

Proposers: The Billings Deanery (Calvary Episcopal in Red Lodge, Church of the Ascension in Forsyth, Emmanuel Episcopal in Miles City, St. Luke's in Billings and St. Stephen's in Billings) and The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman

Title: Amend Diocesan Canons to allocate Diocesan Convention delegates based on Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)

BE IT RESOLVED:

Canon 3, Section 2, Part c, be amended to read:

Each congregation shall be entitled to lay representation to be based upon ~~adult (age 16 and over) communicant strength~~ their average Saturday evening and Sunday attendance (otherwise known as ASA) as reported in the most recent annual parochial report in accordance with the following table:

<u>Adult Communicants</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
1-100	2
101-200	4
201-300	6
301-400	8
401-500	10
501-600	12
Over 600	14

<u>ASA</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
0 - 24	2
25 - 49	3
50 - 74	4
75 - 99	5
100 - 124	6
125 - 149	7
150 - 174	8
175 - 199	9
200 and Over	10

Explanation:

The goal of replacing the data point for assigning delegates to parishes for Diocesan Convention is a more equitable distribution of votes based on the most widely accepted data point used within the wider Episcopal Church, the Average Sunday Attendance or ASA. The ASA is based on real statistics and the weekly lives of our faith communities. The adult communicant number, on the contrary, is a much more ambiguous and historical measure, often not connected to present realities. Our current system for allocating delegates uses data that may be out of date as parish membership lists are often inflated and not representative of the actual current reality in the parish.

Additionally, this allocation of delegates better reflects the current reality of our diocese by providing more delegates to mid-sized congregations. The largest congregations still receive the most delegates and the smallest still maintain the minimum of two. Also, this move is not unprecedented – a random sampling of nine dioceses (Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Spokane, Wyoming) included five that use ASA and four that use adult communicants as the metric for assigning delegates.

Finally, this move would recognize the inclusion of all of God's people who are present and active in the lives of our congregations. The current model only counts adult communicants. It is important to remember and recognize that children and youth are not the future of the church, they are the church now.

Fiscal Note:

The result of this canonical change should have minimal impact on the Diocese of Montana. This change might result in small increase in fees or expenses for mid-sized congregations, which will have the opportunity to send more delegates to convention.

CHURCH	CITY	2019 adult communicants (in Good Standing)	DELEGATES ALLOWED in 2019	2019 ASA	Delegates Allowed Under Proposed Revised Canon	Percentage Change
St. Mark's	Anaconda	21	2	15	2	0%
All Saints	Big Sky	95	2	61	4	100%
St. Mark's	Big Timber	48	2	14	2	0%
St. Patrick's	Bigfork	53	2	33	3	50%
St. Luke's	Billings	149	4	58	4	0%
St. Stephen's	Billings	90	2	45	3	50%
St. James'	Bozeman	505	12	154	8	-33%
St. John's	Butte	59	2	32	3	50%
All Saints	Columbia Falls	135	4	72	4	0%
St. James'	Deer Lodge	28	2	14	2	0%
St. James'	Dillon	67	2	36	3	50%
St. John's	Emigrant	92	2	38	3	50%
Trinity	Ennis/Jeffers			38	3	
St. Michael	Eureka	49	2	24	2	0%
Ascension	Forsyth	13	2	8	2	0%
St. Paul's	Fort Benton	11	2	8	2	0%
Incarnation	Great Falls	90	2	47	3	50%
St. Paul's	Hamilton	107	4	25	3	-25%
St. Mark's	Havre	12	2	6	2	0%
St. Peter's	Helena	499	10	130	7	-30%
Christ Church	Kalispell	74	2	58	4	100%
St. James'	Lewistown	117	4	47	3	-25%
St. Andrew's	Livingston	128	4	51	4	0%
Gethsemane	Manhattan	22	2	11	2	0%
Emmanuel	Miles City	15	2	9	2	0%
Holy Spirit	Missoula	602	14	138	7	-50%
St. Andrew's	Philipsburg	4	2	4	2	0%
St. Andrew's	Polson	102	4	43	3	-25%
Calvary	Red Lodge	86	2	41	3	50%
Christ Church	Sheridan	46	2	24	2	0%
St. Stephen's	Stevensville	12	2	9	2	0%
Holy Trinity	Troy	6	2	6	2	0%
St. Paul's	Virginia City			17	2	
	Totals	3337	104	1316	103	12%
			ASA	Delegates		
			0 - 24	2		
			25 - 49	3		
			50 - 74	4		
			75 - 99	5		
			100 - 124	6		
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			150 - 174	8		
			175 - 199	9		
			200 and Over	10		

Diocesan Canons for Membership at Diocesan Conventions

Diocese of [South Dakota](#)

Canon 3.1.2 - Lay Order.

Each Congregation shall be entitled to representation by a number of lay Delegates at the rate of the larger of the following: (i) one lay Delegate for each 25 attendees, or fraction thereof, based on the average Sunday attendance for the year; or (ii) at least two Delegates.

Diocese of [Spokane](#)

Constitution, Article VI, Section 2

The parishes and organized missions of the Diocese are entitled to lay representation in Convention based on their average Saturday evening and Sunday attendance as reported in the most recent annual parochial report, in accordance with the following table:

Average Attendance	Number of Delegates
0 - 40	2
41 - 89	3
90 - 134	4
135 - 179	5
180 - 224	6
225 - 269	7
270 - 314	8
315 - 359	9
360 - 404	10
405 - 449	11
450 or more	12

DIOCESE OF [IDAHO](#)

Title II, Canon 2, Section 3, (a)

Elected members in good standing of the congregations they represent and the wardens of each congregation. Each congregation is entitled to elect a minimum of one member, or one member for each thirty (30), or major fraction thereof, of the "average Sunday attendance" as listed in the previous year's Parochial Report. Elected members shall be chosen at the annual meeting of the congregation by its qualified electors. If the congregation has not had an election, the vestry may select the members or if the vestry does not act, the rector, subject to the approval of the Bishop, may appoint the delegates.

Diocese of [Colorado](#)

Title I, Canon 1, Section 1 (a)

Each eligible parish and mission of this diocese shall be entitled to lay representation by the diocesan convention, according to the number of its Average Sunday Attendance set forth in the previous year's parochial report, as follows:

Average Sunday Attendance	No. of Lay Delegates
1-25	2
26-99	3
100-199	4
200-299	5
300-449	6
450-599	7
600 +	8

Diocese of Iowa

Constitution, Article III, Section 4 (a)

The representation of Congregations in the Convention shall be determined by the number of communicants in good and regular standing in the Congregation. Each Congregation shall be entitled to one delegate for each 75 communicants or fraction thereof.

Diocese of Minnesota

Canon 205.1

Calculation of Lay Delegates. Each Congregation in union with Convention is entitled to be represented by Lay delegates based on its number of active baptized members stated in the parochial report to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota for the previous year, as follows:

ACTIVE BAPTIZED MEMBERS	LAY DELEGATES
1-99	1
100-199	2
200-349	3
350-499	4
500-699	5
700-899	6
900-1199	7
1200 & over	8

Diocese of Nebraska

Title I, Canon 2, Section 1

Congregations shall be entitled to Lay representation in the Council according to the number of confirmed communicants in good standing listed in the Parish Register who are sixteen years of age or over and regular contributors of record to the Parish treasury as hereinafter provided:

1 to 50	communicants:	1 delegate
51 to 100	communicants:	2 delegates
101 to 200	communicants:	3 delegates
201 to 300	communicants:	4 delegates
301 to 500	communicants:	5 delegates
Over 500	communicants:	6 delegates

Diocese of North Dakota

Canon 2, Section 2 (b)

Each Congregation in good standing is entitled to representation in the Lay Order at meetings of the Convention as follows:

1. A Congregation of up to fifteen Adult Communicants in Good Standing is entitled to elect two Lay delegates.
2. A Congregation of sixteen to thirty Adult Communicants in Good Standing is entitled to elect three Lay delegates.
3. A Congregation of thirty-one to one hundred and eighty Adult Communicants in Good Standing is entitled to elect three Lay delegates and one additional Lay delegate for each thirty communicants, or fraction thereof, not counting the first thirty communicants.
4. A Congregation of more than one hundred and eighty Adult Communicants in Good Standing is entitled to elect eight Lay delegates and one additional Lay delegate for each one hundred communicants, or fraction thereof, not counting the first one hundred and eighty communicants, to a maximum of twelve Lay delegates.

Diocese of Wyoming
Canon 3, Section 2 (b)

Every Congregation in union with the Diocese and not in violation of the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, shall be entitled to send to the Convention as many lay Delegates as permitted by the following:

The number of lay Delegates shall be based on the average Sunday attendance recorded on the Parochial Report for the year prior to the Convention:

1 to 100	= 2
101 to 200	= 3
over 200	= 4