

## RESOLUTION

### THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### DIOCESAN CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2016

**TITLE: Quorum Resolution**

**PROPOSED BY:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor

**NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor

**DATE:** August 26, 2016

RESOLVED, That Article IX of the Constitution of this Diocese is hereby amended to read as follows:

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Quorum

**Section 1.** ~~Thirty (30%)~~ ~~A majority (50% + 1)~~ of the Clergy entitled to seat and votes in the Convention, and Lay Delegates from a majority (50% + 1) of the congregations entitled to representation, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 2.** In the event that a quorum is not present at any meeting of Convention or of any Committee or Commission, the members present may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

#### EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION:

It is appropriate to modify the quorum requirement for clergy to reflect actual circumstances. Increasingly during recent years the proportion of clergy attending Convention has dropped. This has occurred as the proportion of clergy in retirement has increased. The drop reflects age and infirmity. It also reflects the outside claims upon the time and attention on non-congregational clergy.

This diocese is not alone. A sampling of quorum requirement in other diocese indicates that we are not alone in experiencing the issue. Two principal remedies are seen.

One approach is to set a quorum requirement lower than a majority of clergy although representation of a majority of congregations is retained for the laity. This approach recognizes that the order of clergy as a whole is not uniformly tied to congregations but nevertheless shares a common bond that distinguishes them from laity. It recognizes that a quorum requirement should reflect this diversity and this common distinguishing bond.

A second ties the clergy quorum requirement to congregational clergy. This approach recognizes the greater likelihood that congregational clergy will be free from competing claims and will be free to participate in Convention.

This resolution elects the first approach on the ground that it is important to recognize the diversity reflected in both congregational and non-congregational clergy and also recognizing the common bond among them that distinguishes them from laity.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact; however, adoption lessens to likelihood of the expense of a Convention delayed and rescheduled for want of a quorum.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This resolution furthers the goal of creating, developing and supporting healthy congregations by strengthening the ability of Convention to support congregations.