

## **Report of the Special Committee of Reference (Appointed to Consider Resolution 2019-2)**

At the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey a resolution (2019-2) was made calling for an examination and general revision of the Canons of the Diocese. During the course of debate on this resolution a separate motion was made and adopted to refer Resolution 2019-2 to a special committee appointed by the Bishop. A committee was appointed by the Bishop for this purpose composed of the following persons: Paul Ambos, Esq., Donna Freidel, Esq., Dara Govan, Esq., the Rev. Keith McCoy, the Rev. Lee Powers and the Rev. Dr. John P. Mitchell (Chair).

The committee was charged with examining Resolution 2019-2, identifying the specific needs and goals of the work which the resolution proposed, the process by which that work should be implemented, and then reporting its findings and recommendations to the 236th Convention of this Diocese in 2020. This document is the report of the Special Committee.

In late summer of this year the Special Committee issued an invitation to a number of different leadership groups within the Diocese to provide input. The invitation identified two issues. The first was “identifying the extent to which the canons may require general revision, simplification and updating.” The second was “the best method for this purpose, i.e., if there is to be a committee as contemplated by the resolution 2019-2 what should be its size and composition and who should do the appointing.” The broad question posed in in the invitation was “To what extent do the existing canons of the diocese require a general revision, simplification and updating?”

The groups which received this invitation for comment included Standing Committee, Council, the Deans (and through them the clericus meetings of the various Convocations), the Board of Missions, the Trustees, Benefits, Consultation, Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons and diocesan staff.

In response no issues were identified as requiring a general revision of the Canons. Two issues involving the structure of the Convocations and technical issues for Benefits were identified. These issues were already under discussion are being submitted separately for action. It was pointed out by some that many of the canons already had been substantially revised in the past several years. Some suggested that opening the canons to revision without an agenda was problematic.

The Special Committee is thankful to the original proposers of Resolution 2019-2 for raising the question and to the various individuals and groups which responded to the invitation for comment.

Based on these responses the Special Committee proposes the following resolution:

“Resolution 2019-2 was proposed to the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey calling for a general review and revision of the Canons of the Diocese. The resolution was referred to a Special Committee appointed by the Bishop of New Jersey for review. After consideration and consultation across the Diocese, the Special Committee determined that there was no need at this time for a general review and revision of the Canons of the Diocese. Accordingly the Special Committee offers the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 2019-2 proposed to the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey be rejected.”

Respectfully submitted by the Special Committee of Reference on Resolution 2019-2.

Paul Ambos, Esq.

Donna Freidel, Esq.

Dara Govan, Esq.

The Rev. Keith McCoy

The Rev. Lee Powers

The Rev. Dr. John P. Mitchell, Chair