

Resolution Format Sample

The Resolutions Committee of the Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina has revised the format of Resolutions that may come before the Convention. In the interest of expeditious handling of business before the Convention it will help the delegates to focus on what is actually being voted upon, as distinct from the reasons behind the proposed resolution.

The main change is that "Whereas" clauses that have typically preceded the actual resolution are eliminated. The explanatory information will follow the body of the Resolution proposed, and will be an explanatory paragraph rather than a string of formalistic phrases.

Why? Because the only thing for debate and/or vote is the text of the actual resolution. Putting the actual resolution first and explanations after will help focus on our business.

Example

Before:

Whereas the weather is changing, and
Whereas the woolly bears have extremely heavy coats this fall, and
Whereas this is a year of the El Niño maritime effect, and
Whereas many churches in our Diocese will be negatively affected by unusually cold weather,
therefore be it resolved that:

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina in its 225th Annual convention held in Pawleys Island SC urges members to dress more warmly on Sundays when it is cold.

Now:

Resolved that the Convention urge all who attend services on unusually cold Sundays to wear warmer than usual clothing.

Explanation: Natural and scientific weather forecasters suggest this will be a very cold winter. Many churches are not prepared for unusual cold, so it would help for attendees to wear warmer than usual clothing on those really cold Sundays.

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Please note: All who propose resolutions are asked to form their resolutions in the "resolution first, explanations second" format. Submissions that do not follow this format will be returned to the proposer for re-drafting. If the Resolutions Committee re-formats your resolution, errors in emphasis may occur.

Please help the committee by presenting what you want to propose in the "contemporary" format. Thank you. We will be glad to consult with any proposers to "perfect" the formation of your resolution.