

RESOLUTION 2022-08

Resolution Concerning Changes in Planning Future Diocesan Conventions From the Joint Committee on Resolutions/Canons & Constitutions 139th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina

RESOLVED, the 139th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina Consider moving the day and time of future Annual Diocesan Conventions to Saturday, mid-day through the end of business of Sunday.

Adopted the 4th day of June, 2022 by the 139th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Shurley Ray Weddle
Secretary of Convention

EXPLANATION:

The 137th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina has members of all ages, many of whom are students or full-time employees with limited personal time off and because of this are not able to attend Diocesan Convention.

AND WHEREAS, Article III Section I of the Constitution of The Diocese of East Carolina calls for the Convention to vote on dates, times and location of Convention.

AND WHEREAS, Convention being rescheduled to a Friday Evening to Sunday Morning would allow an equal opportunity to students and those with less flexible or limited personal time off to attend Convention as these days would not interfere with the workweek and would allow for more young presence at the convention.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the 137th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina calls for the formation of a committee by the Convention Committee composed of five representatives, one per deanery, three of whom should be clergy and two lay, and at least three youth representing at least three different deaneries. The committee shall also include at least one member of the Executive Council who could be either clergy or lay. The purpose of the committee shall be to evaluate the timing and duration of convention. The committee shall report to Executive Council no later than October 31, 2020.ⁱ

Executive Council subsequently formed the committee required.ⁱⁱ The Committee issued its report to the Executive Council on May 10, 2021. The Report was as follows:

Resolution 5 of the 137th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina, meeting in Wilmington, February 8-9, 2020 called for a committee to “evaluate the timing and duration of convention” in order to “allow an equal opportunity to students and those with less flexible or limited personal time off to attend Convention;”

National and Diocesan Conventions have been at the core of church governance since the foundation of the Episcopal Church; it is the only body which can change the Constitution and Canons, elect leadership for the Diocese, and approve the budget;

Executive Council has taken on much of the work which was done in the past by Convention; a move which has aided the church in carrying out its work between Conventions, but has also led to changes in the nature of Convention;

Over time we also have seen a “greying” of Convention as family, work, and School obligations have kept younger representatives from participating in this Part of the governance of the Diocese;

While the 138th Convention demonstrated that the necessary, Canonical work of Convention could be accomplished in a few hours, there are other broader functions which Convention carries out. It is the one time in any year when the Diocese gathers together as laity, priests, deacons and bishop. Convention provides An opportunity for us to see ourselves as part of a larger whole, to build community, to express our hopes and air our grievances;

The Committee recommends that Convention consider moving the day and time of Diocesan Convention to Saturday, mid-day through end of business on Sunday.

Such a move would not automatically bring about the desired changes in Convention. Consideration would need to be given by the Convention Committee to:

Encouraging parishes to actively recruit younger delegates to Convention;

Based on the experience of the 2021 Convention, continue to live stream key parts of Convention such as worship and the Bishop’s address; Make use of the opportunities for community building and education;

Meet in a central location, such as New Bern to provide ease of access and return; Provide ideas for worship in home parishes after Convention.

Executive Council determined the Annual Convention as the appropriate body to make decisions regarding the dates and locations of future Annual Conventions and intended to pass the matter forward to the 139th Annual Convention.ⁱⁱⁱ This resolution has been drafted to execute Executive Council’s intent.

- i. Journal of Convention of the 137th Annual Convention, 62.
https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/uploads/images/137journal2020final_670.pdf
- ii. The persons serving on this Committee were: The Rev’d Richard Elliott, Chair (Lower Cape Fear), The Rev’d Gene Wayman (*ex officio* from Convention Committee), The Rev’d Stephen Batten (Executive Council, Pamlico Deanery), Ms. Kim Watson (Pamlico Deanery), Mr. Stephen Clayton (Trinity Deanery), and Ms. Mairead Benson (Lower Cape Fear Deanery).
- iii. Constitution of the Diocese of East Carolina, Art. III, Sec. 1.
https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/uploads/images/138constitution2021_311.pdf