

Resolution 4 – Amendment to the Constitution of the Diocese of Bethlehem

I. TYPE OF RESOLUTION:

Update of the Diocesan Constitution

II. TITLE & AUTHOR OF RESOLUTION:

Amendments to the Constitution of the Diocese of Bethlehem
Committee on Constitution and Canons

III. RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That the following Amendment to the Constitution of the Diocese of Bethlehem be approved for the first reading by this 151st Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem:

That Article IV of the Constitution, which currently reads: *Every Convention shall be opened with Prayers, as directed by the Bishop, and at every Convention there shall be a celebration of the Holy Communion.*

Be amended to change each "shall" to "may" and to add the words "at the direction of the Bishop" at the end of the sentence.

Every Convention ~~shall~~ may be opened with Prayers, as directed by the Bishop, and at every Convention there ~~shall~~ may be a celebration of the Holy Communion at the direction of the Bishop.

Explanation

The decision to hold Holy Communion at Convention should be made at the discretion of the spiritual leader of the Diocese. It is not an appropriate matter for regulation by the Constitution. Therefore, the Committee recommends this amendment to clarify that the decision is made at the sole direction of the Bishop.

Resolutions to amend the Constitution must be approved by two successive Diocesan Conventions pursuant to a vote by Orders. This is the first time this resolution is being submitted to Convention.

Respectfully submitted by the following members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons:

Linda M. Henry, Chair

John E. Feather

C.H. Welles, IV

Full Diocese of Bethlehem Canons can be read on the diocesan website: <https://diobeth.org/governance-and-administration/>