

Chancellor Burroughs presented Resolution E-183 at the 2022 Diocesan Convention (first reading).

Resolution E-183: A Resolution of the Committee on Constitution and Canons to Address Impairment of Average Sunday Attendance Calculations

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III.6.a of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese, Lay representation at Convention in this Diocese is based upon average Sunday attendance during the immediately preceding calendar year; and

WHEREAS, church closures and worship restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic artificially suppressed average Sunday attendance calculations; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Diocese to establish a means to address future possible disruptions to Church attendance and preserve the legislative balance of Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article III.6 of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese be amended by adding a new Section 6.d. thereof which shall read as follows:

SEC. 6.d. In the event that any occurrence or circumstance temporarily impairs a Congregation from normal gathering for worship in the year otherwise counted, the Diocesan Council, or the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese with the Diocesan Council's consent, may accord the Congregation the number of Convention delegates determined pursuant to subsection a above for the year before the impairment.

Rationale: The resolution largely speaks for itself. Average Sunday attendance calculations based upon the period when the Diocese was unable to accommodate in-person worship were distorted relative to historical attendance experience. Relying upon such figures would have greatly suppressed Lay participation in Convention and resulted in an imbalance in representation by Order at Convention.

Resolution E-183 (on first reading) was moved by Chancellor Burroughs, and was approved unanimously.