

**RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL  
CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE**

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Title: Streamlining Diocesan Governance

Purpose: The Diocese of West Tennessee has two governing bodies in between annual conventions: The Standing Committee and Bishop & Council.

The Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of the Bishop. It serves as a council of advice to the Bishop, approves certain property transactions, reviews candidates for ordination, and consents to the election of bishops in other dioceses.

Bishop & Council oversees financial, property, and other policy matters for the Diocese. The work of Bishop & Council often overlaps with the work of the Standing Committee.

This resolution invites the Convention of the Diocese of West Tennessee to consider the possibility of combining these two governing bodies into a single governing body.

From a spiritual perspective, having all of our decision-makers around a single table will foster relationship between them, further Jesus' prayer that we would all be one, and follow the model of Moses who gathered the 70 elders in one place to provide better governance and leadership for the children of Israel.

From an efficiency perspective, it will reduce the number of bodies that need to weigh-in on important and often time-sensitive decisions and the number of meetings that need to be attended and supported by the diocesan staff. It will also reduce the total number of positions that need to be filled in any given year. This single body will also be more adaptable as it addresses the governing duties at hand.

Adopting this resolution will not result in any immediate change. Rather, adopting this resolution will direct the Standing Committee, Bishop & Council, and the Committee on Constitution & Canons to consider what it would look like to combine, and then to make recommendations to the next Convention about whether and how to proceed.

Text:

RESOLVED that the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee direct its Committee on Constitution and Canons to draft canonical amendments that would result in the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council being combined into a single body, and to present those amendments for consideration at the next Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee direct the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council to have regular conversations before the next Convention as to the advisability and practicality of combining into a single body and to make a report of those conversations to the next Convention.