

## **Proposed Resolutions 234th Annual Convention**

**#01**

### **Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the 234th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina permit the appointment or election of youth liaison officers to have seat and voice on vestries or mission councils of congregations, who must be no less than 16 years old and confirmed; and moreover, that the Convention permit parishes and missions to lower the eligibility age to vote at annual parish and mission meetings to 16 years.

### **Explanation**

As the Diocese has already previously lowered the age for eligible delegates from 18 to 16, it is only logical to likewise empower our older youth to enjoy the benefits of canonical adulthood, which The Episcopal Church has established to be at 16, as far as permitted by state and national laws. If we are dutiful to our promises made at the baptisms and confirmations of children and youth to support, educate, and guide them in the faith, we need to be fully inclusive of them in the governance of the holy church when they meet the canonical age of eligibility and are confirmed. This change would also fit the vision of a patron saint of our Diocese, William Guerry, who famously said, "If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living human soul."

**#02**

**Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the 234<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina promote the acknowledgement of indigenous lands and the acknowledgement of peoples of African descent who may have been enslaved on those lands in its gatherings and worship.

**Explanation**

The acknowledgement of the lands on which we worship, pray, work, and live our lives helps us to appreciate that we have relationships that have not been fully understood or acknowledged. We proclaim that our church “Welcomes All”, yet at the same time, we do not acknowledge that the lands on which we conduct our lives have a troubled history, including the dispossession of the land from its earlier inhabitants and the enslavement of peoples of African descent in the agricultural and industrial production of the land. The ancestors of the land are among the “Great Cloud of Witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1). This resolution serves to acknowledge those witnesses as we move toward a more Beloved Community as the Body of Christ.

### **#03**

#### **Resolution Text**

Resolved, That the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina celebrates the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven and the bishops that ordained them on July 29, 1974, and offers appreciation for their ministry and the ministry of all women in the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge and give thanks to the women who have been called the “Philadelphia Eleven”: the Rev. Merrill Bittner, the Rev. Alla Bozarth-Campbell, the Rev. Alison Cheek, the Rev. Emily Hewitt, the Rev. Carter Heyward, the Rev. Suzanne Hiatt, the Rev. Marie Moorefield, the Rev. Jeanette Piccard, the Rev. Betty Schiess, the Rev. Katrina Swanson, and the Rev. Nancy Wittig; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge and give thanks to the bishops who presided over their ordination, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Corrigan, the Rt. Rev. Robert DeWitt, and the Rt. Rev. Edward Welles II; and be it further

Resolved, That we give thanks to the women priests who have been ordained in the Diocese of South Carolina: The Rev. Joye Cantrell; The Rev. Jennie Olbrych; The Rev. Sally Putnam; The Rev. Cynthia Taylor; The Rev. Callie Walpole; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina commit itself to a vision in which all God’s people may see their gender reflected among those called to ordained ministry in this church.

#### **Explanation**

The ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven represents a profoundly important moment in the history of our church. For fifty years faithful women have now lived out their callings among us as priests. The Diocese of South Carolina has been blessed by the ministry of women priests and—for the first time in our history—a woman bishop. Inspired by their witness, we look forward in faith to the day in which all obstacles are removed from the Lord’s call to service and discipleship for all people.