

*Meeting on September 14, 2009, the Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, adopted unanimously the following resolution on the Life of the Diocese of Eau Claire. The Vestry subsequently amended the resolution on October 12, 2009:*

To transmit the following resolution on the Life of the Diocese of Eau Claire to the 2009 Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire for consideration and appropriate action; and

To forward copies to each congregation of the Diocese as information:

**Resolution on the Life of the Diocese of Eau Claire**  
**Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire, Wisconsin**  
*September 14, 2009 (As Amended October 12, 2009)*

Whereas, we, the Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, believe that the ministry of the Diocese of Eau Claire and its congregations is unduly impeded by the vacancy of the episcopal office and lack of ongoing episcopal oversight within our Diocese;

Whereas, the Office of Bishop of our Diocese remains vacant and was vacated on April 15, 2008;

Whereas, for the life of Christ's Church, and according to the polity of our Diocese and of The Episcopal Church, the exercise and conduct of the Office of Bishop is indispensable not only for its proper and essential operation, administration, and governance, but for the sake of its primary mission and ministry in the extension by Christ's command of the kingdom of God;

Whereas, the tradition of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, as well as the constitution and canons of our Diocese and of The Episcopal Church, vests in the Office of Bishop essential and unique corporate and ecclesial authority for the life of the Church; and

Whereas, those constitutions and canons reserve certain rights, duties, and privileges for the office and person of a Bishop Diocesan;

Whereas, the assumption of governance functions by the diocesan Standing Committee, consisting of presbyters and laity, acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority, cannot adequately nor effectively fulfill, replace, or stand-in-for the ecclesial function of the episcopal office within this Episcopate and The Episcopal Church;

Whereas, the canons of our Diocese in particular require that the Bishop Diocesan serve as the “Chief Pastor” of “aided congregations”\* and provide direct pastoral oversight; and

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\* Aided Congregations are those that are not self-supporting and served by a vicar or priest-in-charge (cf., rector).

Whereas, some 18 such congregations within our Diocese are now without a Chief Pastor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That, we, the Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral, convey to the 81st Convention (2009) of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Eau Claire our sense that the convention consider separately (a) the question of the immediate need for episcopal leadership within our Diocese, and (b) that of the long-term continuation of the Diocese as an independent episcopal jurisdiction; and be it further resolved

That, for the sake of the Church and the ministry of the Gospel within this Episcopate, we call upon the Convention:

- I. To express thanks to its Standing Committee and to the Task Force for Discernment for Episcopal Oversight for clarifying the options available to the Convention as it considers the ongoing mission and ministry of the Diocese and its corporate existence in both the long and short-term;
  
- I. To direct its Standing Committee, being vested with Interim Legislative Authority between meetings of the Convention, and acting as its

Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, to pursue appointment of a provisional Bishop for the Diocese by its Convention, in accordance with the Canons of The Episcopal Church, Title III, Canon 13 (Of Dioceses without Bishops) Section 1., and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, such that a bishop of The Episcopal Church (defined therein as a bishop of another diocese or a resigned bishop) with particular expertise in church management, planning, and growth may assume provisional charge of our Diocese as soon as workable possible early in 2010;

II. To place our Diocese under the charge and authority of a provisional Bishop, who, in accordance with the canons of The Episcopal Church, shall be authorized to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese until a regular bishop diocesan is elected or ordained, the disposition of the present Diocese is determined, or the relationship between the provisional Bishop and this Diocese is revoked by its Convention.

III. To direct further its Standing Committee, in concert with the provisional Bishop, to continue with urgency exploration of options for the organizational life of this Diocese and opportunities for the growth of the mission and ministry of Christ's Church and its congregations within the territory of this Diocese, including, but not limited to

- A. creative strategies for diocesan reorganization to strengthen the Diocese's ability to support its parishes pastorally, programmatically, and financially within an ever-changing global context;
- B. non-traditional means of funding the canonical responsibilities and programmatic undertakings of the Diocese;
- C. consultation with staff of The Episcopal Church, ecumenical partners, and others with particular expertise in church management, planning, and growth;
- D. formal discussions with the Office of the Presiding Bishop to explore potential avenues for cooperative ministry, including the possibility of ecclesial junctioning as one option among many; and

to direct the Standing Committee to present to the 82nd Convention (2010) a report on its work, findings, and recommendations for the health and future of this Diocese; and

to call upon the parishes of our Diocese to engage likewise in a deliberate and prayerful process of future planning, in cooperative ministry, and in identifying resources for the creative funding and support of their particular ministries and those of the greater Church, keeping ever mindful of the needs of others; and

to call upon the clergy of this Diocese to be faithful in their calling to work relentlessly for the extension of Christ's reign in this world, not only within the parishes of their charge, but in this Diocese and The Episcopal Church, as expressions of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; and

to call upon the members of every parish to rejoice in the Lord always and in the Covenant of their Baptism, to be faithful to the Gospel of God's grace and responsible members of the Body of Christ, renewing personal efforts to undergird the ministry of their congregations, this Diocese, and the wider Church through constant prayerful consideration, full energetic participation, and adequate material support.