

**2019\_AC145\_01**

***Moving the Convention of the Diocese of Newark toward a more Digital Future***

RESOLVED, That except as provided by The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, The Rules of Order of the Convention, and by Statute, this 145th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark commit to working toward a fully digital Convention for all future materials related to the business of the Convention, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that within 30 days of the Annual Meeting at which a congregation elects deputies to the annual Diocesan Convention, the congregation shall submit to the Secretary of Convention contact information for each duly elected deputy. The form to provide this information shall be available on the Diocesan website.

*Submitted by the Secretary of Convention*

**Supporting Information:**

The Annual Diocesan Convention annually generates a tremendous amount of paper. As technology has changed, Convention has *slowly* evolved to provide materials in digital format to allow deputies the ability to view materials on portable electronic devices. For the most part, this has been done in parallel to a mass production of all materials in printed form which is increasingly redundant and a waste of money and paper.

The Cost of sending out pre-convention packets by mail also continues to increase. On average, it costs \$7 per congregation to mail materials to all the deputies. Again, as this is being done electronic versions of the very same documents are available online for download at no cost. In keeping with the practice of the Secretary of Convention’s office, all costs for mailing or printing of materials for the deputies who need hard copies will continue to be absorbed by the Convention budget.

Some of these practices are necessary due to the wording found in the Rules of Order as well as the Constitution and Canons. While those Rules and Canons need to be addressed by the Convention, this resolution would allow electronic distribution to become the practiced norm while continuing to provide printed copies to those who need or prefer that format. NJ State Statutes require written notification of meetings, and we shall continue to abide by the notice of Convention being sent by postal mail.

This resolution also provides an opportunity, should the need arise, to print materials for the entire Convention regardless of the continuing trend of more digital distribution.

The Resolutions Committee recommends the resolution be placed on the Consent Calendar.