

Southeast Florida Deputation's Report of the 2009 General Convention Deputation

Diocese of Southeast Florida Report of the 2009 General Convention Deputation

The 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church ("TEC") was held in Anaheim, California, from July 8 through July 17, 2009. Actions taken by General Convention are in the form of Resolutions, which are only effective if they are passed by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. This General Convention received 419 pieces of legislation: 192 came from TEC Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards ("A" Resolutions), 32 Resolutions from Bishops ("B" Resolutions), 87 from Dioceses and Provinces ("C" Resolutions), and 108 Resolutions from Deputies ("D" Resolutions); 330 came to a vote on the floor of Convention.

The texts of all resolutions are available through the General Convention website on the View Legislation pages (subject to correction as to final text), will be published in the Journal of the 76th General Convention, and subsequently in the digital archives of the Archives of TEC. A Summary of Actions of the 76th General Convention is also available which lists the status of all proposed and enacted Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article XII of the Constitution of TEC requires that proposed amendments to the Constitution be passed at one General Convention, read at each Diocesan Convention, and then be passed at the succeeding General Convention, in order to be effective. The following proposed Constitutional amendments were passed on first reading by the 76th General Convention (brackets + boldface show deletions and italics show additions):

B015 Amend Constitution Article I.4

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That lines 3 and 4 and 11 of Article I.4 of the Constitution (page 2) be amended to change the name of the "Convocation of the American Churches in Europe" to "Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe" as follows:

Sec. 4. The Church in each Diocese which has been admitted to union with the General Convention, each area Mission established as provided by Article VI, and the Convocation of the **[American]** *Episcopal* Churches in Europe, shall be entitled to representation in the House of Deputies by not more than four ordained persons, Presbyters or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese and not more than four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese; but the General Convention by Canon may reduce the representation to not fewer than two Deputies in each order. Each Diocese, and the Convocation of the **[American]** *Episcopal* Churches in Europe, shall prescribe the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen.

B029 Consent to Episcopal Elections

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 76th General Convention amend Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church as follows:

Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and

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the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. **[But if the election shall have taken place within one hundred twenty days before the meeting of General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.]** No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.

D029 Amend Article VIII of the Constitution

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution is amended by the addition of a final sentence as follows: *No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.*

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO ALL DIOCESES

The following Acts of Convention have been referred by the Secretary of Convention to dioceses for action, consideration, or information pursuant to Episcopal Church Canon 1.6.4, which requires Dioceses to report annually to the Executive Council of the Church, including "information concerning implementation by the Diocese of resolutions of the previous General Convention which have been specifically identified by the Secretary of General Convention." They are presented here for the information of the clergy and laity of the Diocese.

A003 78th General Convention Site

A033 Peace and Reconciliation in Southern Sudan

A034 Advocacy for Cuba

A036 Haiti

A037 Prayer for a Wall Around Bethlehem to Come Down

A041 War in Iraq

A042 First Use Military Action

A043 Relief for Victims of International Criminal Gangs

A045 Restricting use of Bottled Water, Energy and Water Conservation

A065 Convening and Supporting Evangelists

A074 Endorse Theological Statement on Interreligious Relations

A075 Approve Presbyterian-Episcopal Agreement

A077 Episcopal Health Ministries

A078 Annual Recovery Sunday

A079 Addiction Education for Ordained Ministry

A081 Accommodation for People with Disabilities

A083 Directive for Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation in the Next Triennium

A085 Commendation for the Work of Proclaiming Education for All

A102 Authorize Enriching our Worship 1, 2, 3 and 4

A104 Multicultural Leadership Development

A105 Fresh Start

A138 Establishing a Mandatory Lay Employee Pension System

A142 To Recommit to Being Anti-Racists for the Next Three Triennia (Until 2018)

A143 Extension of General Convention Resolution A123 to General Convention 2012

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A144 Extension of Resolution 127 to General Convention 2012
A159 Address the Issue of AIDS
A161 AIDS Education and Resources
A163 Mandate on NEAC AIDS Tutorial
A164 Commendations to Presiding Bishops
A166 Parental Leave
A167 Trafficking
A177 Denominational Health Plan
A178 Establish the First Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday
A180 General Ordination Exam Fee
A185 Proposed Title IV Revisions
B021 Call for Access to DNA Testing
B022 Indigenous Artifacts
B025 Equitable Education for All Our Children
C020 Condemnation of Torture
C049 Renew and Strengthen Economic Justice Ministry
C051 Wounded Soldiers and Veterans
C052 Increased Media Coverage of Global Crises
C056 Liturgies for Blessings
C071 Health Care Coverage for All
C080 Lay Leadership and Ministry Development
C083 Support for Day Laborers
D007 Sudan Peace and TEC Partnership
D011 Principles for Decisions at the End of Life
D014 Environmental Justice
D015 Merciful and Humane Treatment of God's Creatures
D018 Address the Global Economic Crisis
D019 Recommit to MDGs as a Mission Priority
D020 Provincial Acceptance of Anglican Covenant
D025 Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion
D032 Non-Discrimination in Lay Employment
D035 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery
D051 "The 80-Cent Solution": Support for World Missionaries
D065 Youth Seat, Voice and Vote on Vestry
D075 Mission, the Heartbeat of the Church
D090 Inclusive Church Paper Work
D092 Reaffirm
D095 Prison Ministry Sunday
D096 Prevention of Domestic Violence

PARTICULAR RESOLUTIONS OF NOTE

The following General Convention resolutions are of particular note as affecting Episcopal dioceses, congregations and individuals:

Resolution D055, Tithing (not on the above list), the General Convention "reaffirmed the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians" and asked that individual Bishops and

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Deputies who "either are tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years" so indicate by name (or anonymously) in a list to be published in the Journal of the Convention. In testimony on the floor of the House of Deputies, Albert T. Mollegen, Jr., Deputy from the Diocese of Connecticut and the sponsor of the resolution, asked dioceses and congregations to reaffirm this on their own levels.

Resolution A065, Convening and Supporting Lay Evangelists, directed dioceses to identify and call forth evangelists and to provide adequate training programs for evangelists, and directed the Episcopal Church Center to support dioceses in training evangelists by gathering and disseminating materials.

Resolution A073 established full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces.

Resolution A078, adopted the Agreement between The Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA) which had been approved by PCUSA in 2008. The Agreement provides for continued cooperation and ongoing dialogue.

Resolution A082, adopting the Charter for Lifelong Christian Education, affirmed that lifelong Christian Formation is foundational to the success of TEC, urged each diocese to study the Charter and implement it locally. The Charter focuses on God's INVITATIONS to all people, God's INSPIRATION of all people, and God's TRANSFORMATION of all people.

Resolution A088, Enriching Our Worship (also not on the list), authorizes the use of *Rachel's Tears, Hannah's Hopes*, a collection of liturgies and prayers for healing from loss related to childbearing and childbirth.

Resolutions A096, Additional Calendar Commemorations, and A097, Authorize Trial Use of Commemorations (each also not on the list), collectively approve for trial use until the next General Convention revised commemorations in the Calendar of the Church Year and propers for such commemorations as set forth in the draft *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*, to replace *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. Both of these sources are printed at length in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. *Holy Women, Holy Men* is expected to be published in paperback and electronic formats for use during the coming triennium. Congregations are to report back to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music prior to the next General Convention as to their experiences with the added celebrations and the appropriateness of the proposed prayers and scripture passages.

By Resolution A138, Establishing a Mandatory Lay Employee Pension System, General Convention reaffirmed the requirement of a 1991 resolution that lay employees of dioceses, missions, parishes, or any "other ecclesiastical organization or body subject to the authority of the Church" who are scheduled to work 1,000 hours a year or more be covered by a mandatory pension plan, to be administered by The Church Pension Fund. While the 1991 legislation was also mandatory, and was to be implemented by diocesan canons, a survey commissioned by the 2006 General Convention found that only 70% of eligible employees churchwide were currently being covered by the plan. The 2009 resolution incorporates the lay pension requirements into Episcopal Church Canon I.8, and there is a deadline of January 2012 for full compliance.

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Resolution A177, Denominational Health Plan, mandates a church-wide health insurance plan to cover all domestic clergy and lay employees of dioceses, parishes, missions, and other church organizations that are scheduled to work 1,500 hours a year or more. The plan would be administered by The Episcopal Church Medical Trust and would replace plans previously negotiated by individual dioceses or parishes. The plan establishes parity between clergy and laity in terms of medical coverage offered and costs of the insurance. Implementation of the new plan is to be completed by the end of December 2012.

News coverage and commentary were given to **Resolutions C056, Liturgies for Blessings**, calling for the collection of liturgical and theological resources concerning the church's responses to the developments of civil same-sex unions, and **D025, Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion**, calling for continued Episcopal Church participation with the other Provinces of the Anglican Communion as it develops its ecclesial response to the acknowledged presence and ministry in our church of gay and lesbian Episcopalians. These carefully-crafted resolutions give responsibility to bishops to take a pastoral role in leading their dioceses forward amidst the controversies that we are facing.

Resolution D038 adopted A Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics which calls upon The Episcopal Church Center, dioceses and congregations to develop programs to serve the spiritual needs of the Latino/Hispanic community and to develop and share resources (including step-by-step curricula) for becoming an inviting church for Latinos/Hispanics. \$300,000 was included in the Budget for pilot projects in support of this Resolution.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Deputation thank the Diocese for its financial and theological and moral support.

We acknowledge the participation of diocesan representatives in the committee structures that were essential to the workings of the Convention: Tom O'Brien served on the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance. The Reverend Carol Barron served on the Committee on Canons. Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs served on the Legislative Committee for World Mission. The Reverend Horace Ward served on the Legislative Committee on the Structure of the Church. The Reverend Chip Stokes served on the Legislative Committee on Evangelism. Canon Richard Miller served on the Legislative Committee for Dispatch of Business. In addition, The Reverend Horace Ward and Canon Richard Miller served as coaches for the training during Convention for the Public Narrative project, in which many in the Southeast Florida deputation participated.

One of the more impressive aspects of participation in General Convention is the variety of liturgical practices in the Daily Convention Eucharists. We also commend the prayers and the meditations that were offered in the House of Deputies through the course of Convention by the Rev'd Frank Wade, Chaplain to the House. These can be found at episcopalchurch.org by clicking on General Convention.

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We encourage others to seek election as Deputies or Alternates. The next General Convention is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 4 through July 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev'd Carol Barron	Canon Richard E. Miller, Deputation Chair
The Rev'd Willie Allen Faiella	Mr. Thomas G. O'Brien III
Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs	Mr. Saulo Salvadore
The Very Rev'd Bernard Pecaro	Ms. Charlotte Vinik
The Very Rev'd Jeannie Lou Reid	Ms. Bonnie Weaver
The Rev'd Chip Stokes	Ms. Kristen Wood
The Very Rev'd Horace Ward	
The Rev'd Marty Zlatic	