



The 132nd Annual Council

February 10, 2024

2024 Constitutional Resolution CON-1

First Reading

Submitted by: The Rev. Michael Stone, Christ Church, Amelia;
The Very Rev. Dr. Jeunée Godsey, St. Michael's, Bon Air;
The Rev. Mollie Roberts, Redeemer, Midlothian;
The Rev. Grace Rigby, Redeemer, Midlothian;
The Rev. Brenda Overfield, St. Matthias', Midlothian;
The Rev. Deborah Rankin, St. Barnabas, North Chesterfield

Whereas, our Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father for unity among all his followers that "they may be one as we are one," (John 17:22); and

Whereas, of the 110 dioceses in The Episcopal Church, 104 dioceses, including our sister dioceses in the Commonwealth of Virginia, utilize the title "Convention" for the annual meeting of the church in their diocese, and only six dioceses retain the title "Council" for their annual meeting of the Church; and

Whereas, the use of the word "Council" to refer to the Church's annual meeting was an intentional change made by the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States to distinguish itself from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States during the time of the Civil War and its aftermath, therefore let it be

Resolved, that, in a spirit of reconciliation and unity, the name of the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be changed from "Council" to "Convention;" and let it be further

Resolved, that the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia be amended by striking the word "Council" wherever the same name appears therein referring to the annual meeting of the diocese, and by replacing it with the name "Convention."

Notes:

- We refer those interested in more background and history to read the resources compiled by the Diocese of Virginia before they made this change in 2015, specifically "**Amended Report on the Historical Development of the Name of Diocesan Annual Meetings**" by Julia E. Randle, Historiographer, Diocese of Virginia, 15 January 2015," used with the author's permission.

- The procedure to amend the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia requires a proposed amendment to be voted on by two consecutive annual Councils. If this amendment is approved in 2024, it will be presented for a second reading in 2025. At that time a proposed amendment to the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Virginia would also be presented.