

Amendments related to Official Youth Presence

1 1. To insert Canon 1.4 as follows:
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3 **CANON 1.4 OFFICIAL YOUTH PRESENCE**

4 **Sec. 1.** *In addition to duly elected Lay Delegates, up to fourteen youth (two youth from each*
5 *Convocation) who are duly authorized representatives known as the Official Youth Presence*
6 *shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the Convention. Each*
7 *Convocation may elect or appoint up to two authorized youth representatives and an alternate*
8 *aged between 16 and 19. Convocation certifications shall be forwarded in writing by the*
9 *~~Dean~~/President of each Convocation to the Secretary of the Convention at least 90 days prior to*
10 *the date of Convention.*

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12 2. To amend Section 3 of Canon 1.1 as follows:
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14 **Sec. 3.** Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention shall
15 be given by the Secretary to every Member of the Clergy, to every lay delegate whose election
16 has been certified to the Secretary, ~~and~~ to the Clerk of every Congregation in the Diocese, and
17 the Official Youth Presence at least 30 days before the time appointed for the meeting. In the
18 case of a special meeting, the notice shall also include a verbatim copy of the call issued by the
19 Bishop. Failure to provide timely notice of the annual meetings of the Convention shall not,
20 however, invalidate the Convention.

21 3. To renumber the remaining Canon provisions accordingly.
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23 4. To amend Section 2(a) of the re-numbered Canon 1.5 as follows:

24 **Sec. 2.** (a) Within 15 days of the appointment of the Committee, the convener shall invite, in
25 writing, every Parish Vestry, every Mission Advisory Committee and every Convocation to
26 submit nominations for positions enumerated in Canon ~~1.4.3-1.5.3.~~ below. Nominations shall
27 be submitted not later than 120 days prior to Convention.

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Explanation:

For each General Convention since 1982, Official Youth Presence has been a part in the discernment of legislation on the floor of the House of Deputies with seat and voice. Over the years and decades, many dioceses (i.e. California, Utah) have amended their Canons to grant seat and voice to Official Youth Presence as part of their diocesan conventions.

This amendment modifies the current canon to add Official Youth Presence (OYP) in Section 1.4. This will allow each Convocation to elect or appoint up to two youth representatives starting 2023. Our church needs to hear the voices and concerns of our youth especially in the area of governance and leadership. It's important to be mindful of the decisions we debate and vote on and how these will impact our ministries for the next generation of leaders in the Diocese of Oregon and the wider church.

This canonical change allows young people to participate more fully in the leadership of the Church and take on the responsibility that entails. This mirrors the Official Youth Presence structure from the nine Provinces of The Episcopal Church to the General Convention. Young people given this opportunity have found that their participation has been a transformative experience and has been a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard. This will give youth a sense of ownership in the Church and further encourages them to engage in Church leadership in the future. Taking youth leadership seriously must be a priority to maintain and

grow the Church. It is vital for us to nurture and support young people in their leadership activities in the Church.

Each year, after the Official Presence is elected or appointed in each convocation, they shall participate in the regular convocation meetings leading up to diocesan convention. They shall remain the Official Youth Presence until the next Official Youth Presence is elected or appointed in the following year. Each convocation shall provide mentoring and training to these youth representatives.