

# THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Episcopal Church's canon describing reunification (1.10.6) requires that the conventions of the dioceses involved both adopt a resolution commending the Agreement of Union. The vote on this resolution functions as the vote on reunification.

## The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

### **RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM**

**WHEREAS**, until 1904, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem were united as one diocese under the name "The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Canons of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church allow for the reunification of dioceses; and

**WHEREAS**, we are one family in Christ, and the resilience and health of the Church as well as the furtherance of its mission are strengthened through greater comity, collaboration, and stewardship of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania entered into a period of intentional exploration with the Diocese of Bethlehem of their future reunification as one diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, this exploration has been conducted by both Bishops, supported by a discernment committee (comprised of their two chancellors, two members of the standing committees, two members of the diocesan council or board of trustees, and two at large members from each Diocese selected by each Diocese's standing committee) with equal representation from each Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bishops have engaged an outside consultant to assist the discernment committee with this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the discernment committee has been charged with exploring potential opportunities in the areas of general operations, formation, finance, pastoral care, stewardship, social justice ministries, staffing, and children and youth ministry, as well as the gifts, strengths, and priorities of each Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, the discernment committee has been charged to consider a plan for full reunification as well as any interim sharing of resources and to provide a draft timetable for those efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, having committed time towards gathering sufficient data to make a reasoned discernment, the discernment committee and both Bishops have jointly concluded that reunification of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem be approved as well as an Agreement of Union to

effectuate reunification; be it

**RESOLVED THAT**, The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, meeting at its duly called Diocesan Convention on October 19, 2024, hereby approves the Agreement of Union and affirms its desire to reunite with the Diocese of Bethlehem as one diocese, pursuant to the Agreement of Union and Canon I.10.6 of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church; be it further

**RESOLVED THAT**, if the consents of both Conventions are given, they shall be certified by the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Secretary of the Convention of each involved Diocese to all the Bishops of the Church having jurisdiction and to the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

**RESOLVED THAT**, if the canonically required consents to the Agreement of Union are received, the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania will, pursuant to the Agreement of Union, enter into a “Year of Transition” with the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, during which time they will take such actions as are necessary to become the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna effective January 1, 2026.

## The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

### **RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM AND THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

**WHEREAS**, until 1904, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem were united as one diocese under the name "The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Canons of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church allow for the reunification of dioceses; and

**WHEREAS**, we are one family in Christ, and the resilience and health of the Church as well as the furtherance of its mission are strengthened through greater comity, collaboration, and stewardship of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Diocese of Bethlehem entered into a period of intentional exploration with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania of their future reunification as one diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, this exploration has been conducted by both Bishops, supported by a discernment committee (comprised of their two chancellors, two members of the standing committees, two members of the diocesan council or board of trustees, and two at large members from each Diocese selected by each Diocese’s standing committee) with equal representation from each Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bishops have engaged an outside consultant to assist the discernment committee with this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the discernment committee has been charged with exploring potential opportunities in the

areas of general operations, formation, finance, pastoral care, stewardship, social justice ministries, staffing, and children and youth ministry, as well as the gifts, strengths, and priorities of each Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, the discernment committee has been charged to consider a plan for full reunification as well as any interim sharing of resources and to provide a draft timetable for those efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, having committed time towards gathering sufficient data to make a reasoned discernment, the discernment committee and both Bishops have jointly concluded that reunification of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem be approved as well as an Agreement of Union to effectuate reunification; be it

**RESOLVED THAT**, The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, meeting at its duly called Diocesan Convention on October 19, 2024, hereby approves the Agreement of Union and affirms its desire to reunite with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania as one diocese, pursuant to the Agreement of Union and Canon I.10.6 of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church; be it further

**RESOLVED THAT**, if the consents of both Conventions are given, they shall be certified by the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Secretary of the Convention of each involved Diocese to all the Bishops of the Church having jurisdiction and to the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

**RESOLVED THAT**, if the canonically required consents to the Agreement of Union are received, the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem will, pursuant to the Agreement of Union, enter into a "Year of Transition" with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, during which time they will take such actions as are necessary to become the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna effective January 1, 2026.

**Sponsor: The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Bethlehem**