

Resolved that the 233rd Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina lower the minimal eligible age from 18 to 16 for individuals who may be elected as members of a Vestry or Mission Council. They must remain Confirmed individuals. Moreover, the eligibility age to vote at Annual Parish Meetings or Mission Meetings is likewise lowered to 16.

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 ALL the benefits of canonical adulthood, which the international Episcopal Church has established to be at 16. 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 with Confirmation. It also fits the vision of the Patron Saint of our Diocese, St. 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." This surely includes such eligible confirmed youth.

Submitted by Joe Lenhard, member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, NMB.