

**CONSTITUTION—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
NOT ADOPTED**

Constitution—Article I, Sec. 4 (Not Adopted)

Mr. McCook of Connecticut, on the Third Day, presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution be requested to prepare and present for the consideration of this House an amendment which shall clarify the term "Layman" as it appears in the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

The above was referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. Pearse, of New Jersey, on the Fifth Day presented Report No. 4 of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution:

Your Committee on Amendments to the Constitution has been requested to prepare and present for the consideration of this House an amendment to the Constitution which shall clarify the term "layman," as it appears in the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

We assume that this direction has particular reference to the use of that word in Sec. 4 of Article I of the Constitution concerning representation of the respective Dioceses in this House. The meaning of the word "laymen" as used in that section is quite clear to your Committee. In our opinion, it means what it says. From time immemorial it has been construed to mean male communicants of the Church as distinguished from those under Holy Orders. So far as we have been able to discover not only has this construction never been questioned but has always been accepted by the Church.

This is the only article in the Constitution in which the words "layman" or "laymen" appear. In other articles they are spoken of as "lay deputies" or "of the lay order."

In the Canons we find under Canon 4, concerning the composition of the membership of the National Council, the words "Bishops, Presbyters, laymen and members of the Woman's Auxiliary." There should be no confusion in anyone's mind as to the meaning of the word "laymen" in this Canon.

In Canon 7, which concerns The Church Pension Fund, provision is made for the election of six *persons* to serve as Trustees.

Canon 8 relates to the Provinces and provides for the representation of each diocese in the provincial Synod. This Canon makes use of the word "laymen" in the same manner as the constitutional provision now under discussion.

In Canon 15, which contains regulations concerning the *laity*, in providing for the transfer of a Communicant, the *laity* are referred to as "he or she" as the case may be.

Canon 50 provides that a deaconess must be a woman and there can be little or no doubt that when reference is made in the Constitution and Canon to Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, only males are included.

However, your Committee feels that it is incumbent upon it to carry out the instructions of this House and in order that the matter may be properly brought before the House for debate and action, we submit the following resolution, but without recommendation:

Resolved, The House of Bishops concurring, that Paragraph 1 of Sec. 4 of Article I of the Constitution be amended, by striking out the word "laymen" in said paragraph and substituting in place thereof, the words "lay persons" and that Paragraph 2 of Sec. 4 of Article I be amended by striking out the word "layman" and substituting in place thereof, the words "lay person."

I move that this report be accepted and that this proposed resolution be placed upon the Calendar.

Request was made, however, for immediate consideration of the resolution.

The resolution was lost, 256 votes to 263 votes.

On motion of the Bishop of Western Massachusetts, on the Seventh Day, the following resolution was referred to the Committee on Canons:

Resolved, That we request the General Convention to interpret the word, "laymen," in the Constitution, Canons, and other official documents of the Church, that it will be understood to include lay women as well as lay men, and further, be it

Resolved, That we call upon the women of the Church to prepare themselves to cooperate with the fullest devotion in all types of work open to the laity of the Church.

Constitution—Article II, New Sec. 6 (Not Adopted)

On motion of Bishop McElwain, on the Sixth Day, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, The House of Deputies concurring, that the following changes be made in the Constitution, and that the proposed alteration be made known to the several dioceses and missionary districts, in order that the same may be adopted by the next General Convention in accordance with Article XI of the Constitution.