

**PRE-FILED RESOLUTIONS
(Rules of Order VI)**

RESOLUTION 1

submitted by The Rev. Chris Coats,
Rector, Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

This resolution calls for support of action by the Alabama legislature to allow the people of Alabama to vote on calling a Citizen's Constitutional Convention to write Alabama's 7th Constitution:

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution is a mammoth and cumbersome document having well over 800 amendments, making it the longest and most lowly rated constitution in the country, twelve times longer than the average state constitution; and efforts to revise it article-by-article over the last century have produced very little effect, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution was written as a racist document deliberately designed to suppress the poor and to empower the legislature, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution was ratified in a referendum suspected of electoral fraud, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution impedes local government by denying citizens and their communities the power of home rule, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution impedes economic progress of our communities and the State of Alabama in the 21st Century, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution preserves a fundamentally flawed system of funding public schools and other governmental services, resulting in inadequate and unpredictable funding of essential services to the citizens of Alabama, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution imbeds an unfair tax structure, relying on a disproportionate amount of taxes from individual property owners, middle income and working poor families, and

Whereas, the 1901 Alabama Constitution by its character has created legal circumstances that affront the principles of Christian teaching, and

Whereas, there is a growing grass roots movement calling for a constitutional convention of democratically elected citizen delegates from each house legislative district, as evidenced by newspaper editorials and a statewide petition drive, signed by approximately 75,000 citizens calling for such a Constitutional Convention throughout the state of Alabama,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, through its ordained and lay leaders and its members, be encouraged to actively support, work and pray for enablement of a Citizen's Constitutional Convention for the purpose of writing Alabama's 7th Constitution.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this 39th Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Central Gulf Coast strongly urges action by the members of the State Legislature, the Governor, and other elected officials of the State of Alabama to support and pass the bills that will be introduced in the House and Senate in the current session that will allow the people of Alabama to vote as to whether or not they want such a convention to be called.