

## **Resolution to Permit “Hybrid” Convention (draft)**

Whereas, Article II of the Constitution of the Diocese of Pittsburgh provides in Section 1 that there shall be a stated Convention of the Church in the Diocese, to be held during the months of October or November of each year at such time and at such place within the Diocese as shall be fixed by the preceding Convention; and

Whereas, Section 2 of Article II provides that for any sufficient cause, occurring after the designation of the place of the meeting of the Annual Convention, the Bishop may appoint another time or place, or both, for the meeting of the Convention; and

Whereas, Canon V of the Diocese provides in Section 1 that the Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session; and

Whereas, the Rules of Order of the Diocese provide in Section A.1 that subject to the Constitution and Canons and the Rules of Order, the organization, order of business, and program of work of the Convention shall be determined by the Convention Committee with the approval of the Bishop and Diocesan Council; and

Whereas, the Rules of Order of the Diocese provides in Section E.2 that whenever, in the judgement of the Bishop and subject to the approval of Diocesan Council, it shall appear that it would be impractical or unsafe, because of a risk to the health or safety of the public or individual members of Convention, to hold a meeting of Convention that requires members to attend the meeting at a specific geographic location, the meeting may be held by means of the Internet or other electronic communications technology; and

Whereas, the Convention Committee and the Bishop, in light of the continued COVID-19 risk and to provide a reasonable, practical alternative to the overnight travel expenses required for some Clergy and Lay Deputies by an in person Convention, have requested that Diocesan Council adopt this resolution to permit a “Hybrid Convention” with the Business Portion of Convention taking place virtually and the Program Portion of Convention taking place in person; and

Whereas, the Convention Committee has communicated the plans and procedures for conducting the 157th Annual Convention as a Hybrid Convention to the Diocesan Council.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that Diocesan Council concurs with the recommendation of the Convention Committee and Bishop that the plans for the 157th Annual Convention be based on holding the meeting as a “Hybrid Convention” utilizing previously approved electronic communications technology for the Business Meeting to be held virtually on Friday, November 18, 2022 and an in person gathering for the Bishop’s Address, Program, Ministry Fair, Eucharist and Diocesan Dinner on Saturday, November 19, 2022.