

Official Youth Presence

Canon 3.06

Resolved, That Canon III, Section 3.06, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.01. Official Youth Presence. In addition to Lay Delegates, up to ~~six~~ *twelve* youth (~~one~~ *two* youth from each Deanery) who are duly authorized representatives known as the Official Youth Presence, shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the Convention. Each Deanery shall elect or appoint ~~an~~ *two* authorized youth ~~representative~~ *representatives* and an alternate. Deanery certifications shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary of Convention at least 20 days prior to the date of Convention.

Explanation:

This amendment modifies the current policy from one (1) to two (2) youth representatives per deanery. Since the OYP program was created in 2011, this has grown to be one of the joys of our annual diocesan convention. Hearing the voices and concerns of our youth in the Episcopal Church. It's important to be mindful of the decisions we debate and vote on and how these will impact our ministries for the next generation of leaders in the Diocese of California. In the San Francisco Deanery, we have had 2 wonderful candidates compete each year for the role of OYP representative. Each subsequent year, the runner up (OYP alternate) has chosen not to run again. This amendment gives the deanery the choice of empowering their best OYP representatives each year.

This Canon allows young people to more fully participate in the leadership of the Church and take on the responsibility that entails. Young people given this opportunity have found that their participation has been a transformative experience and has been a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard. This will give youth a sense of ownership in the Church and further encourages them to engage in Church leadership in the future. Taking youth leadership seriously must be a priority to maintain and grow the Church. It is vital for us to nurture and support young people in their leadership activities in the Church. This format mirrors the Official Youth Presence structure from the nine Provinces of The Episcopal Church to the General Convention (RHOD XV.60(b)).

Submitted by: Warren J. Wong, delegate from St. James Episcopal Church, San Francisco. Questions may be directed to Warren J. Wong (wjwstjames@gmail.com).

Report of the Committee on Canons:

As authorized by Canon 21.03, the Committee on Canons has changed the proposed amendment for internal consistency. In all other respects, the Committee on Canons finds this amendment suitable in form for adoption.