

Resolution #5

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CLERGY LETTER PROJECT

Resolved, That the 39th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southeast Florida approve the following Resolution and support its submission to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

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Resolved, That the 76th General Convention endorse The Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science, and urge Episcopal clergy participation in The Clergy Letter Project; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge Episcopal scientists to serve as technical consultants for members of the clergy as part of The Clergy Letter Project; and be it further

Resolved, That 76th General Convention reaffirm Resolution A129 of the 75th General Convention and oppose the introduction into the science curriculum of public schools of faith-based theories of creation such as Creationism, including Intelligent Design; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention strongly encourage participation by Episcopal parishes in the Annual Evolution Weekend sponsored by The Clergy Letter Project.

Explanation

Resolution A129 of the 75th General Convention affirmed that the theory of evolution “provides a fruitful and unifying scientific explanation for the emergence of life on earth [and] that many theological interpretations of origins can readily embrace an evolutionary outlook.” It also encouraged “science education based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community.” (www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution-complete.pl?resolution=2006-A129)

The Catechism of Creation published in 2005 by The Episcopal Church’s Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith presents an affirmation of creation theology that is fully cognizant of and consistent with the best contemporary scientific understandings of nature (www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/CreationCatechism.pdf).

The Clergy Letter Project (www.butler.edu/clergyproject/Clergy_project.htm) asks clergy to sign a letter that science and religion are not in conflict. Over 11,000 clergy have signed the letter. Over 600 scientists have agreed to serve as technical consultants for members of the clergy as part of The Clergy Letter Project.

The Clergy Letter Project encourages faith communities to participate in Evolution Weekend in February each year. In 2008, as reported by Episcopal Life Online (www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_94294_ENG_HTM.htm), over 100 Episcopal congregations participated in the Third Annual Evolution Weekend and many leaders of The Episcopal Church’s Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith actively participated.