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TOPIC: COVENANT

Update Covenant Committee Term Limits

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 556–557; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / World Mission

CURRENT FILING STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct that its representation on covenant committees consist of one bishop appointed by the Presiding Bishop and one priest, deacon, or layperson appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; that terms for these members shall be nine years, rotated so that one of the two shall be appointed at the start of the triennium; that there also be one member from the Standing Commission on World Mission and one liaison from the Executive Council selected from those bodies for three-year terms with an additional three years while he/she is serving on that body to the committees; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention prohibit any person from serving as a representative of The Episcopal Church to a covenant committee for more than nine consecutive years; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct its covenant committee representatives to prepare a report after each of their meetings which will include the minutes of the meeting, provide an update on the use of any funds of The Episcopal Church, outline any future projects that were planned, and describe any policy recommendations that were raised by members of the delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct its covenant committee representatives to file their report with the Standing Commission on World Mission, the Executive Council Standing Committee on World Mission, and the Mission Partnerships Center at the Episcopal Church Center within sixty days of the adjournment of each meeting; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on World Mission to include in its future triennial reports an update on covenant committee work, along with any resolutions related to covenant committee work.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church is involved in several covenant relationships with Anglican provinces and dioceses overseas. In 2006 this resolution was proposed to create term limits and rotations for The Episcopal Church representatives on Covenant Committees. Having lived through the cycle of rotations and with the input of our

Covenant partners, the Standing Commission on World Mission finds that these rotations do not allow for the deep relationships to be nurtured which are necessary in the Covenant and Bi-lateral Committee work. This resolution allows for representatives of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies to remain on the Covenant Committee while the two members rotate off. This change also allows members of Executive Council and the Standing Commission on World Mission to serve for six years or for the duration of their time on those bodies, whichever comes first. This shift would honor the need for rotation while also honoring the Church's need for deeper relationships. Additionally, this resolution reflects the proper reporting structure due to DFMS staff changes.