Monday, August 24, 2026

2026 Diocesan Convention Resolution Form

Diocese of Western North Carolina

The deadline for submitting a resolution requiring the expenditure of funds is Thursday, September 24, 2026. The deadline for a resolution not requiring the expenditure of funds is Friday, October 9, 2026

Submitted by:

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Resolution

Subject Resolution to Amend Canon 17.6 — License to Officiate

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 104th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina,

Resolved, that Canon 17.6 of the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina be amended in its entirety to read:

> **CANON 17.6 LICENSE TO OFFICIATE.** The licensing of Clerics who are not Canonically Resident in the Diocese to officiate in the Diocese shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

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Rationale:

Canon 17.6 presently provides that Clerics who are not Canonically Resident in the Diocese may not officiate for more than one day without first obtaining a license from the Bishop.

The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church already establish the requirements governing the licensing of Clerics serving outside their dioceses of canonical residence. Canon III.9.7(a) establishes a two-month licensing threshold for Priests, and Canon III.7.6(a) establishes the same threshold for Deacons.

The churchwide Canons also preserve appropriate oversight of occasional ministry. Canon III.9.7(c), for example, requires the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or the appropriate lay authorities in the absence of one, to have sufficient evidence that a person permitted to officiate is duly ordained, licensed when a license is required, and in good standing in The Episcopal Church.

Canon 17.6 therefore presently establishes a separate one-day diocesan licensing threshold on a matter already governed by the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The proposed amendment would remove that separate threshold and provide that Western North Carolina follows the applicable churchwide canonical provisions governing the licensing of non-resident Clerics.

This amendment does not eliminate canonical oversight of visiting Clerics or restrict the authority of the Bishop where a license is required. It instead provides a clear and stable standard, avoids unnecessary duplication, and ensures that the Diocese's licensing requirements remain aligned with the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Please list Author(s) names and contact information:

The Rev. William Bentley Manning