention, and said proposed amendments are to be sent to each Congregation entitled to representation in Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to Convention.

Respectfully,

For the Committee on Constitution and Canons:

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Peter C. Nicolaysen, Chancellor        Date