

RESOLUTION

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2016

TITLE: Board of Trustees Election in the absence of Elections by Spring Convocations

PROPOSED BY: The Rev. Michael Monnot

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE: The Rev. Michael Monnot

REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION: The Rev. Michael Monnot

DATE: August 29, 2016

RESOLVED, That Canon 16.1.1.4 is amended as follows (text to be added is in *italics*):

16.1.1.4 Clergy and Lay Members. Of the elected and appointed members it is a goal that five shall be members of the clergy and that ten shall be members of the laity. Recognizing that Spring Convocation elections may not match that goal, the Bishop shall not make an appointment and Convention shall not hold an election to increase the number of clergy above five. Convention shall elect the number of clergy necessary to raise that number to five. Deans may be elected members of the Board of Trustees. *If, however, any Deanery Convocations have not elected members to fill vacancies in Spring Convocations, the Bishop may appoint, and the Convention may elect members to the Board of Trustees without regard to their status as either clergy or lay.*

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION:

Under the current system, Deanery Convocations are to elect members to the Board of Trustees in the Spring. However, over the last several years, Spring convocations have frequently failed to elect members and have elected in the Fall instead. Because the Bishop and Convention cannot elect or appoint clergy to the Board if it would raise the number of Clergy members above five, this means that the Bishop cannot appoint members until after Fall Convocations (usually held in October), and the Office of the Bishop cannot tell potential clergy nominees that they are eligible for election until more than six weeks after the deadline for nominations. This results in hurried appointments and Board vacancies.

This proposal changes the Canons so that in the event that Spring Convocations fail to elect Board members until the Fall, the Bishop and Convention may accept nominations, appoint and elect members to the Board without having to consider their lay or clergy status. This is to avoid the bottleneck that ensues under the current system when Convocations fail to elect in the Spring.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

By allowing for time for thoughtful recruitment and discernment of potential candidates for Board of Trustees, an important Diocesan institution will be strengthened. This will result in the Diocese being better able to carry out its mission to serve the church and raise up disciples for Christ.