

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D050
TITLE: Bishop Election in Diocesis de Ecuador Central
PROPOSER: Rvda. Lourdes Inapanta
COMMITTEE: Consecration of Bishops

Directly Related: (attached)

None

Indirectly Related:

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

TOPIC/TITLE: Consecration of Bishops: Bishop Election in Diocesis de Ecuador Central

PROPOSER: Rvda. Lourdes Inapanta

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church not confirm the election of Rev. Luis Fernando Ruiz Restrepo as
3 Bishop of the Diócesis de Ecuador Central; and be it further

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5 Resolved, That the Diócesis de Ecuador Central begin once more the election process for
6 a Diocesan Bishop with the approval of the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal
7 Church.

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EXPLANATION:

WE, CLERGY, LAY MEN AND WOMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONS OF THE DIÓCESIS
CENTRAL DE LA IGLESIA EPISCOPAL DEL ECUADOR WHO CONSTITUTE 57% OF THE TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS OF OUR CHURCH'S 34TH ORDINARY CONVENTION, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN
QUITO ON FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 2009, WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:1. UPON THE
ORDER OF DEPOSITION OF FORMER BISHOP JOSÉ NEPTALÍ LARREA MORENO OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ECUADOR "CENTRAL DIOCESE", A NUMBER OF BISHOPS, BOTH
VISITING AND INTERNAL STEPPED FORWARD, WITH THE MOST REVEREND WILFRIDO
RAMOS ORENCH, BEING CHOSEN AS INTERIM BISHOP. AFTER TWO MEETINGS, HE
REQUESTED AT THE 33RD ORDINARY CONVENTION, THAT THE PROCESS TO SEARCH FOR
A "BISHOP COADJUTOR" WITH RIGHTS TO SUCCESSION AFTER BEING DIOCESAN BISHOP
BE STARTED. 2. A SEARCH COMMITTEE WAS CREATED, CONSISTING OF THREE
CLERGY, AND THREE LAY MEN AND WOMEN WHO JOINTLY DECIDED TO ORGANIZE AN
EMERGENCY CONVENTION ON DECEMBER 20, 2008. THE SINGLE MAIN PURPOSE BEING
THE ELECTION OF THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL; FOR THIS
PURPOSE, PROVINCE IX AND THE WHOLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WERE INVITED TO
PRESENT CANDIDATES FOR THIS MOST IMPORTANT POSITION.3. RESUMES WERE
PRESENTED FOR: THREE CLERGY WITH CANONICAL RESIDENCE IN ECUADOR, TWO OF
THEM ECUADORIAN AND THE THIRD ITALIAN-BRAZILIAN, NATIONALIZED IN ECUADOR,
AND NINE FOREIGNERS FROM THE VARIOUS DIOCESES. 4. THE MEMBERS OF THE
SEARCH COMMITTEE RATE THE RESUMES AS FOLLOWS: " FOREIGNERS WERE RATED
OBJECTIVELY BASED ON THEIR RESUME. " ECUADORIANS WERE RATED SUBJECTIVELY
ON THEIR LIFE ACCOMPLISMENT, WITH ERRORS, FAILURES AND 10% OF VIRTUES. "

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THE FINAL RESULTS WERE: OF THE NINE FOREIGNERS, FIVE WERE CHOSEN; OF THE ECUADORIANS, NONE, WITHOUT RIGHTS TO APPEAL.5. SEVERAL MEETINGS WERE HELD, WHICH LEAD TO CONTROVERSY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN THE CRITERIA USED TO SELECT "THE FIVE FINAL CANDIDATES." 6. WHEN THE CLERGY AND LAY MEMBERS OF THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DE ECUADOR HEARD ABOUT THIS RATING, THEY REQUESTED THAT THIS DECISION BE RECONSIDERED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE CLERGY BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED AS DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS OUR ECUADORIAN PARTICIPANTS, AS THERE WAS NO LOGICAL REASON FOR THEIR DISQUALIFICATION. 7. BECAUSE OF THIS, THERE WERE DISAGREEMENTS AND IMPOSITION OF CRITERIA OF THREE OF THE MEMBERS WITHIN THE SEARCH COMMITTEE; THIS PRECIPITATED THE RESIGNATION OF THREE OF ITS MEMBERS, WHO ARE WOMEN AND WHO "HAVING THE VOICE OF THE CLERGY WERE NOT HEARD AND THEIR CRITERION, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS WERE NOR RESPECTED." THIS LEFT 50% OF ITS MEMBERS, FOR WHICH REASON: " THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST REASON TO STOP THE PROCESS AS THERE WAS NO COMMITTEE; EVEN WORSE, THIS OFFICE CAN FUNCTION WITH FIFTY PER CENT OF ITS MEMBERS, WHOSE CRITERIA WAS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PARALIZED. " THE SECOND REASON IS THAT THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION APPROVED SIX MEMBERS TO MAKE UP THIS COMMITTEE. THE MOMENT THREE OF THEM STEPPED DOWN, THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY THEIR SUBSTITUTES, AS DICTATED BY CANON, OR AT LEAST NAME SUBSTITUTES. NOT DOING SO, IS AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS.8. THE DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SET A NEW SCHEDULE WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DIOCESAN CLERGY CANDIDATES. IN ORDER TO BE NOMINATED DURING THE EMERGENCY CONVENTION AND BE QUALIFIED AS CANDIDATE, CANDIDATES REQUIRED THE SUPPORT OF 30% OF ALL DIOCESAN CLERGY AND THE SUPPORT OF DELEGATES AND LAY MEMBERS OF THE EMERGENCY CONVENTION. THIS MEANT THAT ANY CANDIDATE SHOULD BE BACKED BY AT LEAST FOUR CLERGY AND FOUR LAY DELEGATES. 9. THE DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DOES NOT HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL NOR CANONICAL RIGHTS TO ESTABLISH THESE CRITERIA. 10. IN DECEMBER 2008, HAVING MET ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS, A CLERGY WITH VOICE AND CANONICAL RESIDENCY IN THE DIOCESE PRESENTED THE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DID NOT APPROVE; AFTERWARDS BISHOP WILFRIDO RAMOS ORENCH DECLARED HIS OWN PROCESS NULL AND ILLEGALLY CANCELED THE EMERGENCY CONVENTION.11. DURING THE 34TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION A RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED TO VOTE WHICH WOULD DETERMINE THAT THE DIÓCESIS DEL ECUADOR CENTRAL SHOULD ASK THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS TO CARRY OUT THE ELECTION FOR A DIOCESAN BISHOP IN ITS NAME. 12. THE RESULT OF THE VOTING WAS A TIE OF 18 VOTES IN FAVOR AND 18 VOTES AGAINST FROM CLERGY AND LAY MEMBERS.13. REV. NANCY MARLENE LLUMIGUANO ARÉVALO, WAS NOT AVAILABLE, AS SHE WAS IN NORTH CAROLINA AT A SPIRITUAL RETREAT AND BY HER AFFIRMATION AND SIGNATURE ON THIS REQUEST TO NOT APPROVE THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP, HERS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE VOTE TO DEFINE THE NON-ELECTION OF THE BISHOP, IN KANUGA, ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS.14. FOR THIS REASON, THE INTERIM BISHOP WITH JURISDICTION CLAIMED HIS RIGHT TO VOTE AND CANCELED THE TIE-IN IN FAVOR OF HIS OWN RESOLUTION. 15. THE BISHOP DID NOT ACCEPT THE PREVIOUS CANONICAL OPTION TO BE ASSUMED, WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD TO EXERCISE THIS RIGHT IN NAME OF OUR DIOCESE. IN THIS MANNER, ONCE MORE, THE CANONICAL SPIRIT AND RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE WAS UPSET, AS THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DEL ECUADOR HAS ITS OWN REPRESENTATION THERE.16. IN MARCH OF 2009, AGAIN WITHOUT US PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS IN KANUGA, REVEREND LUIS FERNANDO RUIZ RESTREPO, CLERGY OF THE DIÓCESIS DE COLOMBIA, WAS ELECTED AS DIOCESAN BISHOP OF THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DE LA IGLESIA EPISCOPAL DEL ECUADOR. 17. THIS ELECTION OUTRAGED AND UPSET THE HOPE AMONG THE MAJORITY OF CLERGY AND LAY MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR DIOCESE TO EXERCISE THE

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SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO VOTE. WE WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO VOTE FOR OUR OWN BISHOP. 18. DURING A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JULY 1ST, 2009, THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS, i.e., 4 OF THE 6, DID NOT ACCEPT TO ENDORSE THE ELECTION OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP, AS TITLE III CANON 11 SECTION 1 PARAGRAPH B(2) WAS NOT OBSERVED.THEREFORE, AND RESORTING TO CANONICAL RIGHT AND TRADITION OF ANGLICAN PARTICIPATION, THE SIGNATORIES BELOW, MORE THAN HALF OF WHICH ARE CLERGY, LAY MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 34TH ORDINARY CONVENTION WHICH TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 16 AND 17 OF 2009, WE ASK THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES TO NOT RATIFY BISHOP ELECT LUIS FERNANDO RUIZ RESTREPO AS DIOCESAN BISHOP OF THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DEL ECUADOR.WE THEREFORE CONSIDER THAT: 1. THE ELECTION PROCESS WAS TOTALLY CONTAMINATED WITH NULLITY FROM THE BEGINNING. 2. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAIR, ETHICAL AND MORAL TO HOLD THE DIOCESAN EMERGENCY CONVENTION, AS ESTABLISHED IN CANON AND DULY CONSTITUTED, AND ELECT OUR BISHOP AND, IF THIS DOES NOT LEAD TO A FINAL AND FIRM ELECTION, THEN TO MOVE THE PROCESS TO THE SYNOD OF PROVINCE IX, TO THE CANONICALLY APPROPRIATE PARTY IN THE SUCESSION AND OF WHICH THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DEL ECUADOR IS A MEMBER. 3. THE INTERIM BISHOP WITH JURISDICTION WAS AT FAULT BOTH PASTORALLY AND ETHICALLY WHEN HE USED HIS VOTE TO DEFINE A SITUATION THAT HE HAD ENCOURAGED. 4. THE RESULT OF THIS PROCESS REPELS AND DRIVES AWAY OUR DREAMS FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTH AND AUTONOMY OF ANGLICAN PERSPECTIVE AND CHRISTIAN FAITH.5. A NEW AND IMMEDIATE ELECTION PROCESS SHOULD BE ORGANIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CANON 11 SECTION 5 OF THE GENERAL CANONS. 6. TO MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE AND IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITY OR OUR DIOCESES WE REITERATE TO THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES OF THE 76th GENERAL CONVENTION TO NOT RATIFY THE ELECTION OF DIOCESAN BISHOP REV. LUIS FERNANDO RUIZ RESTREPO. SIGNATORIES:CLERGY AND LAY MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 34TH ORDINARY CONVENTION OF THE DIÓCESIS CENTRAL DEL ECUADOR ON FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 2009.

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