This Resolution was Substituted

Resolution to Amend the 2004 Budget

Resolved, That the 105h Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana amend the Proposed 2004 Diocesan Budget by allowing congregations of the Diocese to offer to their pledgers the option not to support the national budget of the Episcopal Church, by directing the Treasurer of the Diocese to withhold what would ordinarily have been sent to the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Church in 2004 to be retained in the Diocese for local mission work; and be it further
Resolved, that this amount be calculated by determining what percentage of the total parish budget for 2004 is represented by those choosing not to support the national budget, calculating what amount of the diocesan assessment is thereby represented, and directing the Treasurer of the Diocese to retain 15.99% of that amount.

Explanation: The resolution recognizes that the General Convention of 2003 has left parishes divided and conflicted over its decision regarding the confirmation of the Bishop-elect of New Hampshire, and further recognizes that some members of the parishes of the Diocese of Northern Indiana are unwilling that their pledge money should support the national church budget,

Each parish will decide whether to offer this option to its parishioners. If a parish chooses to do so, the diocesan treasurer will be notified that, of the total amount pledged for the year 2004, what percentage has opted out of national budget support. The amount which would have been given to the national church budget from that parish will then be reduced accordingly when the national church assessment is paid. The figure 15.99% is the amount of each parish's assessment that ultimately goes to support the national budget of the Episcopal Church. [For example, if a parish's assessment for 2004 is $10,000 and 50% of the parish budget for 2004 is accounted for by persons who have opted not to support the national church budget, the amount sent by the diocese to the national Church budget will be reduced by $799.50—15% of $5000.]

This is not an ideal situation, but in a time in which some persons cannot conscientiously support a structure which has gone against their strongly held religious convictions, this seems preferable to a complete withholding of funds from the local church and diocese