

To be proposed in substitution of the originally submitted Resolution 3.

Resolution: Study and Support of Missional Communities in the Diocese of Alabama

Submitted to the 194th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama

Subject: Formation of a Study Group on Missional Communities

Resolved, that the 194th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama requests the Bishop form a study group to examine the formation, organization, and sustainability of Missional Communities, including their governance, financial structures, and relationship with the Diocese and existing parishes; and be it further

Resolved, that this study group shall also explore whether an amendment to Canon 9 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama is necessary to formally recognize Missional Communities as an ecclesial structure within the Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that this study group shall present its findings and recommendations to the 195th Diocesan Convention for further discussion and potential action.

Explanation:

As The Episcopal Church navigates a time of immense change, it is essential to recognize and support diverse expressions of Christian community, including Missional Communities. These communities, rooted in evangelism, worship, and neighborhood engagement, provide new opportunities for spreading the Gospel and ministering to those who may not be reached through traditional parish structures.

Currently, Canon 9 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama formally recognizes only Parishes and Colleges as organizational structures for faith communities. However, the reality on the ground is more complex, with lay-led and mission-focused communities emerging in various contexts.

This resolution ensures a thoughtful and informed approach to integrating Missional Communities into the life of the Diocese by commissioning a study to assess their role, needs, and potential canonical recognition. The study group will report its findings to the 195th Diocesan Convention, providing a foundation for future action that aligns with the Diocese's mission and governance.