

Resolution #1 (Failed)

A Resolution Calling For Nonviolent Resolutions To Conflict

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 80th CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE affirm the conclusion of the October 1, 2002 letter of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church to members of Congress, stating that the conditions of the "Just War" tradition have not been met in the national government's decision to attack the nation of Iraq.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire call upon the Congress and the President to immediately develop for implementation a plan for the prompt withdrawal of U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq, to provide for a transfer of peacekeeping functions to an international peacekeeping force, to work through international and Iraqi organizations in the reconstruction of Iraq's civil and economic infrastructure, and for the full restoration of Iraqi sovereignty.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire call on the members of this diocese to acknowledge and confess that our government's participation in the war in Iraq has resulted in individual and global injustices including passive acceptance of the loss of our military personnel, lack of support and care for those returning home, indifference to the loss of countless Iraqi citizens, silent response to atrocities, illegal confinement without representation or formal charges and torture.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention call on our congregations to seek out opportunities to work toward nonviolent resolutions to conflict.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention, as a community of faith committed to reconciliation and nonviolence taught in the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, encourage wide use of Christian formation materials that stress nonviolent methods to conflict resolution and change

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention call on Episcopalians to honor and support, through their prayers and actions, the armed service men and women who return home with injuries to body, mind, and spirit that they might be restored to wholeness of life and assisted in recovering from injury and trauma

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 80th Convention call upon Episcopalians as an act of penitence, to oppose and resist through advocacy, protest, and electoral action the continuation of the war in Iraq, and encourage the President and Congress to take proactive steps to end our participation as soon as possible.

Resolution #2 (Passed)

Resolution On Improving Communications In The Diocese

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 80th CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE authorize a task force to investigate means whereby inter-congregational relationships would be strengthened to enable an increased sharing of resources at the congregational and diocesan level as a means of enhancing the furtherance of the Great Commission. The task force should focus on strengthening those relationships through a wider distribution of knowledge of the conditions and events on the parochial, diocesan, national, and international level. The task force should examine forums to enable inter-congregational conversations within the diocese, altering the format of Convention, electronic communication, and other options.

And be it further

RESOLVED that the Standing Committee shall appoint a convener for the task force who shall be charged with recruiting other interested persons and convening the task force.

And be it further

RESOLVED that the task force shall have the authority to implement trial projects and to make recommendations to various diocesan staff and committees and to the congregations.

And be it further

RESOLVED that the task force shall make a report to the 81st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire detailing their work.

And be it further

RESOLVED that the task force shall disband at the start of the 81st Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire or at such earlier time if they have completed their work.

Explanation:

The Western Convocation heard concerns regarding a sense of isolation in parts of the diocese and a lack of knowledge concerning conditions at many of our congregations became apparent. Both clerical and lay deputies expressed a need for greater communication within the diocesan community.

Resolution #3: (Passed)

A Resolution Reaffirming The Commitment Of The Diocese Of Eau Claire To Supporting The Millennium Development Goals.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 80th CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE reaffirms its commitment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

And be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention celebrates that, even in the current financial climate in the diocese, the Executive Council has maintained our commitment to the realization of these goals by leaving the \$2,025.00 line item for support of the MDGs in the 2008 budget.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention directs the Executive Council to distribute the \$2,025.00 budgeted for 2008 for support of the MDGs before the end of 2008 according to the following schedule:

\$1,012.50 to the Haiti Project

\$1,012.50 to the Blue Mountain Project

And be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention strongly urges all congregations and Episcopalians in the Diocese of Eau Claire to dedicate a minimum of 0.7% of their income toward ministries that support the MDGs.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the secretary of this Convention forward a copy of this resolution to all state and national government officials with constituencies within diocesan boundaries and issue it in the form of a press release to media outlets within the diocesan boundaries.

Explanation:

At the 78th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire, we committed ourselves to God's mission of global reconciliation embodied in the Millennium Development Goals, and called upon successive Conventions to dedicate 0.7% of the program budget of the diocese toward the achievement of the MDGs. The 2007 budget included \$1,927.00 for MDG support. The 79th Convention reaffirmed this commitment and gave it tangible force by placing \$2,025.00 in the 2008 budget in support of the MDGs.

This resolution seeks to celebrate what has been done, to cement our commitment to continue to live out our commitment in the future, and to call our wider church down this path that has given us such joy and such an expansive experience of Christ's living love for all people.

Resolution #4: (Passed)

A Resolution Committing The Diocese To Process Of Discernment.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS 80th CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE that the Diocese engage itself in process of discernment of the options for episcopal oversight as outlined in the documents titled Episcopal Oversight: What are the Options? And Episcopal Oversight: How do We Decide?

And be it further

RESOLVED that a report will be made no later than the 2009 annual Diocesan Convention.

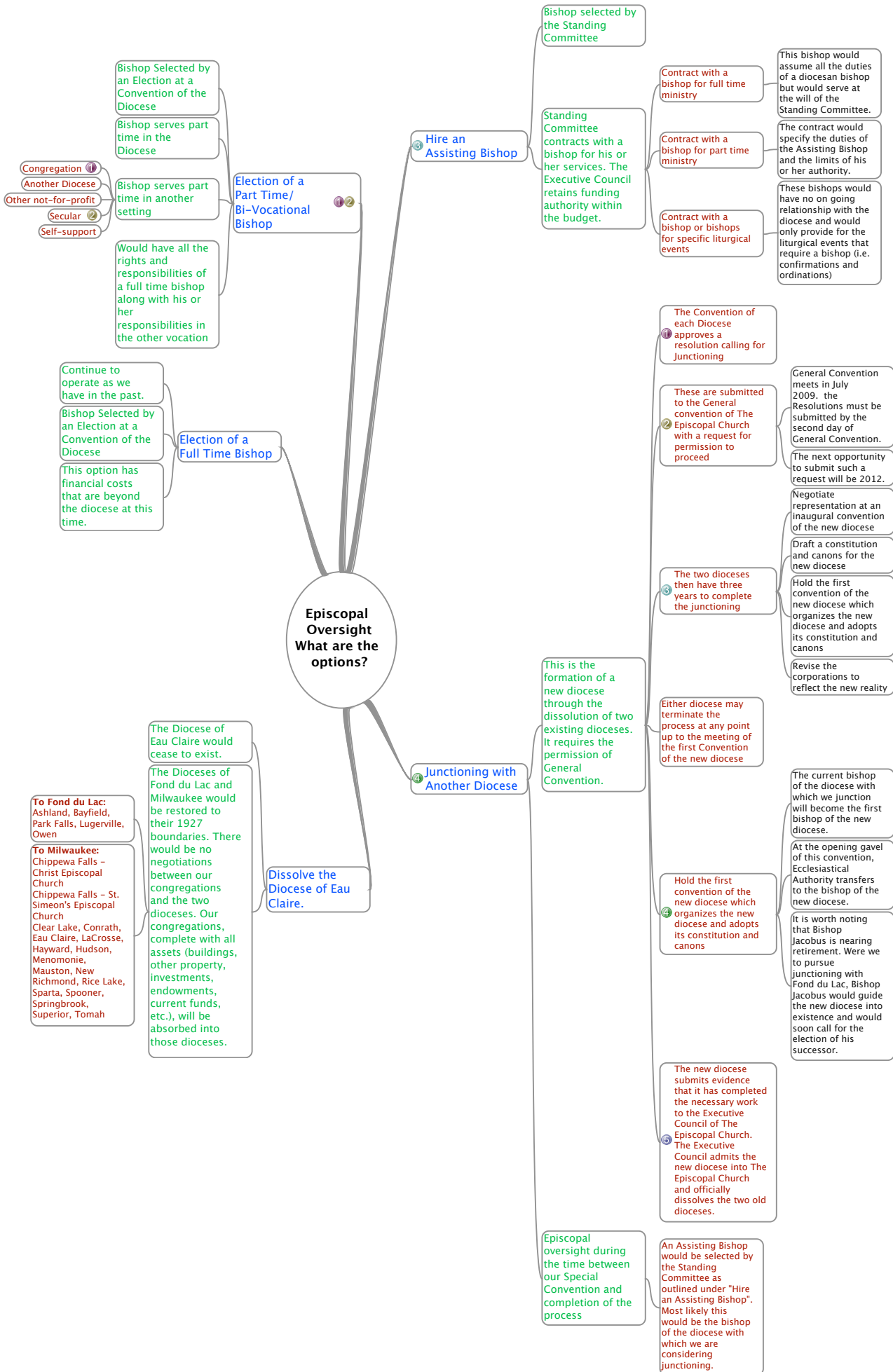
Episcopal Oversight

What are the options?

(Outline Version)

1. Election of a Full Time Bishop
 - a) Continue to operate as we have in the past.
 - b) Bishop Selected by an Election at a Convention of the Diocese
 - c) This option has financial costs that are beyond the diocese at this time.
2. Election of a Part Time/ Bi-Vocational Bishop
 - a) Bishop Selected by an Election at a Convention of the Diocese
 - b) Bishop serves part time in the Diocese
 - c) Bishop serves part time in another setting
 - Congregation
 - Another Diocese
 - Other not-for-profit
 - Secular
 - Self-support
 - d) Would have all the rights and responsibilities of a full time bishop along with his or her responsibilities in the other vocation
3. Hire an Assisting Bishop
 - a) Bishop selected by the Standing Committee
 - b) Standing Committee contracts with a bishop for his or her services. The Executive Council retains funding authority within the budget.
 - Contract with a bishop for full time ministry
 - This bishop would assume all the duties of a diocesan bishop but would serve at the will of the Standing Committee.
 - Contract with a bishop for part time ministry
 - The contract would specify the duties of the Assisting Bishop and the limits of his or her authority.
 - Contract with a bishop or bishops for specific liturgical events
 - These bishops would have no on going relationship with the diocese and would only provide for the liturgical events that require a bishop (i.e. confirmations and ordinations)
4. Junctioning with Another Diocese
 - a) This is the formation of a new diocese through the dissolution of two existing dioceses. It requires the permission of General Convention.
 - The Convention of each Diocese approves a resolution calling for Junctioning
 - These are submitted to the General convention of The Episcopal Church with a request for permission to proceed
 - General Convention meets in July 2009. the Resolutions must be submitted by the second day of General Convention.
 - The next opportunity to submit such a request will be 2012.
 - The two dioceses then have three years to complete the junctioning
 - Negotiate representation at an inaugural convention of the new diocese
 - Draft a constitution and canons for the new diocese

- Hold the first convention of the new diocese which organizes the new diocese and adopts its constitution and canons
 - Revise the corporations to reflect the new reality
 - Either diocese may terminate the process at any point up to the meeting of the first Convention of the new diocese
 - Hold the first convention of the new diocese which organizes the new diocese and adopts its constitution and canons
 - The current bishop of the diocese with which we junction will become the first bishop of the new diocese.
 - At the opening gavel of this convention, Ecclesiastical Authority transfers to the bishop of the new diocese.
 - It is worth noting that Bishop Jacobus is nearing retirement. Were we to pursue junctioning with Fond du Lac, Bishop Jacobus would guide the new diocese into existence and would soon call for the election of his successor.
 - The new diocese submits evidence that it has completed the necessary work to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. The Executive Council admits the new diocese into The Episcopal Church and officially dissolves the two old dioceses.
- b) Episcopal oversight during the time between our Special Convention and completion of the process
- An Assisting Bishop would be selected by the Standing Committee as outlined under "Hire an Assisting Bishop". Most likely this would be the bishop of the diocese with which we are considering junctioning.
5. Dissolve the Diocese of Eau Claire.
- a) The Diocese of Eau Claire would cease to exist.
- b) The Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee would be restored to their 1927 boundaries. There would be no negotiations between our congregations and the two dioceses. Our congregations, complete with all assets (buildings, other property, investments, endowments, current funds, etc.), will be absorbed into those dioceses.
- To Fond du Lac: Ashland, Bayfield, Park Falls, Lugerville, Owen
 - To Milwaukee: Chippewa Falls - Christ Episcopal Church Chippewa Falls - St. Simeon's Episcopal Church Clear Lake, Conrath, Eau Claire, LaCrosse, Hayward, Hudson, Menomonie, Mauston, New Richmond, Rice Lake, Sparta, Spooner, Springbrook, Superior, Tomah



Episcopal Oversight: How do we decide?

(Outline Version)

1. Prayer Team to support the process
 - a) Each congregation to select one member to be part of a diocesan prayer team
 - b) Chaplain appointed by Standing Committee
 - c) Support the entire process with prayer and lead the diocese in an ongoing prayer campaign during this process
2. Gather Information from Outside Sources
 - a) To be the responsibility of the Standing Committee and the Executive Council
 - Each body appoints one representative. This two person team will select a task force made up of lay people, priests, and deacons to gather this information.
 - b) Experience with each option in other dioceses
 - c) Pros and cons of each option
 - d) Costs associated with each option
 - Financial costs: Salary, Housing, Benefits, Travel Costs, Staff Time, Etc.
 - Non-financial costs: Diocesan Moral, Congregational Moral, Effect on Clergy Recruitment, Value of Leadership to Laity and Clergy, Value of Perceived Leadership to Laity and Clergy, Value of representation in the Larger Church, Etc.
 - e) This work to be completed no later than December 31, 2008.
3. Dissemination of Gathered Information Throughout Diocese
 - a) Convocational meetings
 - Strong attendance from the congregations
 - b) Further meetings of groups of congregations
 - c) Clergy meetings
 - d) Congregational level
 - Diocesan wide "Discernment Sunday"
 - e) Herald
 - f) Internet
 - g) Other
 - h) Dissemination of information begins around January 15, 2009.
4. Extensive, active, honest discussions are held at all levels with feed back sent to the diocesan office
 - a) Congregational level
 - b) Clergy gatherings
 - c) Gatherings of congregations
 - d) Convocation level
 - e) Internet
 - Web based discussion forum
 - f) The feedback is summarized into a detailed report.
 - g) This work takes place between February 1 and April 12 (Easter).
5. The report is sent to the congregations and to the clergy and deputies no later then Convention 2009.

Episcopal Oversight: How do we decide?

1 Prayer Team to support the process

Each congregation to select one member to be part of a diocesan prayer team

Chaplain appointed by Standing Committee

Support the entire process with prayer and lead the diocese in an ongoing prayer campaign during this process

2 Gather Information from Outside Sources

To be the responsibility of the Standing Committee and the Executive Council

Each body appoints one representative. This two person team will select a task force made up of lay people, priests, and deacons to gather this information.

Experience with each option in other dioceses

Pros and cons of each option

Costs associated with each option

Financial costs: Salary, Housing, Benefits, Travel Costs, Staff Time, Etc.

Non-financial costs: Diocesan Moral, Congregational Moral, Effect on Clergy Recruitment, Value of Leadership to Laity and Clergy, Value of Perceived Leadership to Laity and Clergy, Value of representation in the Larger Church, Etc.

This work to be completed no later than December 31, 2008.

3 Dissemination of Gathered Information Throughout Diocese

Convocational meetings

Strong attendance from the congregations

Further meetings of groups of congregations

Clergy meetings

Congregational level

Diocesan wide "Discernment Sunday"

Herald

Internet

Other

Dissemination of information begins around January 15, 2009.

5 The report is sent to the congregations and to the clergy and deputies No later than Convention 2009.

4 Extensive, active, honest discussions are held at all levels with feed back sent to the diocesan office

Congregational level

Clergy gatherings

Gatherings of congregations

Convocation level

Internet

Web based discussion forum

The feedback is summarized into a detailed report.

This work takes place between February 1 and April 12 (Easter).

Resolution #5: (Passed) **A Resolution for Consent to Junction.**

Resolution for Consent to Junction

Be it resolved, by the 80th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire, that with the mutual agreement of the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac and the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Eau Claire, that a resolution asking for consent to junction the Diocese of Eau Claire and the Diocese of Fond du Lac be made to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church meeting in 2009.

Rationale

A resolution was brought before and passed at the Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac when it met October 17-18th. That resolution and explanation follows. The intent is to receive permission from General Convention to “junction” if – and only if – both dioceses agree this is God’s desire for his church in this part of Wisconsin. The timing is such that both Conventions need to consider this resolution this year to allow the resolution to come before General Convention the summer of 2009. Please carefully read what follows keeping in mind that just because one has a passport does not mean one much travel abroad. This is not a binding resolution to create a new diocese, but simply the official first step in exploring that possibility and a good faith response to action already taken by the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

Resolution 2008-05 “Consent to Junction” Submitted by the Rt. Rev. Russell E. Jacobus, Bishop After discussion with the Executive Council and the Standing Committee

Be it resolved, by the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, with the mutual agreement of the 80th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire and the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that a resolution asking for consent to junction the Diocese of Eau Claire and the Diocese of Fond du Lac be made to the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2009.

Resolution passed by the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

Explanation

ARTICLE V of the Constitution of the National Church Sec. 1. A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons,... (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses... The proceedings shall originate...by mutual agreement of the conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the Bishop of each Diocese... After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

To junction, in the formal language of Episcopal Church Canons, means the coming together of dioceses to become a new diocese. There have been several conversations about junctioning with the dioceses of Wisconsin in the past, but these conversations never progressed very far.

Since the last Diocesan Convention, representatives of Fond du Lac and Eau Claire have met to discuss

the possibility of the two dioceses junctioning. The conversations continue and the idea of coming together is both exciting and daunting at the same time. There would be many benefits as well as challenges. One criteria that comes up over and over again is that a decision to junction *should be made only if there are clear mission benefits*. To say it another way, junctioning should be about Mission and not maintenance.

Why talk about junction now? The Diocese of Eau Claire and Fond du Lac have similar demographics and heritage. The Diocese of Eau Claire is currently without a Bishop while the Diocese of Fond du Lac has a Bishop with 15 years of experience as Bishop. Congregations in both dioceses face similar ministry challenges. The mission field outside the doors of congregations is the largest it has ever been and is growing.

What is the process to junction? There are basically three steps:

Step1: Getting Permission. General Convention must give formal consent to forming of a new Diocese. This happens after our Conventions mutually agree to ask for consent and the Bishop approves. General Convention's consent does **NOT** form a new diocese, it is simply a step in the process. **It's possible for consent to be given, but then nothing else happen.**

Step2: Getting Together. The dioceses have to get together and work out something new. Junctioning is **not** merging, but forming a new thing. There would be numerous meetings, listening sessions, etc...before adoption of a new Constitution and Canons.

Step 3: Getting Done. If the work is done and a new constitution and Canons adopted by the two dioceses, then it is forwarded to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. Once they review and approve the document and its' filed with the Secretary of the General Convention, the junctioning would be complete and a new Diocese would be constituted.