**RESOLUTION (#7) – Proposed Amendment of Canon IV.6.4**

Presented to the Synod of Province III on May 6, 2024

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

*Note: Resolution A139 to Amend Canon IV.6.4 - Intake Timeline has been submitted by the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. A139 is almost an exact duplicate this Resolution #7. Our own Nathan Brown, nominee for Vice President of Province III, alerted us to the fact that this might be in the works but it was not posted on the GC website before the deadline for resolutions submitted by Deputies. Therefore, it was decided to proceed with this effort under the theory that redundancy is never a problem in The Episcopal Church and sometimes helps.*

*The explanation of A139 is powerful: “It takes a lot of bravery for an Injured Person or Complainant to make a report against a member of the clergy. The silence that follows that report can be deafening. Currently, there is no time limit on the initial intake, which means that silence can last indefinitely and cause undue hardship on the brave soul that made the complaint. This amendment requires that initial intake be completed within 45 days.”*

*Resolved*, That the Synod of Province III, meeting in Martinsburg, West Virginia, on May 6, 2024, endorse the following resolution and hereby instructs the Secretary of Province III to register our endorsement by May 21, 2024, with the Secretary of General Convention.

**Title IV Resolution -- Amend IV.6.4 to require a report from the Intake Officer within 45 days**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 81st General Convention amend Canon IV.6.4 to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*\*) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>

Canon IV.6.4 (Intake Officer, Initial Inquiry):

Sec. 4. Upon receipt of such information, the Intake Officer may undertake such initial inquiry as he or she deems necessary, and shall incorporate the information into a written intake report, including as much specificity as possible. The Intake Officer shall provide copies of the intake report to the other members of the Reference Panel and to the Church Attorney by no later than forty-five days after receiving such information.

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<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made.>

Canon IV.6.4:

Sec. 4. Upon receipt of such information, the Intake Officer may undertake such initial inquiry as he or she deems necessary, and shall incorporate the information into a written intake report, including as much specificity as possible. The Intake Officer shall provide copies of the intake report to the other members of the Reference Panel and to the Church Attorney *by no later than forty-five days after receiving such information.*

**Explanation**

Canon IV.6.7 states: “If the Intake Officer determines that the information, if true, would constitute an Offense, the Intake Officer shall **promptly** forward the intake report to the Reference Panel.” The word “promptly” has been interpreted in the past to mean:

a) no report whatsoever (that Title IV process ended after four months had elapsed with an agreement crafted by an Advisor and signed by all parties); or

b) five and one-half months after four complaints (with thirty signatures) were filed.

These examples are shared from the firsthand experience of one or more of the sponsors or endorsers of this resolution. A time limit of forty-five days would eliminate such abuses.

In the situation where an Intake Officer decides to dismiss a complaint, the complainant is notified and provided an opportunity to appeal (Canon IV.6.5).

Submitted by these elected Deputies:

The Rev. Mary Friel, Diocese of Easton

Mr. Joe McDaniel, Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Mr. Eddie Vance, Diocese of Easton

Endorsed by:

Mr. Nathan Brown, Diocese of Washington (Deputy)

Ms. Sarah Lawton, Diocese of California (Deputy)

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, Diocese of Easton (Alternate Deputy)