A101

TOPIC: DIOCESES

Convene Consultation on Diocesan Effectiveness

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 541–542; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / Structure

CURRENT FILING STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention request that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church convene a consultation on the effectiveness of dioceses, with a focus on the potential for re-aligning dioceses to maximize their effective witness and ministry; and be it further

Resolved, that the Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider including in the 2013–2015 budget $25,000 to fund such consultation.

EXPLANATION

While there are provisions in the Constitution which enable dioceses to divide and combine, the Commission feels that it would be productive to call for a consultation for dioceses seeking to improve effectiveness and stewardship of resources. Even though the consultation would be open to all dioceses, its focus would be on dioceses which might benefit from considering separating from, combining with, or realigning their boundaries with one or more other dioceses. There are currently some diocesan re-alignment efforts in progress and the Commission encourages them, but seeks to enable additional discussions along those lines. The issues of dividing or combining dioceses are complex and emotional. The consultation the Commission recommends would offer resources to help dioceses identify potential structural changes which could increase their effectiveness and vitality.