

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A125
TITLE: Anglican Communion Task Force
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church
COMMITTEE: World Mission

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A159 Affirm Commitment to the Anglican Communion
2006-A166 Support Development of an Anglican Covenant
2000-C009 Celebrate Diversity and Structure of the Anglican Communion and Affirm Understanding of Authority

Indirectly Related:

2006-A165 Commend the *Windsor Report* and Commit to the "Windsor Process"
2006-B032 Affirm Intent that No Resolution Affect the Status of the Anglican Communion
2006-D031 Endorse Triennial Budget Mission Priorities Statement
2003-C014 Refer a Resolution on the Reaffirmation of Anglican Heritage and Tradition
1979-A113 Instruct Representatives to the ACC

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.



Resolution Number: 2006-A159
Title: Affirm Commitment to the Anglican Communion
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 338.



Resolution Number: 2006-A166
Title: Support Development of an Anglican Covenant
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 339-340.



Resolution Number: 2000-C009
Title: Celebrate Diversity and Structure of the Anglican Communion and Affirm Understanding of Authority
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church celebrate the diversity of cultures and races of the member churches of the Anglican Communion; and be it further
Resolved, That the Convention note that the breadth of cultural differences in the Communion today is both a gift and a challenge to understandings of authority in our communion; and be it further
Resolved, That the Convention affirm the Anglican experience of shared provincial authority as an authority shared among lay, clerical, and episcopal orders as well as among the many and diverse churches of the Anglican Communion; and be it further
Resolved, That the Convention commend the Episcopal Church's ongoing participation in the variety of ways Anglicans come together as the Body of Christ including, but not limited to, diocesan and national conventions, the Anglican Consultative Council, Lambeth Conferences, the Primates Meeting, Anglican Congresses, and official and unofficial networks; and be it further
Resolved, That the Convention encourage the continuing evolution of conciliar modes of discernment in the practice of an authority that relies upon scripture, tradition, and reason as the basis for our discernment of God's will in our lives.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 257.

TOPIC/TITLE: Bishops: Anglican Communion Task Force
 PROPOSER: Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church
 C&C PAGE:
 BB PAGE: 626

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention establish,
- 2 pursuant to Joint Rule IX, a Task Force on Anglican Communion Relations to consider
- 3 and make recommendations to the 77th General Convention on requests from any of the
- 4 Instruments of Communion which require a response from The Episcopal Church; and be
- 5 it further
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- 7 *Resolved*, That the Task Force shall consist of the Presiding Bishop, the President of the
- 8 House of Deputies and twelve other members (4 bishops, 4 clergy and 4 lay persons),
- 9 which shall include persons with expertise in the Constitution and Canons of The
- 10 Episcopal Church and the ministries and structures of the Anglican Communion; and be
- 11 it further
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- 13 *Resolved*, That the Task Force may, subject to its budget, request the assistance of
- 14 members of the Presiding Bishop's staff and other experts as consultants; and be it further
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- 16 *Resolved*, That the Task Force shall have a budget of \$100,000 for the next triennium;
- 17 and be it further
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- 19 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 20 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for the
- 21 implementation of this Resolution.
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EXPLANATION:

During the last two triennia (2003-2009), The Episcopal Church has been asked to respond to requests from various Instruments of Communion. The General Convention alone has the authority and responsibility to make such responses. More requests such as these, which may include a draft of an Anglican Communion Covenant, may be forthcoming. The Task Force on Anglican Relations would be responsible to research and study such requests and make recommendations to the 77th General Convention. The Institutional Wellness and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Task Force was created by General Convention Resolution 2003-A023. The Task Force met and worked during the 2003-2006 triennium, continuing in part the work of the Committee on Sexual Exploitation. General Convention Resolution 2006-A158 recommended that the Task Force continue for the 2006-2009 triennium; however, the Resolution was not funded in the

Review Status: Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F

Budget passed at the 2006 General Convention, and ,therefore, the Task Force has not functioned during the 2006-2009 triennium. That Resolution also asked the Commission on Structure to look at the advisability of continuing the Task Force beyond the current triennium. After discussions with a number of parties involved in this work, the Commission on Structure concluded that the Presiding Bishop's Office of Pastoral Development and the Church Pension Group are currently doing this work and are prepared to continue to do so. Accordingly, appointment of a Task Force through General Convention is not recommended.