

Offered by the Resolutions Committee of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

Resolution 25 – 1: Resolution Regarding Canon VII Section 5b

RESOLVED, by the 57th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwest Florida meeting in Punta Gorda on October 11, 2025:

That Canon VII Section 5b be amended to provide:

It shall be the duty of the congregational council to take charge of, and hold in trust for the benefit of the Congregation and the Diocese, the real and personal properties of the Congregation and keep the same fully insured, to provide for the remuneration and reimbursement of the clergy and other ministers and employees serving the Congregation, to prepare a budget providing for the necessary requirements and expenditures of the Congregation, to regulate all its temporal concerns, to keep order in the church during the celebration of Divine worship, and, in general, to act as helpers in whatever is appropriate to laypersons for the furtherance of the Church's welfare.

Explanation:

This amendment confirms a Congregation's obligation to hold and maintain real property in trust for the benefit of the Congregation and the Diocese as set forth in Canon 1.7.4 and Canon 7.4 of the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. The trust clause ensures that, before any property is conveyed, transferred or encumbered, written consent and approval must be obtained from the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

The Committee reports this resolution to the floor with the recommendation that the proposed resolution be passed because this Canon amendment further ensures that the congregational council expressly understands that its responsibility regarding real property includes that said real property is protected from conveyance, encumbrance or transfer without the express written approval of the Bishop and Diocesan Council.