

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C025
Title: Juncture of The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan
Proposer: Eastern Michigan
Topic: Dioceses

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A114 Amend Canon I.10 [Of New Dioceses]

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

[The Agreement of Union: The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes](#)

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

C025 - Juncture of The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Eastern Michigan

Endorsed by: Western Michigan

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 03 - Governance & Structure

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church ratify the Agreement of Union between the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, approving the juncture of these two dioceses and creating the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, pursuant to Canon I.10.1.

Explanation

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, having met at a duly called Joint Special Convention on March 16, 2024, approved the Agreement of Union, agreed to juncture and to form a new diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Joint Special Convention followed several years of discernment and ongoing collaboration between these two dioceses. The Convention votes were taken in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and

Canons of each diocese. The Convention of Eastern Michigan approved the resolution on juncture with a majority vote of 85% delegates in favor. The Convention of Western Michigan, having an allowance in their Constitution for a vote by orders on such a resolution, approved the resolution on juncture with votes of 83% of lay delegates and 79% of clergy delegates in favor. The Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, on their own behalf and as the Ecclesiastical Authority in each diocese (in the absence of a bishop), voted to approve the juncture of the two Dioceses to form the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

All the provisions of Canon I.10.1 regarding the necessary actions of the two dioceses have been met, and the necessary documentation (available as supplementary materials to this resolution) has been received by the Secretary of the General Convention more than 90 days before the first legislative day of this convention.

Support Document:

[Agreement of Union & Resolutions - Final](#)



Resolution Number: 2018-A114
Title: Amend Canon I.10 [Of New Dioceses]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention amend Canon I.10 as follows:

Sec. 1. Whenever a new Diocese ~~shall~~ *is proposed* to be formed within the limits of any Diocese, or by the junction of two (2) or more Dioceses, or parts of Dioceses, and such action shall have been ratified by the General Convention, the Bishop of the Diocese within the limits of which a Diocese is formed, or in case of the junction of two or more Dioceses, or parts of Dioceses, the senior Bishop by consecration, shall thereupon call the Primary Convention of the new Diocese, for the purpose of enabling it to organize, and shall fix the time and place of holding the same, such place being within the territorial limits of the new Diocese. ~~the Ecclesiastical Authorities and the Standing Committees of the Dioceses involved in the proposed new diocese shall submit for approval to the Conventions of each Diocese involved a joint agreement of union setting forth their agreements, including the manner of determining the Bishop Diocesan and other Bishops (if any), the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the new Diocese, and such other matters as may be necessary or proper. Upon approval by the Conventions of each of the involved Dioceses, the joint agreement of union shall be submitted for ratification by the General Convention no less than ninety (90) days prior to the first legislative day of the next meeting of the General Convention.~~

Sec. 2. ~~Promptly after ratification by the General Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the new Diocese, as set forth in the joint agreement of union, shall call the Primary Convention of the new Diocese, for the purpose of enabling it to organize, and shall fix the time and place of holding the same, such place being within the territorial limits of the new Diocese. In case there should be no Bishop who can call such Primary Convention, pursuant to the foregoing provision, then the duty of calling such Convention for the purpose of organizing and of fixing the time and place of its meeting, shall be vested in the Standing Committee of the Diocese within the limits of which the new one is erected, or in the Standing Committee of the oldest of the Dioceses by the junction of which, or of parts of which, the new Diocese may be formed. And such Standing Committee shall make the call immediately after ratification of the General Convention.~~

Sec. 3. Whenever one Diocese is about to be divided into two Dioceses, the Convention of such Diocese shall declare which portion thereof is to be in the new Diocese, and shall make the same known to the General Convention before the ratification of such division.

Sec. 4. Whenever a new Diocese shall have organized in Primary Convention in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Canons in such case

made and provided, and in the manner prescribed in the previous Sections of this Canon, and shall have chosen a name and acceded to the Constitution of the General Convention in accordance with Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution, and shall have laid before the Executive Council certified copies of the Constitution adopted at its Primary Convention, and the proceedings preparatory to the formation of the proposed new Diocese, such new Diocese shall thereupon be admitted into union with the General Convention.

Sec. 5. In the event of the erection of an Area Mission into a Diocese of this Church, as provided in Article V, ~~Sec.~~*Section 1*, the Convocation of the said Area Mission shall be entitled to elect Deputies to the succeeding General Convention, and also to elect a Bishop. The jurisdiction previously assigned to the Bishop in the Area Mission shall be terminated upon the admission of the new Diocese.

Sec. 6 (a) When a Diocese, and ~~another Diocese~~*one or more other Dioceses which has been* that were formed either by division therefrom or by erection into a Diocese or a Missionary Diocese formed by division therefrom, shall desire to be reunited into one Diocese, the proposed reunion must be initiated *by the approval of the Conventions of the involved Dioceses of a joint agreement of union setting forth their agreements, including the manner of determining the Bishop Diocesan and other Bishops (if any), provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the new Diocese, and such other matters as may be necessary or proper.* ~~a mutual agreement between the Conventions of the two Dioceses, consented to by the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese.~~ If the said agreement of the Dioceses is made and the consents of their Conventions are given more than three months before the next meeting of the General Convention, the fact of the agreement and consents shall be certified by the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Secretary of the Convention of each *involved* Diocese to all the Bishops of the Church having jurisdiction and to the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses; and when the consents of a majority of such Bishops and of a majority of the Standing Committees to the proposed reunion shall have been received, the facts shall be similarly certified to the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, and thereupon the reunion shall be considered complete. But if the agreement is made and the consents given within three months of the next meeting of the General Convention, the facts shall be certified instead to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, who shall lay them before the two Houses; and the reunion shall be deemed to be complete when it shall have been ~~sanctioned~~*approved* by a majority vote in the House of Bishops, and in the House of Deputies ~~voting by orders.~~

(b) ~~The Bishop of the parent Diocese shall be the Bishop, and the Bishop of the junior Diocese shall be the Bishop Coadjutor, of the reunited Diocese; but if there be a vacancy in the Episcopate of either Diocese, the Bishop of the other Diocese shall be the Bishop, and the Bishop Coadjutor if there be one shall be the Bishop Coadjutor, of the reunited Diocese.~~

(c) ~~Sec. 7~~ When the union of two (2) or more Dioceses or portions of Dioceses or the reunion of the two (2) or more Dioceses shall have been completed, the facts shall be certified to the Presiding Bishop and to the Secretary of the House

of Deputies. Thereupon the Presiding Bishop shall notify the Secretary of the House of Bishops of any alteration in the status or style of the Bishop or Bishops concerned, and the Secretary of the House of Deputies shall strike the name of the ~~junior~~any Diocese that will cease to exist or is being renamed from the roll of Dioceses in union with the General Convention; and, if appropriate, amend the name of the newly united Diocese on the roll of Dioceses in union with the General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1114-1116.