



## Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina Diocesan Convention 2022 Resolution 3

### Restating the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese

The affairs of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina (the “Diocese”) are governed pursuant to the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina (the “Constitution”) and the Canons for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina (the “Canons”).

At the 2021 (99th) annual Convention of the Diocese, motions for adopting a restated Constitution and restated Canons as prepared by the Committee on Constitutions and Cannons (the “Committee”) were presented for discussion and action. Both motions failed to receive sufficient affirmative votes for approval of the restated documents. A majority of those who voiced concerns with the proposed documents objected to having the Chief Financial Officer (the “CFO”) of the Diocese identified as an officer of the Diocese because he or she is an employee of the Diocese and is not elected by the Convention.

The Clericus of the Western Deanery of the Diocese has amended the restated Constitution and restated Cannons as presented to the 2021 Convention. The amended documents no longer reflect the CFO as being an officer of the Diocese. Furthermore, the amended documents now provide that it is the responsibility of a vestry to determine clergy compensation (or the rector and vestry in the case of an assistant) assuming it is above the minimum set by the Convention. On behalf of the Clericus of the Western Deanery, the Rev. Joslyn Schaefer and the Rev. Jonathan Stepp hereby recommend and offer as a motion before the 100th annual Convention of the Diocese (a) that the constitution of the Diocese be amended and restated by that Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina being presented with this motion (marked “Draft from Western Deanery August 1, 2022”) and (b) that the canons of the Diocese be amended and restated by the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina being presented with this motion (marked “Revised Draft for Consideration by Western Deanery 09/19/22”). With this motion, the following shall apply:

A. In accordance with the terms of the existing constitution of the Diocese, a proposal to amend the constitution is to be referred to the Committee to report on the proposed amendment at the next annual Convention as follows:

(1) Recommendation for adoption, with or without modifications or changes, in which case the question for Convention shall be on the adoption of the proposed amendment in the form presented by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

(2) Recommendation for rejection, with or without reasons, in which case the question for Convention shall be on the adoption of the proposed amendment, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee on Constitution and Canons for rejection.

B. In accordance with the terms of the existing canons of the Diocese, a proposal to amend the canons is to be referred to the Committee to report on the proposed amendment at the current or a later meeting of the Convention as follows:

(1) Recommendation for adoption, with or without modifications or changes, in which case the question for Convention shall be on the adoption of the proposed amendment in the form presented by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

(2) Recommendation for rejection, with or without reasons, in which case the question for Convention shall be on the adoption of the proposed amendment, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee on Constitution and Canons for rejection.

(3) Recommendation for adoption, with or without modifications or changes, but subject to adoption of amendments to the Constitution as recommended by the Committee on Constitution and Canons so that the Constitution and the Canons are generally consistent and not ambiguous, in which case the question for Convention shall be on the adoption of the proposed amendment to the Canons in the form presented by the Committee on Constitution and Canons subject to or conditioned upon adoption of the recommended amendments to the Constitution.

While the Western Deanery Clericus realizes other areas of concern were raised at the 2021 Convention, we believe these changes are sufficient for new Constitutions and Canons to be approved. We realize some will be dissatisfied with various portions, but hope they will view our amendments of the restated documents as an improvement over what is currently in place. We believe these revised restated Constitution and Canons will enable the Diocese to function with a greater level of transparency and in greater alignment with the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Finally, we acknowledge that these documents are in some sense “living documents,” meaning revisions may be needed in the years ahead. While surely imperfect, they reflect our current best thinking and offer far more clarity than our current Constitution and Canons.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Joslyn Schaefer and The Rev. Jonathan Stepp on behalf of the Clericus of the Western Deanery this the 12th day of November 2022.