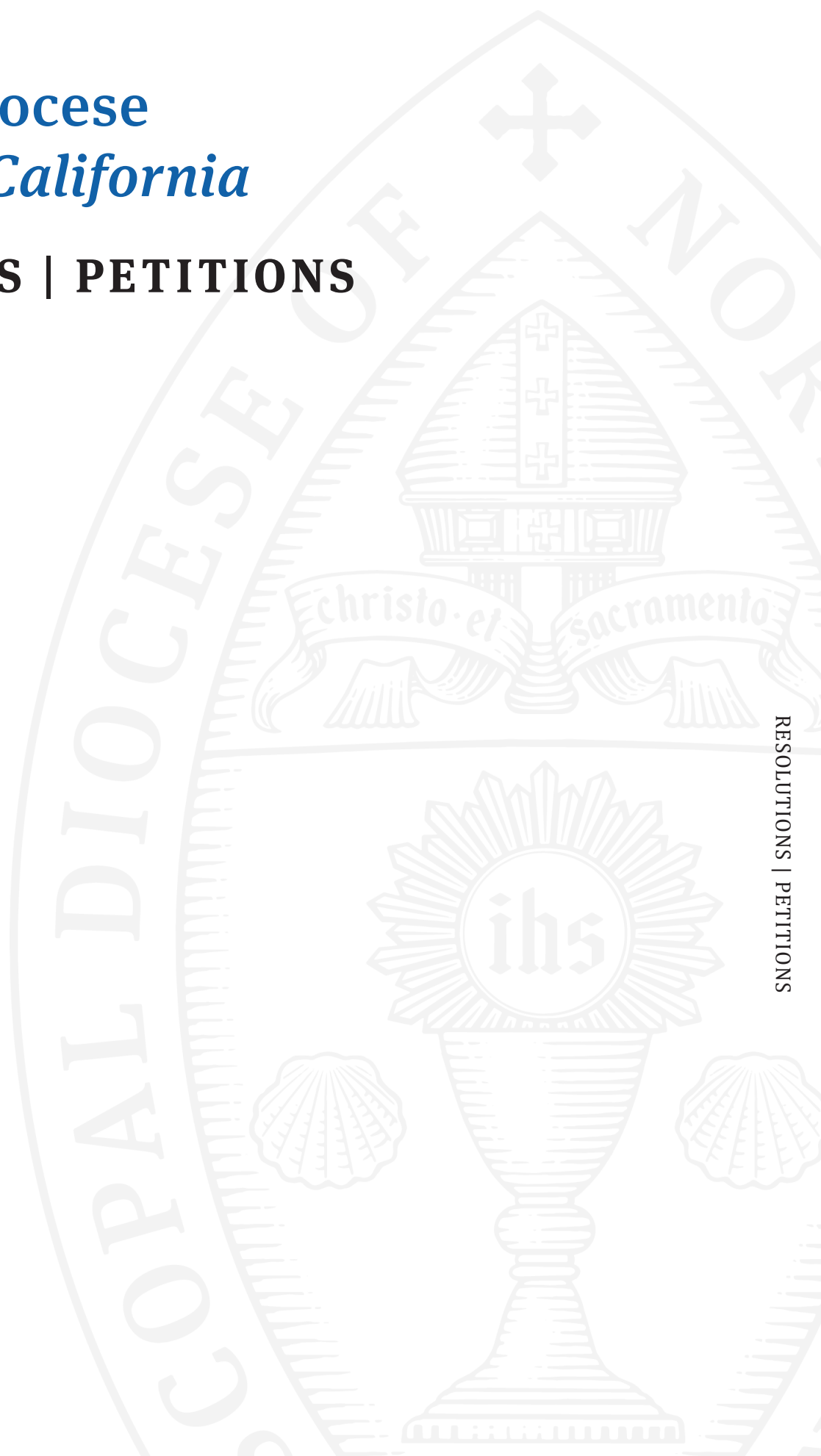


# Episcopal Diocese *of Northern California*

## RESOLUTIONS | PETITIONS



## 2022 DIOCESAN CONVENTION | RESOLUTIONS | PETITIONS

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### RESOLUTIONS

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### PETITIONS

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**TITLE: C1-2021 | Calling Meetings Of Convention**

**PROPOSED BY:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chancellor and Delegate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland; Barbara Jewell, Chancellor

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chancellor and Delegate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland

**PRESENTER AT CONVENTION:** Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chancellor and Delegate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland

**DATE SUBMITTED:** August 16, 2021

**RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, That Article VI of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS OF CONVENTION

**Section 1.** There shall be an annual meeting of the Convention in each calendar year at such time and place as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint by a call issued, in the absence of such other reasonable time provided by Convention by Canon, at least four months before the meeting. The meeting shall be held in person unless the Ecclesiastical Authority with the consent of Standing Committee orders the meeting to be held electronically or as a hybrid of in person and electronic.

**Section 2.** The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call a special meeting of the Convention (and shall call a special meeting upon the request of the Standing Committee), designating the time, place and purpose of such meeting by a call issued at least sixty days before the meeting. The meeting shall be held in person unless the Ecclesiastical Authority with the consent of Standing Committee orders the meeting to be held electronically or as a hybrid of in person and electronic. No business, other than that stated in the call, shall be transacted except by unanimous vote of the special meeting. The record of the vote must show a quorum was present.

**Section 3.** Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention shall be given by the Secretary of Convention. Such notification shall be in printed or written form sent by mail to every member of the Clergy actually and canonically resident in the Diocese, and Clerk of every Vestry or Mission Committee in union with Convention. Notification shall be sent at least twenty-five days before the time appointed for the meeting unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution or the Canons of this Diocese. The notice of every annual meeting shall include: an agenda of the Convention, a copy of the proposed Diocesan Budget for the coming year, the text of any proposed change to the Constitution or the Canons of this Diocese, the text of any measure affecting the financial responsibility of Parishes or Missions to the Diocese, the text of Resolutions to be brought before the Convention, except for Resolutions received by the Convention by unanimous consent of the Delegates, and a verbatim copy of the call issued by the

Ecclesiastical Authority. This canon does not apply to the election of a Bishop, nor to a member of the clergy serving in, or a lay person who is a communicant in good standing in a parish or organized mission in union with the convention of the Diocese of Northern California. Contemporaneously with the call by the Ecclesiastical Authority the Secretary of Convention shall give notice of the call to Clergy having seat, voice, and vote in Convention and to the Clerk of every Episcopal

Vestry or Mission Committee in union with the Diocese in the manner as Convention may provide by Canon or House Rule. The notice shall be accompanied by such additional information as Convention may require by Canon or House Rule.

RESOLVED, That Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution, concerning election of a Bishop, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 1.** Election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall be made only in an annual meeting of the Convention or in a special meeting called for the purpose. The object of such special meeting shall be stated in the notice sent by the Secretary of Convention to all Clergy actually and canonically resident in this Diocese and to the Clerk of every Parish and Mission in union with the Convention. Notification of such special meeting shall be made at least sixty days before the meeting.

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.**

**TITLE: R1-2022 | Resolution to further 2022 General Convention Resolution A087 through the development of congregation-based plans to achieve carbon-neutral facilities and operations by 2030**

**PROPOSED BY:**

Juliette Beck, Layperson, Church of St. Martin, Davis  
Grant Bakewell, Clergy, St. Matthew's Mission, Sacramento  
Miriam Casey, Layperson, Presenter, Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa  
Pamela Dolan, Clergy, Presenter, Church of St. Martin, Davis  
Lisa Harmon, Layperson, Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento  
Daniel Moyer, Layperson, Saint Albans Church, Arcata  
Matt Weiser, Layperson, St. Paul's, Sacramento

**NAMES OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

Miriam Casey, (650) 380-2747, mlcasey7@yahoo.com  
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan (314) 477-6591, pamela@churchofstmartin.org

**PRESENTERS AT CONVENTION:**

Miriam Casey, (650) 380-2747, mlcasey7@yahoo.com  
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan (314) 477-6591, pamela@churchofstmartin.org

**DATE SUBMITTED: August 22, 2022**

**RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, That each congregation shall strive to better understand and address how climate change relates to our call as Christians to care for God's creation. Each congregation shall encourage its members to study, pray, and work to discern how the Spirit is leading them to address climate change in their households and daily lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That each congregation and diocesan organization or ministry shall by December 31, 2024, develop and present to its Vestry or equivalent governing body a facility needs assessment to identify the actions necessary to enable its facilities and operations to become carbon neutral by 2030. The Commission on the Environment will provide education, guidance, and resources to assist congregations and other diocesan organizations as they develop their needs assessments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in anticipation of the completion of facility needs assessments by December 31, 2024, the Commission on the Environment shall conduct ongoing research to identify potential financial resources to carry out the measures identified in the facility needs assessments to promote carbon neutrality while preventing undue financial burdens on congregations.

**EXPLANATION:**

On July 11, 2022, deputies to the General Convention adopted Resolution A087, Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030, which commits the Church to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its operations and the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and General Convention by 2030, through emission reductions associated with travel, energy use, increased energy efficiency in buildings, and the purchase of carbon offsets from investigated, responsible, and ethical partners. The resolution encourages dioceses, churches, and institutions to pursue a goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through similar efforts.

The year of 2030 has become a milestone date for those addressing the global climate crisis. In 2019, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that only 12 years were available to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees centigrade, beyond which an additional 0.5 degree would significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat, and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. Some of these things have already come to pass in California. During the past 20 years California has experienced record-breaking wildfires, extreme drought, rising sea levels, and the loss of biodiversity. The climate crisis is no longer a future threat but a current reality.

The Church is uniquely suited to address the global climate crisis from a position of hope and moral clarity and to lead the way with ethical action. The resolution is aligned not only with Resolution A087, but also with the mission priorities of the Episcopal Church and the core values of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

The Commission on the Environment was convened following a resolution approved by the diocesan convention in 2019. The Commission is charged with “encouraging and supporting congregations in their efforts to be environmentally friendly and to minister in ways that honor Creation.” One of the Commission’s primary roles is to be a resource to congregations as they conduct facility needs assessments and develop plans for achieving carbon neutrality specific to their unique requirements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Developing the proposed facility needs assessments will have minimal fiscal impact. Lay volunteers will develop the facility needs assessments for their congregations with clergy support.

The Diocesan Commission on the Environment will serve as a resource body to provide congregations with guidance and available resources to assist with their facility needs assessments . The commission will distribute resources using email or posted to a publicly available website to avoid and minimize the use and distribution of paper resources.

The Commission recognizes that many congregations may not have the financial resources necessary to undertake the measures identified in their facility needs assessments by 2030. The Commission will work to identify available public and private resources and grant programs that may be available to support the carbon reduction measures identified by congregations through this resolution. It is also anticipated that the measures identified in the facility needs assessments, once implemented, will lead to reduced energy consumption and long-term cost savings.

**TITLE: P1-2022 | Petition For Dissolution of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Tahoe City, California**

**RECITALS**

**The Bishop and Standing Committee make the following representations:**

1. St. Nicholas, Tahoe City became a mission in 1957.
2. St. Nicholas held its last service on April 28, 2019 and ceased ecclesiastical functions as of that date.
3. St. Nicholas has made no apportionment pledge or payments to the diocese since April 28, 2019.
4. The Diocese made provision for the members of the mission to continue worship at the chapel of St. Nicholas, and the members rejected this offer. As of April 28, 2019, the mission consisted of not more than 8 members. Since the fall of 2019 none of the former members of the mission have communicated with the Office of the Bishop.
5. Due to the foregoing facts, the Bishop asked the Standing Committee to support the dissolution of St. Nicholas. The Standing Committee voted in support of Bishop for the dissolution of the mission on July 22, 2022.
6. Canon 30.12 requires a vote for dissolution of two-thirds in each order at Convention.

**Therefore, the Bishop and Standing Committee petition that the Convention:**

1. Find the foregoing Recitals true and correct, and
2. That this Convention Order Dissolution of The Organized Mission of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Tahoe City, by a two-thirds vote by orders, pursuant to Canon 30.12.

**TITLE: P2-2022 | Petition For Dissolution of St. Brigid of Kildare, Rio Vista, California**

*We, the undersigned, being the Senior Warden and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mission Committee, make the following petition based on the unanimous consent of the Mission Committee, which consists of 7 members:*

**PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION**

This Petition of St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, Rio Vista, California, is addressed to the Convention of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California, and represents the following:

1. St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, Rio Vista, was established as a mission congregation of this Diocese on November 8, 2013 by affirmation of the Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California and has retained mission status to the present day.
2. The Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) in 2013 was 20. In 2021, after services resumed in person in the church, the ASA was 13 which included an average of 8 in the sanctuary and 5 on Zoom. In 2022 for the year through August 14, the ASA is 11, again including in person (7) and online (4). Of course all those numbers include supply priests and deacons. Those online are either physically not able to come to the church or are located at a distance too far to attend.
3. In 2005 20 people organized as a group of worshipers in the home of one of the founders, the Harris family. That group eventually moved into rental space in various locations in Rio Vista. Its final home is its current space which has been our home since 2009. For many years we had no Priest but used supply Priests and a volunteer Priest. In 2013 we employed Rev. Lucretia Jevne in a part time position as our Priest-in-Partnership. She presided 2 Sundays per month and her husband, Father Walter Phelps, presided alternately. During the years since 2013 St. Brigid's organized community service projects such as an annual Children's Clothing Exchange, a Health Fair; we have organized and hosted benefit concerts, held a very popular afternoon tea, all proceeds of which supported our local community needs. In addition, most of the members have been involved in many community service projects. Since Rev. Jevne retired a few years ago, St. Brigid's has employed three supply Priests who serve in a regular rotation for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of the month. Morning Prayer services have been held on the other Sundays led by lay members of the church.
4. St. Brigid's suffers not just from a declining membership and attendance but also an absence of anyone willing and capable of leadership. Of the seven current attending members of St. Brigid's five are members of the Mission Committee and have served on the Mission Committee in one position or other for the last four years. A sixth person, not a member of the Mission Committee, is our Clerk. The current Senior Warden has served four different terms as Senior Warden and has been on the Mission Committee for eight of the last nine years. Our Treasurer has served in that position for four years both on and off the Mission Committee. Our Treasurer also serves as our "church administrator" creating bulletins, reports, newspaper announcements, etc. Our Junior Warden is serving her second term on the Mission Committee and has also served a year



as Senior Warden. Another member of the Committee has spent many years at St. Brigid's as our only Altar Guild person and our ex officio "sexton", doing whatever necessary to set up for the Sunday service, putting up the signage, sweeping down the walkways, feeding the landlord's cat and even cleaning out the litter box!

5. Rio Vista is a small, rural community that reflects the current nationwide trend of declining church membership in rural areas. In spite of many years of events and programs enjoyed by our community, none of these outreach efforts have resulted in new members. During the COVID shutdown we conducted services every week on Zoom and once returned to the Church in person, continued to hold hybrid services. The result has not been encouraging and there has, in fact, been a decline in attendance. Under the circumstances, we see no way forward for St. Brigid's to continue as an organized mission of the Diocese.

THEREFORE, we pray that the Diocesan Convention order dissolution of the organized mission by two thirds vote by orders pursuant to Canon 30.12

**Date:** August 22, 2022 | Karin Zilla, Senior Warden

**Date:** August 22, 2022 | Liz Collinge, Secretary