

C-6 A Resolution Supporting Youth Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Resolved, that the 231st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia affirms the vital role of youth in the life and governance of the Church, and celebrates the presence and contributions of the Official Youth Presence at the General Convention of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention acknowledges with concern the declining number of youth delegates elected to recent Diocesan Conventions, and recognizes the barriers—logistical, procedural, and relational—that may hinder youth participation in diocesan governance; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Diocese of Virginia be requested to explore and develop practices and procedures that would support youth delegates to Diocesan Convention, including but not limited to:

- Clear nomination and election guidance for youth eligibility and discernment
- Orientation materials and mentorship opportunities for youth delegates
- Logistical support for travel, lodging, and scheduling accommodations
- Collaborative engagement with youth ministries and parish leaders to identify and empower potential youth delegates; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary report findings and recommendations to the 232nd Annual Convention, with the goal of strengthening youth representation and leadership in the governance of the Diocese of Virginia.

Rationale::

The Episcopal Church has long affirmed the leadership of young people, most visibly through the Official Youth Presence at General Convention and by Canonical provisions in the Diocese of Virginia. In recent years, the Diocese of Virginia has seen a decline in youth delegates elected to Convention, despite canonical provisions for their inclusion. A Canonical amendment will come before Council to offer more flexibility in the election of Youth Delegates but the Committee on Constitution and Canons feels that work beyond the Canons needs to be done. This resolution seeks to honor our baptismal commitment to “respect the dignity of every human being” by ensuring that youth are not only welcomed but equipped to participate fully in the councils of the Church.

Respectfully:

The Committee on Constitution and Canons

J. P. Causey Jr., Chair

The Rev. Michael Cadaret

The Rev. Amanda Kotval

The Rev. Jay Morris

Mr. Garway Bright

Ms. Karen Grane

The Rev. Emily Krudys

The Rev. Sven vanBaars