

RESOLUTION TO CANON 23 SECTION 2 – Concerning General Convention Deputation. Submitted by The Rev. David Knight, rector, St. Simon's on-the-Sound, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 47th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, amend Canon 23, Section 2 to read:

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Deputies-Elect, not less than four (4) months before the meeting of the General Convention, to signify to the Bishop their acceptance of the appointment, and intention to perform its functions, in default of which, the Bishop shall designate so many of the alternates having the greatest number of votes. ~~as shall insure as far as practicable a full representation of the Diocese.~~ Should there be an insufficient number of elected alternates to fulfill deputy vacancies, the Bishop may nominate enough lay and/or clergy persons, qualified as in Section 1 of this Canon, to insure a full representation of the Diocese. Such nomination shall be approved by the Standing Committee.

The persons so designated by the Bishop, being furnished with the Bishop's certificate thereof, shall have all the power of authority of the Deputies elected by the Diocesan Convention.

In case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, or the inability of the Bishop to act, this power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.

Rationale:

While the existing Canon allows the Bishop to authorize an elected alternate, in order of votes received, to replace an elected deputy who can no longer serve, there is no provision to add a deputy in a situation where there are insufficient alternates to fill all vacant deputy slots. The amendment would allow, in such rare occasions, the Bishop, with approval of the Standing Committee, to complete the deputation so our diocese is properly represented at General Convention.