

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING RESOLUTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has adopted the following internal guidelines for its processing of resolutions. These are only guidelines, and the Committee will continue to exercise its sound judgment and deviate from them as appropriate. If the Committee judges a resolution to be non-controversial, it may be referred to the Committee on Dispatch of Business for inclusion in the consent calendar. Such resolutions will not count against the limit of five resolutions.

If the Committee considers a resolution to be more properly handled by a person or body other than the convention, or if it believes that comments or action by such a third party would be helpful, it may refer the resolution to that person or body for comment or for direct action. For example, resolutions pertaining to the worship or discipline of the church may be referred to the Bishop, while resolutions raising legal issues may be referred to the Chancellor. If it appears that dispositive action on the resolution will be taken by a third party following such a reference, that resolution will generally NOT be reported by the Committee to Convention, and will thus require a 2/3 vote to be considered by it.

All other resolutions will be grouped by the Committee. Currently, the initial analytic groups are: (1) resolutions establishing a diocesan policy or program, (2) resolutions for referral to the General Convention, or (3) resolutions addressing issues in the wider community outside the Episcopal Church. Additional groups may be adopted as needed. Resolutions will be handled differently depending on the group assigned.

Diocesan Policy or Program: Diocesan program or policy resolutions which are proposed by the Bishop, Executive Council, Standing Committee, or at least one deanery may be given preference over individual resolutions, at the discretion of the Committee, if it appears that the diocesan proponent possesses both special insight *and* particular expertise, experience, or responsibility concerning the subject matter of the resolution. All other resolutions, including those proposed by deaneries, will, time permitting (as determined by the Committee), ordinarily be referred to Executive Council for its comments and recommendation, within such times as shall be established by the Committee. Executive Council may either (1) recommend that the resolution be placed before the convention, or (2) recommend a year of study by deaneries and/or other appropriate diocesan bodies. Should the Committee accept a study recommendation made by Executive Council, it will give priority to resolutions offered in subsequent years from the study group.

General Convention: Unless they are proposed by the General Convention Deputation, resolutions in this group will be referred to the Deputation for its recommendation. Unless the General Convention is to be held within one year, resolutions in this group may be referred to the deaneries or to other appropriate diocesan bodies for study.

Wider Community: Unless time is of the essence and the resolution would become moot in one year, or unless the resolution would not likely profit from further study, resolutions in this group will generally be referred to the deaneries and other appropriate diocesan bodies for study. In subsequent years, resolutions that have been studied may be placed before the convention on the recommendation of at least one deanery. Resolutions recommended by multiple deaneries will be given a higher priority.

All other things being equal, including the quality of competing resolutions, resolutions will be given priority in the order they are received.

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