

RESOLUTION (5) Canon III.1

Resolution on Canon III.1

Presented to the Synod of Province III on May 7 – 8, 2018

If adopted, to be forwarded to the Secretary of General Convention (*see C005*)

Resolved, That the Synod of Province III, meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia on May 7 – 8, 2018, endorses the following resolution and hereby instructs the Provincial Secretary to forward it to the Secretary of General Convention by no later than May 25, 2018.



Based on the following Resolution adopted by the Diocese of Virginia:

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention, in recognition of the Jesus Movement and the calling of all the baptized in their daily life and work, appoint a task force to study the implementation of

Title III, CANON 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons which reads:

Sec. 1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including: (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places. (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation;

and be it further

Resolved, That such task force be appointed by the Presiding Officers jointly and that a report be given to the 80th General Convention with its recommendations for the implementation of Canon III.1 in all parishes, dioceses, provinces, and the wider church, focusing on full engagement of all the Baptized in their ministries beyond Sunday in their daily life, work, and leisure.

Explanation

Canon III.1 has been underutilized. For example, few dioceses have a Commission on Lay Ministry or its equivalent that focuses on empowering all the Baptized in their daily life. This resolution seeks to provide a remedy. The Canon calls on The Episcopal Church to “equip the saints for ministry” (Ephesians 4). Adopted in 2003, it provides the skeleton that now needs to be enfolded. In the Catechism under The Ministry (BCP 855) the first order of ministry is lay persons. They represent the 99 % of The Episcopal Church. The Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304-5) is the “job description” for all the baptized in their respective orders. This task force’s work is to recommend processes so that the church can affirm the calling of all the baptized, especially its lay persons, and empower them in all the areas of their ministry in work, home, community, and wider world as well as in the Church.