

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
221st Diocesan Convention, Oct. 27-28, 2006, Trinity Church, Boston
Actions Taken

Page 1

AMENDED INVITATION TO SPECIAL SEATS

The following shall be entitled to seat and voice, without a vote, in the Convention: Officers of the Corporation; lay members of the Diocesan Council; lay members of the Standing Committee; Ministry Area Steering Committees; and lay Coconveners of Deaneries, provided that the elected lay members of Diocesan Council may vote.

SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

During the afternoon of Friday, October 27, 2006, Convention will temporarily recess for the presentation of resolutions, the amendment to the Constitution and brief comments on the motions for the 2007 budget. Presenters of resolutions will be limited to three minutes per resolution and are asked to present their reasons for presenting the resolution and their hopes for its impact on the mission of the diocese. Presenters on the motions will be limited to three minutes. Delegates and non-delegates will be able to respond after that time, and each respondent will be allowed to speak for two minutes; and

On Saturday, October 28, 2006, during formal debate of resolutions, constitutional and canonical amendments, and other motions moved for consideration, any person seated and with voice will be allowed to speak for two minutes per motion. Five minutes will be allotted per any amendment to main motions: two-and-one-half minutes for the amendment and two-and-one-half against.

RESOLUTIONS ON CLERGY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Resolved, That the diocesan Total Clergy Compensation (TCC) be defined as the total of cash stipend, utilities allowance, housing, SECA (Self Employment Contribution Act) allowance, if any, and all other cash compensation paid to an individual clergy person. TCC does not include benefits (e.g. pension, health or dental insurance, etc.) or reimbursements for job-related expenses as described in the 2007 Guidelines.

Resolved, That the TCC Standard be defined as the minimum TCC for active full time parochial clergy and is determined by the following formula:

$$\text{TCC Standard} = \$53,895 + (112 \times \text{Points}) + \$500 \times \text{years of service within the congregation}$$

Points are determined as the sum of three factors, calculated from data taken from the most recent Parochial Report:

	Total Current Operating Revenues (000s)	X .30
+	Number of Current Adult Pledging Units	X .40
+	Average Current Sunday-Attendance	X .30
=	Total Points	

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
221st Diocesan Convention, Oct. 27-28, 2006, Trinity Church, Boston
Actions Taken

Page 2

No congregation may use fewer than 30 points. Thus, the minimum TCC Standard for full-time parochial clergy is \$57,255.

The TCC applicable to a full time rector, vicar, priest-in-charge or interim shall not be less than 100% of the TCC Standard for the congregation.

The TCC applicable to a full-time curate (recently ordained transitional deacon or priest) shall not be less than 65% of the TCC Standard applicable to the rector.

The TCC applicable to a full-time assistant to the rector shall not be less than 70% of the TCC Standard applicable to the rector.

The TCC applicable to a full-time associate rector shall not be less than 75% of the TCC Standard applicable to the rector.

Resolved, That, for those retired clergy who are 65 years of age and served in the ministry for 32 years with at least ten years in the parish ministry in the Diocese of Massachusetts, a new pension goal of \$20,348 be established, reflecting an increase in the Consumer Price Index for Boston Urban Consumers as of July 31st of 3.6%, with a minimum of \$3,385 for those who served full time for ten years; and that the minimum pension be increased in steps of \$748 for each year of service over ten up to the \$20,348 level, and be it further

Resolved, That toward that pension goal a line item of at least \$18,900 be included in the 2007 Budget of the Diocese entitled "Clergy Pension Supplement" so that the minimum pension can be raised in 2007 to \$3,385. Needs will be evaluated in confidence by an individual or group appointed by the Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church Pension Fund continue to be encouraged to revise its formulae for computing pensions as soon as possible to increase the minimum pensions for a clergy person who was in a full-time ministry for 32 years or more to \$20,348 in the Diocese of Massachusetts, and that the minimum pension amount for surviving spouses of such clergy persons be established at \$12,894; and be it further

Resolved, That the minimum for clergy with ten years of service be established at \$3,385 and for clergy with more than ten years of service that this minimum goal be increased \$748 for each year of service up to the \$20,348. All these established minimums be adjusted annually or every three years to an equivalent value via the cost of living index for clergy retired in other areas.

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
221st Diocesan Convention, Oct. 27-28, 2006, Trinity Church, Boston
Actions Taken

Page 3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Amendment to Diocesan Constitution Article 2, Section 3 (to be replaced in its entirety), [First reading. Must be approved by a subsequent vote of Convention before it becomes effective.]

Sec. 3. Every parish and mission of the Diocese in union with the Convention shall be entitled to send two lay delegates to any session of the Convention. The lay delegates of each parish or mission shall take office upon being certified to the Secretary of the Diocese, shall have a seat and a vote in the Convention and shall remain in office until his or her or their successors are elected and so certified, all subject to the provisions hereof and of the Canons. Every summer chapel in union with the convention shall be entitled to send to any session of the convention two lay delegates who shall be entitled to a seat and voice, but no vote, in the Convention.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution Regarding the Ministry of Blessing Marriages

Resolved, that beginning in 2007, the diocese will engage its laity and clergy in a process of study and dialogue about the nature of Christian marriage and civil marriage in order to clarify and articulate our understanding of the theology and ethics of Christian marriage.

2. Resolution Creating a Diocesan Environmental Stewardship Action Plan

Resolved that the Diocese of Massachusetts in its 221st Convention calls upon each of its parishes and missions to conduct an in-house environmental audit of its energy use, consumption patterns, and plant use and management, and

Resolved that each parish and mission be prepared to report by its 222nd Convention on its audit and its plan to address deficits in its local environmental stewardship, including a report of its comprehensive energy use, and

Resolved that the Diocesan Council will explore the feasibility of financial incentives in the 2009 diocesan budget to parishes who have already made significant progress in addressing environmental stewardship, and

Resolved that the Diocese of Massachusetts develops a long range plan that sets goals and strategies for measurable improvements in sustainability and environmental stewardship in the Diocesan Center at 138 Tremont Street and in each of its parishes, missions, and diocesan properties.

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
221st Diocesan Convention, Oct. 27-28, 2006, Trinity Church, Boston
Actions Taken

Page 4

3. Resolution on Examining the Practice of Communion of the Unbaptized

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts direct Diocesan Council to appoint a task force to study the practice of Communion of the Unbaptized at the parish level and to report its theological and pastoral findings to the 222nd Convention.

4. Resolution on Marriage Rites in Civil Jurisdictions that Permit Same-Sex Marriages

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts request the 76th General Convention to authorize use of the rites for Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage and the Blessing of a Civil Marriage in the Book of Common Prayer for same-sex couples in those civil jurisdictions that permit same-sex marriage, and to authorize modification of gender references in the rites to accommodate such marriages, and be it further

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts request the 76th General Convention to amend Title I, Canon 18: Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony by striking the words “a man and a woman” and “husband and wife” wherever they appear and inserting in place thereof the words “two adults”, and be it further

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts request the 76th General Convention to amend Title I, Canon 19: Of Regulations Respecting Holy Matrimony by striking the words “husband or wife” and “the husband or the wife” wherever they appear, and inserting in place thereof the word “spouse”.

5. Resolution Urging Defeat of Same-Sex Marriage Ban

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts urge the Massachusetts Legislature, in its Constitutional Convention, to defeat the ballot initiative that would amend the state constitution in 2008 in order to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

6. Resolution on Saints' Day, adding a feast day for diocesan trial use

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts charge our diocesan Liturgy and Music Committee 1) to prepare and distribute educational and liturgical material for trial use in 2007 and 2008 for the optional observation of a feast day marking May 17 Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles, and 2) to evaluate responses and prepare a report for our diocesan convention in the fall of 2008, including, if appropriate, a resolution urging General Convention to refer this feast day to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for study for possible addition to the church's calendar, with suggested propers, and 3) in the period between now and the end of our 2008 diocesan convention, to keep the Calendar Committee of the Standing Commission of Liturgy & Music informed of our diocese's approval of this trial use period, our experience with it, and our recommendations.

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
221st Diocesan Convention, Oct. 27-28, 2006, Trinity Church, Boston
Actions Taken

Page 5

Resolution in Response to the Bishop's Address

Resolved that the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts approve the Mission Strategy now consolidated into eight mission goals as presented by Bishop Shaw in his convention address and Be it Further

Resolved that in a "spirit of love" evidenced throughout this convention we embrace these goals as individuals, parishes and as a diocese.

RESULTS OF DIOCESAN ELECTIONS

Clerical Member of Standing Committee: The Rev. Manuel P. Faria III of St. Peter's Church, Beverly

Uncontested Elections

Clerical Member of Standing Committee: The Rev. Ramon Aymerich of St. Anne's Church, Lowell

Lay Member of Standing Committee: Ms. Patricia K. Boyd of St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain

Clerical Member of the Cathedral Chapter: The Rev. Ted Gaiser of Grace Church, Medford

Lay Member of Cathedral Chapter: Mr. Rawson W. Hubbell of St. Anne's in the Fields Church, Lincoln

Board of Directors of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center: Ms. Keitha B. Hassell of St. Augustine's and St. Martin's Church, Boston, and The Rev. Elizabeth Grundy of Christ Church, Swansea

Member of Trustees of Donations: Mr. Timothy J. Hunt of St. Andrew's Church, Marblehead

Treasurer of the Diocese: Ms. Ella Davila Auchincloss of the Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill

Secretary of the Diocese: Mr. Leon A. Brathwaite II of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Waban