D002

TOPIC: CANONS

Affirming Access to Discernment Process for Ministry

PROPOSER

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ENDORSED BY SPONSORED BY

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Filed

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CURRENT FILING STATUS PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; currently in proposed budget

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title III, Canon 1, Sec. 2 of the

- 2 Canons of the Episcopal Church be hereby amended to read as follows: No person
- 3 shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or
- 4 ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex,
- 5 marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or
- 6 age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing,
- 7 ordination, or election is hereby established.

EXPLANATION

Title III, Canon 1, Sec. 2 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church states "No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing, ordination, or election is hereby established." This resolution would revise this canon by adding "gender identity and expression" to this list of protected categories of access, but not of right. As we continue to grow in our understanding and embrace of all human beings, it is important for us to be specific in our naming of difference. This proposed revision is based upon our increased understanding and practice to respect the human dignity of transgender people - transsexuals, and others who differ from majority societal gender norms. Gender identity (one's inner sense of being male or female) and expression (the way in which one manifests that gender identity in the world) should not be bases for exclusion, in and of themselves, from consideration for participation in the ministries of the Church.