

General Convention 2006

Legislation as of June 22, 2006

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution B033

Title: On Election of Bishops

Topic: Bishops

Committee: 26. Special Legislative Committee

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: The Rt. Rev. Dorsey F. Henderson Jr. (Upper South Carolina)

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention receive and embrace The Windsor Report's invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A159

Title: Commitment to Interdependence in the Anglican Communion

Topic: Anglican Communion

Committee: 26. Special Legislative Committee

House of Initial Action: Deputies

Proposer: Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm the abiding commitment of The Episcopal Church to the fellowship of churches that constitute the Anglican Communion and seek to live into the highest degree of communion possible; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm that The Episcopal Church is in communion with the See of Canterbury, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention join with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the primates, and the Anglican Consultative Council in making a commitment to the vision of interdependent life in Christ, characterized by forbearance, trust, and respect, and commend the Windsor Report and process as a means of deepening our understanding of that commitment; and be it further

Resolved, That as an expression of interdependence, the Presiding offices of both Houses work in partnership with the churches of the Anglican Communion to explore ways by which there might be inter-Anglican consultation and participation on Standing Commissions of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

The Windsor Report is part of a process for maintaining the highest degree of communion possible. The first two resolve clauses of this resolution state this General Convention's desire for full life in the Anglican Communion and to maintain the distinctively Anglican bonds of communion. At their 2005 meeting, the primates requested "all Provinces to consider whether they are willing to be committed to the interdependent life of the Anglican Communion understood in the terms set out in" sections A and B of the Windsor Report (Dromantine Communiqué, paragraph 8). The third resolve addresses this question. The final resolve clause invites members of other Anglican churches into the deliberations of our standing commissions as an expression of our mutual responsibility and interdependence with sister and brother Christians from around the world.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A160

Title: Expression of Regret

Topic: Anglican Communion

Committee: 26. Special Legislative Committee

House of Initial Action: Deputies

Proposer: Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

***Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, that the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, mindful of “the repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation enjoined on us by Christ” (Windsor Report, paragraph 134), express its regret for straining the bonds of affection in the events surrounding the General Convention of 2003 and the consequences which followed; offer its sincerest apology to those within our Anglican Communion who are offended by our failure to accord sufficient importance to the impact of our actions on our church and other parts of the Communion; and ask forgiveness as we seek to live into deeper levels of communion one with another.**

EXPLANATION

This resolution addresses the invitation of the Windsor Report that "the Episcopal Church be invited to express regret" for breaching the proper constraints of the bonds of affection (Windsor Report 134). It concurs with and affirms the language of the House of Bishops' expression of regret, thus signaling our synodical intentions to remain within the Communion.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A165

Title: Commitment to Windsor and Listening Processes

Topic: Anglican Communion

Committee: 26. Special Legislative Committee

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend the Windsor Report “as offering a way forward for the mutual life of our Communion” (Primates’ Communiqué), and as an essential and substantive contribution to the process of living into deeper levels of communion and interdependence across the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to the ongoing “Windsor Process,” a process of discernment as to the nature and unity of the Church, as we pursue a common life of dialogue, listening, and growth, formed and informed by the bonds of communion we share ; and urge all members of this church to commit themselves to the call of greater communion and interdependent life; and be it further

Resolved, that the 75th General Convention commend the “listening process” as recommended in the Windsor Report, “so that greater common understanding might be obtained on the underlying issue of same gender relationships” (Windsor Report, ¶135), and be it further

Resolved, that the 75th General Convention gratefully acknowledge the practical steps taken by the Anglican Communion Office to begin a formal “listening process” across the Communion, and be it further

Resolved, that the 75th General Convention commit this church to participating fully and openly in this “listening process,” both at the local level and with the rest of the Communion (ACC 13, Resolution 12) , and be it further

Resolved, that a staff person at The Episcopal Church Center be identified to forward this listening process in coordination with the cognate person for the Communion and with our Communion partners.

EXPLANATION

The Windsor Report has advanced a process for mutual discernment of our common life together in the Anglican Communion. In a similar way, the Anglican Communion has taken steps to fulfill the 1998 Lambeth Conference commitment to a "Listening Process." This resolution commends these two processes and commits the Episcopal Church to participate faithfully in them.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A166

Title: Anglican Covenant Development Process

Topic: Anglican Communion

Committee: 26. Special Legislative Committee

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, as a demonstration of our commitment to mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Anglican Communion, support the process of the development of an Anglican Covenant that underscores our unity in faith, order, and common life in the service of God's mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct the International Concerns Standing Committee of the Executive Council and the Episcopal Church's members of the Anglican Consultative Council to follow the development processes of an Anglican Covenant in the Communion, and report regularly to the Executive Council as well as to the 76th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention report these actions supporting the Anglican Covenant development process, noting such missiological and theological resources as the Standing Commission on World Mission and the House of Bishops' Theology Committee to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates, and the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion; and that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church report the same to the Primates of the churches of the Anglican Communion.

EXPLANATION

This resolution supports the development of an Anglican Covenant as suggested by the Windsor Report, the Primates' Meeting of February 2005, and the 13th Meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council. It directs appropriate bodies in the Episcopal Church to serve as resources for the development of an Anglican Covenant, and to report to the Episcopal Church regularly as to current covenant proposals.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A042

Title: Church Planting Initiative

Topic: Evangelism

Committee: 12. Evangelism

House of Initial Action: Deputies

Proposer: Domestic Mission and Evangelism

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention establish a Church Planting Initiative to raise funds for new congregations in the dioceses of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention call every diocese of this church to identify and document with projected costs and demographics including racial, ethnic, generational, and socioeconomic makeup of the targeted areas, prime opportunities for the development of new congregations including new college campus missions, and communicate this list of opportunities to the Office of Congregational Development by June 30, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development be directed to assemble these reports by December 30, 2007, and convey to Executive Council, in its regular report a comprehensive list of opportunities for new church and campus ministry development and projected costs, and to communicate this list through electronic and print media to the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That upon receipt of the comprehensive report for New Church Development the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council implement a major gifts campaign to fund the Church Planting Initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development in cooperation with the Ethnic Ministries offices, especially the Hispanic Ministries Office, lead and support the Church Planting Initiative by: keeping the church abreast of best practices for church, campus mission and ministry planting; raising awareness of opportunities for starting new congregations, campus mission and ministries throughout the church; assisting individual dioceses in planning and developing a vision and a plan for this Initiative; developing tools for assessing candidates for new church development; and recommending matching grants for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church be a financial partner with dioceses by providing matching grants to dioceses for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider the Church Planting Initiative budget for development staff to identify and nurture new sources of revenue in the grants, gifts, endowments and/or capital fund drives be increased from \$75,000 to \$475,000 during each year of the 2007-2009 triennium; and be it further

*** FINAL VERSION - Concurred**

Resolution A051

Title: Electronic CCAB Meetings

Topic: Communications

Committee: 19. Communications

House of Initial Action: Deputies

Proposer: Communication

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards of the General Convention to begin a process to accomplish an appropriate portion of their work more efficiently and economically by using online tools, conference calls and video conferences.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications held exactly one in-person meeting during this triennium. All other work was done using e-mail, online conferencing, and telephone conference calls. We found great value in having one in-person meeting during the triennium, but believe that having more than one such meeting might have been wasteful. More information is contained in the "working online" narrative, above.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A052

Title: Provincial Communication Specialists

Topic: Communications

Committee: 19. Communications

House of Initial Action: Deputies

Proposer: Communication

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church endorse a position of Provincial Communication Specialist for each of the nine provinces: and be it further

Resolved, That the Provincial Communication Specialist will assist in the implementation of the Communication Strategy of the Church and work directly with congregations and dioceses in the province to build connections for regional communication, to design websites, to develop story creation skills and to institute methods of distribution of news and information generated by each organization's mission work, educational offerings and evangelical outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That this resource person will assist Attendees at workshops led by Church Center and Diocesan program staff in designing stories that will communicate their learning experience as fully as possible to Church members at the local level in order to maximize the effectiveness of such gatherings to the mission, education, and evangelism work of their individual congregations and dioceses, assist in networking information with Standing Commissions and Executive Council as needed and, when possible, offer training to local Church members, both youth and adult; and be it further

Resolved, That persons selected for these positions will be capable communication professionals and will work in coordination with the Episcopal Church Center Office of Communication to teach web design, coordinate dissemination of grass roots stories, both regionally and nationally and create "best practice" networks for continuation of that work throughout the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the resources of the Church Center Office of Communication staff will be available to these persons, who will be based geographically within the Province served ; and be it further

Resolved, That Provinces are encouraged to coordinate with the Episcopal Church's Office of Communication for the identification of such person, in consultation with the provincial leadership staff or a special Provincial Communications Committee created for this purpose; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of up to \$9,000 for each year for a total of \$27,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

While some of this work is already underway, this General Convention is being asked to adopt a general communication strategy which sets goals and expectations for every level of the Church and the positions created through this resolution will assist in providing a trainer and coordinator of regional communication.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A077

Title: Revised Common Lectionary

Topic: Liturgy

Committee: 13. Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: Liturgy and Music - SubCtte on A092 (Multi-Media)

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 75th General Convention direct that the Revised Common Lectionary shall be the Lectionary of this Church, amending the Lectionary on pp. 889-921 of The Book of Common Prayer, effective the First Sunday of Advent, 2007; with the provision for continued use of the previous Lectionary for purposes of orderly transition, with the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority, until the First Sunday of Advent 2010.

EXPLANATION

This Lectionary, produced by the Consultation on Common Texts, composed of a wide number of church bodies, is a revision of the Common Lectionary, which was authorized for trial use by the 67th and 68th General Conventions. This revision reflects the concerns about the Common Lectionary communicated to the Consultation on Common Texts through the Standing Liturgical Commission as a result of trial use. It also reflects issues addressed by Resolution A088 of the 70th General Convention directing the Standing Liturgical Commission to study revision of the Sunday lectionary of the Book of Common Prayer. The Lectionary was again authorized for trial use by the 71st, 72nd, 74th Conventions.

The Revised Common Lectionary is becoming the common lectionary among Christian denominations. Positive responses from congregations who have used the lectionary and the growing number of denominations and provinces of the Anglican Communion using the lectionary lead the commission to recommend this table of readings as the lectionary for the Book of Common Prayer.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution D022

Title: MDGs and the ONE Episcopalian Campaign

Topic: Economic Development

Committee: 09. National and International Concerns

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: The Rev. Randolph K. Dales (New Hampshire)

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend the leaders and members of The Episcopal Church, including Episcopal Relief and Development and program ministries of the Episcopal Church, for their leadership on behalf of the Millennium Development Goals, both through public advocacy and implementation of MDG programs in the developing world; and commend parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses, and others, like Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and the Micah Challenge, for their support of the implementation of the MDGs in fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant and as an expression of the hunger of this church for far deeper communion with all of God's beloved; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention establish the work toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as a mission priority for the coming triennium, and that each diocese, congregation and parishioner be urged to commit to 0.7% giving toward these goals by July 7, 2007 (07/07/07); and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget line item of no less than an additional 0.7% (circa \$900,000) of the non-government revenue of the Episcopal Church for work that supports the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability, and
8. Create a global partnership for development with a focus on debt, aid, and trade; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention encourage parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses to designate the Last Sunday after Pentecost, or such days as may be designated ecumenically for commendation of the MDGs, as special days of prayer, fasting and giving in the Episcopal Church toward global reconciliation and the Millennium Development Goals; and be it further

***Resolved*, that the General Convention request that all dioceses establish a global reconciliation commission or similar body dedicated to mobilizing Episcopalians toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and be it further**

***Resolved*, the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns report to the 76th General Convention on the progress that has been achieved in implementing this resolution; and be it further**

***Resolved*, That the General Convention endorse “The ONE Campaign,” the U.S. movement for the MDGs, through The Episcopal Church’s “ONE Episcopalian” campaign; call on all parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses, and individuals to join the ONE Episcopalian campaign; and publicly endorse The ONE Campaign’s call for the United States government to annually spend an additional one percent of its budget to combat global poverty, and to be active advocates for the achievement of this work.**

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church is to be commended for its endorsement of the Millennium Development Goals and the widespread adoption of 0.7% giving for the implementation of those goals. In addition to our individual and communal giving and advocacy, in this resolution our church joins our ecumenical partners in advocating that the U.S. government spend one percent more of its annual budget to combat poverty in the world. The ONE Campaign is a two year-old U.S. based movement to "make poverty history." The ONE Episcopalian Campaign begins with this convention, equipping dioceses, parishes, and individuals to be effective advocates for the MDGs and connecting Episcopalians with others who seek to end global poverty in our time.

FINAL VERSION - Concurred

Resolution A017

Title: Fundamental Immigration Principles

Topic: Immigration

Committee: 09. National and International Concerns

House of Initial Action: Bishops

Proposer: Anglican and Inter. Peace w/Just.

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of the Episcopal Church.

1. Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.
2. Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.
3. Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.
4. Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.
5. Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane.

And be it further

Resolved, that the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church deploras any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, including militarization of the border between the United States and Mexico, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work, and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, which will include information about the root causes of migration, and be it further

Resolved, that this campaign calls the church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their wellbeing and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.