

Proposed Amendment to Article III, Section 2, Members of Convention (First Reading)

Background and Rationale

Our Constitution currently does not provide a means for Convention to grant seat, voice and vote to a member of the Clergy of another Church in full Communion with the Episcopal Church who is actually functioning as pastor for one of our congregations. The proposed amendment to Article III, Section 2 would permit Convention to grant seat, voice and vote to such a member of the Clergy during the period of that minister's service in the congregation. In the absence of the Constitutional amendment, Convention lacks the authority to do so. It is intended to mirror the approach taken by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Church in full Communion with the Episcopal Church. Clergy of the Episcopal Diocese serving as a pastor in an ELCA congregation may be granted the privileges of seat, voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in the ELCA congregation. The proposed amendment would enable Convention to grant reciprocal privileges to an ELCA priest.

Proposed Amendment to Article III, Section 2, Members of Convention (First Reading)

Resolved, that the following sentence be added to the end of the existing text of Article III, Section 2:

A member of the Clergy of another Church in full Communion with the Episcopal Church who has been appointed by the Bishop to serve in a congregation of the Diocese also may be granted seat, voice and vote by Convention during the period of that minister's service in the congregation, on motion, by a majority vote.