

Resolution 2010-8

Title: **Amendment to Article 2, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Maryland**

Submitted by: The Rev. Eric N. Zile, Holy Trinity, Essex

RESOLVED, that the 226th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland, meeting April 30 - May 1, 2010 repeals the underlined and bold parts of the following section of Article 2 paragraph 2 of its Constitution

The number of lay delegates shall be determined in accordance with the following table: (a) Churches with 400 or fewer communicants, one delegate, and (b) those with more than 400 communicants, one additional delegate for every additional 400 increment of communicants or fraction of that number. For purposes of this paragraph of this Article the number of a Church's communicants shall be that stated in its latest parochial report filed with the Bishop.

and replaces it with:

The number of lay delegates shall be determined in the following manner:

At least one lay delegate from each Church, who shall be at least sixteen years of age and a communicant in good standing of the Church in which he or she is chosen. In addition to the one lay delegate authorized under this article, a Church shall be entitled to no more than three additional Lay Delegates determined as follows:

(i) By October 1 of each year, the Secretary of Convention shall average the Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) as reported in the parochial report of each Church for the last three-year period exclusive of the year immediately preceding Convention. If a Church fails to file its annual report for any of the three the years used to calculate the ASA, the Secretary shall count the attendance in that year as zero.

(ii) The Secretary shall determine the diocesan median ASA number, to which the ASA determined under paragraph (i) above, of each Church shall be compared and the number of lay delegates of each determined as follows:

*Twice the diocesan median and less no additional delegate
Over twice the median to three times the median. 1 additional delegate
Over three times the median to four times the median 2 additional delegates
Over four times the median. 3 additional delegates*

Explanation
(Adapted from 2009)

Average Sunday Attendance is the current method of assessing members' participation in the life of a congregation; therefore, it may provide a better means for congregational representation at the diocesan level

Example: Of 117 congregations, 113 parochial reports were listed in the Post-Convention Journal. The median ASA was 78. Thus, those churches with 156 or less would have one delegate, 157-234, two delegates, 235-312 three delegates, 313+, four delegates.

Using this formula and the figures from last year's Post-Convention journal the delegate count would be 156 as opposed to 146 certified lay delegates for the Electing Convention and 132 lay delegates certified and attending the 224th Convention.

For obtaining the three-year ASA for the 226th Convention (2010), the Secretary of Convention would have used the figures from the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Parochial Reports, thereby eliminating any conflict with the dates of when delegates must be certified and when parochial reports are due.

Note –This Resolution was referred to the Committee on Rights to Seat by the 225th Convention in 2009. The Committee's report follows:

*To: The Secretary of the Diocesan Convention
From: The Rights to Seats Committee
Subject: Resolution 2009-4
Amendment to the Constitution of the Diocese of Maryland*

We have reviewed Resolution 2009-4 and submitted same to review by persons from various parts of the Diocese and find no problems with the resolution; namely, that it would not drastically alter the face or representation of the Diocese in Convention. The one suggestion that was forth coming was the possibility of amending the resolution to cap congregational delegations at four representatives, thus forestalling any single congregation from wielding undue influence. Currently there are no congregations in the Diocese which would qualify under this provision; however, there are at least two which might have this potential in the future.

*Respectfully submitted
Wm L. Smith+*

The mover of this resolution accepted the suggestion of the Committee of Rights to Seat and capped the delegation maximum at four delegates.

As a Constitutional Amendment, this Resolution would need to be approved at two consecutive Conventions. This would be the first reading.