**RESOLUTION – Amend Canon III.9(5)(d)**

Presented to the Synod of Province III on May 2, 2022

If adopted, to be forwarded to the Secretary of General Convention

*Resolved*, That the Synod of Province III, meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on May 2, 2022, adopts the following resolution, and hereby instructs the Secretary of Province III to forward it to the Secretary of General Convention by no later than June 1, 2022 for consideration by the 2022 General Convention.

Title: Amend Canon III.9(5)(d)

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That this 80th General Convention amends Title III, Canon 9, Section 5(d) as follows:

**Title III, Canon 9, Sec. 5. Transfer to Churches in Full Communion with This Church**

(a) A Priest desiring to become canonically resident within a Diocese or equivalent jurisdiction of a Church in full communion with The Episcopal Church (as identified in Canon I.20) shall request a testimonial from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of current canonical residence, which testimonial shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority to the applicant, and a duplicate thereof may be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese or equivalent jurisdiction to which transfer is proposed. The testimonial may include a portfolio of training, continuing education, and exercise of ministries. The testimonial shall be in the following form or in the form specified by the receiving Diocese or equivalent jurisdiction:

I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical Authority of \_\_\_\_\_, is a Priest of the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ of The Episcopal Church in good standing, and has not, so far as I know or believe, been justly liable to evil report, for error in religion or for viciousness of life, for the last three years.

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese or equivalent jurisdiction of the Church in full communion with The Episcopal Church accepts the testimonial, the canonical residence of the Priest transferred shall date from such acceptance, and notice of acceptance shall be promptly forwarded by the Priest to the Ecclesiastical Authority in the sending Diocese. Such notification from the receiving Ecclesiastical Authority may be in the following form:

I hereby certify that A.B. has been canonically transferred to my jurisdiction and is a Priest in good standing.

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Upon receipt of said acceptance, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the sending Diocese shall notify the Church Pension Fund and the Recorder of Ordinations of the priest’s departure from The Episcopal Church.

(d) This provision shall not be used for Priests who seek to enter churches not in full communion with The Episcopal Church or for those who seek transfer to another Province of the Anglican Communion while remaining geographically within the boundaries of The Episcopal Church. In such cases the provisions of Canon ~~III.8.6~~ ***III.9.9*** shall be followed.

**Explanation**

As written, III.9(5)(d) requires that a Priest, who desires to enter a church not in full communion with The Episcopal Church, to seek “Ordination to the Diaconate for those called to the Priesthood” (Canon III.8.6). This makes no sense. The more appropriate canonical reference here would seem to be Canon III.9.9: “Release and Removal from the Ordained Ministry of this Church.”

Submitted by:

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With thanks to:

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