

REVISED (2-25-10) MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 3

submitted by
Steve Medina, Lay delegate
St. Simon's on the Sound,
Fort Walton Beach

I hereby respectfully move to amend Resolution 3 as follows:

1. Add a new unnumbered paragraph at the end of Outcome I, A. Out Reach, to read as follows:

In addition to the above, we recognize the overarching need to be proactive in the attraction, nurturing, and retention of children and youth. The Bishop will appoint or form a Task Force on Child and Youth Ministries ASAP, and, where applicable, CCABCC should continually look for creative ways to strengthen ministries to children and youth.

2. Add a new unnumbered paragraph at the end of Outcome 1, B. In Reach before the Ten Year Goals, to read as follows:

In addition to the above, we recognize the overarching need to be proactive in the attraction, nurturing, and retention of children and youth. The Bishop will appoint or form a Task Force on Child and Youth Ministries ASAP, and, where applicable, CCABCC should continually look for creative ways to strengthen ministries to children and youth.

Explanation:

Children and youth represent vitally important parts of the Church of today and tomorrow, to our Master and to the health, growth and stewardship of his body. Attraction, nurturing, and retention of children and youth are challenging but critical to attraction, nurturing, and retention of families, which face a world of pressures and distractions. Our aging demographics as a denomination can be witnessed on most Sundays in our congregations. While we are sometimes blessed with attendance by parishioners of all ages, other denominations admittedly sometimes offer more effective children and particularly youth ministries, and more importantly, children and youth in increasing numbers are not learning about Christ in any place of worship. Although we are proud of our uniqueness as Episcopalians, we need to be willing and mobilized to explore improvements to our children and youth ministries. At present, we may not always effectively be making children and youth a high priority. While mindful of many other important ministries, many of us would acknowledge honestly our greatest area of structural weakness and need as being in the area of children and youth. If we can better attract, nurture, and retain children and youth, our hearts will fill with joy, budgets may balance easier, and our doors, God willing, will remain open until Christ returns.