

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

Proposer: General Resolutions Committee

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 reviews candidates for ordination, consents to the election of bishops in other dioceses, approves certain property transactions, and serves as a council of advice to the Bishop. The Bishop & Council oversees financial, property, and other policy matters for the Diocese. Regarding approval of certain property transactions, both Bishop & Council and the Standing Committee must review and approve them.

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 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. 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 43rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee directs its Committee on Constitution and Canons to consult with other chancellors and bishops in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church on the advisability and practicality of combining the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council into a single body, and report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council before the 44th Annual Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council engage in joint conversations with the Committee on Constitution and Canons regarding the advisability and practicality of combining into a single body, and the Committee on Constitutions and Canons is directed to report to the 44th Annual Convention regarding the same.