**192-1 Proposed Resolution: Adjust the Membership and Term of Office of The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church**

Resolved, House of _____ concurring, that Canon 1.4.1.d. be amended to the following:

d. The Executive Council shall be composed (a) of ~~20~~ *nine* members elected by the General Convention, of whom ~~four~~ *two* shall be Bishops, ~~four~~ *two* shall be Presbyters or Deacons, and ~~12~~ *five* shall be Lay Persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing ~~(two Bishops, two Presbyters or Deacons, and six Lay Persons to be elected by each subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention);~~ (b) of ~~18~~ *nine* members elected by the Provincial Synods. *Each Province shall be entitled to be represented by one Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon canonically resident in a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province or one lay person who is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province;* (c) of the following *ex officiis* members: the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies; and (d) ~~the Chief Operating Officer,~~ the Secretary of the General Convention, ~~the Treasurer of the General Convention,~~ the Chief Financial Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and the Chief Legal Officer of the Executive Council, all of whom shall have seat and voice but no vote. ~~Each Province shall be entitled to be represented by one Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon canonically resident in a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province and one Lay Person who is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province, and the terms of the representatives of each Province shall be so rotated that two persons shall not be simultaneously elected for equal terms.~~; *(e) the term for all elected members of the Executive Council shall be three years, and members are eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms.*

**EXPLANATION**

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church oversees the programs and policies adopted by General Convention and serves as the board of directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the corporation through which The Episcopal Church conducts its business.

It currently seats thirty-eight elected members.

Few organizations of any kind govern themselves with a board that large. The reasons spring immediately to mind. At thirty-eight persons large, a body is in danger of having reports crowd out deliberation, and debate swell to such a length that little can be accomplished.

This resolution asks the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church to consider reducing the size of this body, while maintaining its representative nature.

If we pass this resolution it will be given to a General Convention legislative committee, who will consider the question, invite expert testimony, engage in discussion, and use their insights to amend any aspect of the text, before determining whether and how it will go to the full General Convention for vote.

Therefore, we need not be experts. Our role is to point to this canon and ask if a change might make our church more effective. A yes vote means the question is worthy. Then General Convention can engage in the more complex deliberations it requires and deserves.

A few notes:

1. This resolution maintains the general shape of representation on the Executive Council, but in smaller numbers.

2. This resolution shrinks the *ex officiis* membership on Council, suggesting the removal of the Chief Operating Officer and the Treasurer of the General Convention, because their input is carried by the other officers who are present (the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Secretary of the General Convention, the Chief Financial Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and the Chief Legal Officer of the Executive Council).

3. This resolution proposes that the term of office be 3 years with the potential of serving two consecutive terms, rather than one 6 year term. This is meant to widen the field of those who might run by allowing people to put their names forward, even if they can only commit to three years.

Many dioceses and congregations across the church have made adjustments similar to these in their vestries, standing committees, and diocesan councils, often finding that smaller bodies work better. Now is the right time to take a look at the size of our Executive Council and ask if fewer members might make it work better too.