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3 **RESOLUTION:** 2016 Amendments to Constitution and Canons

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5 *RESOLVED*, that the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester (“Canons”) be
6 amended as set forth in the attached compared version of the Canons, dated August 19, 2016.
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8 **EXPLANATION:**

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10 The proposed changes are summarized in the attached Memorandum from the Constitution and Canons
11 Committee, dated August 18, 2016 (the “Memo”).
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13 With the exception of two subsequently approved changes, the changes were approved and recommended
14 by the Committee at its May 16, 2016 meeting.
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16 The Committee was tasked to review the timelines and notice requirements in the Canons with a view
17 toward shortening them in light of the rise of electronic communication and delivery. Input was received
18 from clergy and diocesan staff regarding timing, time requirements to accomplish necessary tasks, and
19 what would be reasonable schedules for parishes and staff to carry on the work of the Diocese. Thus,
20 changes are intended to be procedural and are not intended to affect the rights and responsibilities of
21 parties.
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23 The two subsequently approved matters are adding a provision to require the Diocese to have a Human
24 Resources Committee and permitting the Secretary of the Diocese to delegate certain tasks.
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26 Under the Bishop’s authority to run the Diocese, the Diocese has had an HR Committee for a long time.
27 This now provides canonical authority for it.
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29 The duties of the Secretary of the Diocese are substantial. With Susan Woodhouse ending her tenure as
30 Secretary (and we heartily thank her for that!), thought is being given to restructuring the Secretary
31 position to provide for two individuals, one serving as the Secretary of the Diocese, and another being
32 delegated and performing the responsibilities of secretary to Diocesan Council. The amendment provides
33 the authority for this delegation and makes clear that it is permissible.
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35 Vote by Orders. Procedurally, in order for the amendments to become immediately effective, and not to
36 require the approval by majority vote of two successive Diocesan Conventions, they must be adopted by a
37 two-thirds vote in each Order at this Diocesan Convention. This procedure will be suggested.
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