

**Title: On Episcopal Authority, the General Convention, the Trial Use Rites for Marriage in the Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Tennessee**

A substitute resolution proposed by the General Resolutions committee of the 185th Annual Convention of the Diocese of TN

*Whereas* this Annual Convention has received three resolutions expressing comparable concerns for the care and well-being of every member of the Diocese during a season when disagreement over the place of the Trial Use rites for marriage is widespread; and

*Whereas* the the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee passed a resolution on “Pastoral Response to the LGBTQ Members of the Diocese of Tennessee” (see attached) originated by the clergy and Vestry of St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, Nashville; and

*Whereas* the Task Force created by that resolution is organized, meeting, and continues its work in the calendar year 2017; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 185th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee direct the Task Force to assess the role of Episcopal authority, as described and implemented by the 2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, in providing a compassionate response to those LGBTQ members who would seek access to ecclesiastical rites for marriage within the boundaries of the Diocese of Tennessee as presided over by clergy canonically resident or licensed to serve in the Diocese of Tennessee.

Specifically, this Convention directs that

- the Task Force organize Diocesan-wide gatherings to inquire after the effect of the requirement for a bishop’s permission in the application of the Trial Use liturgical texts for marriage on local congregations and local clergy;
- the Task Force provide periodic updates to the Bishop and the people of the Diocese including a written report (due 11/01/2017) to the 186th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee, summarizing what it has learned regarding the exercise of Episcopal authority and the Trial Use liturgical texts for marriage in the Diocese of Tennessee;
- the Task Force include in its report any recommendations for action by the 186th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee, including any Diocesan memorial to be considered for the General Convention 2018.