

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A134
TITLE: Mission Partners
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on World Mission
COMMITTEE: World Mission

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A166 Support Development of an Anglican Covenant
2003-A150 Call the Church to Study the World Mission Document, "Companions in Transformation"
1979-A035 Declare a Statement on Christian Unity

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.



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: 2003-A150
Title: Call the Church to Study the World Mission Document,
"Companions in Transformation"
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 2003 General Convention call the church to study, during the 2004–2006 triennium, the vision for world mission contained in the document, "Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century," prepared by the Standing Commission on World Mission; and be it further

Resolved, That a study group in each diocese be designated to make a critical study of the Vision statement, this group to include diocesan representatives of groups such as Companion Diocese Committees, the Global Mission Network, United Thank Offering, Episcopal Relief and Development, and other member groups of the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) and others as may be available, and that a report from each diocese be forwarded to the Standing Commission on World Mission by World Mission Sunday in January 2005; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention call on parishes, dioceses, voluntary mission agencies, seminaries, mission networks, and Episcopal Church Center agencies to participate in the outlined process during the triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention request the Standing Commission on World Mission to gather and interpret responses from around the church and make specific programmatic and budgetary proposals to the 2006 General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 634f.



Resolution Number: 1979-A035
Title: Declare a Statement on Christian Unity
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That this 66th General Convention declares:**

The visible unity we seek will be one eucharistic fellowship. As an expression of and a means toward this goal, the uniting Church will recognize itself as a communion of Communion, based upon acknowledgment of catholicity and apostolicity. In this organic relationship all will recognize each other's members and ministries. All will share the bread and the cup of the Lord. All will acknowledge each other as belonging to the Body of Christ at all places and at all times. All will proclaim the Gospel to the world with one mind and purpose. All will serve the needs of humankind with mutual trust and dedication. And for these ends all will plan and decide together in assemblies constituted by authorized representatives whenever and wherever there is need. We do not yet see the shape of that collegiality, conciliarity, authority and primacy which need to be present and active in the Diocese with its Parishes as well as nationally, regionally, universally; but we recognize that some ecclesial structure will be necessary to bring about the expressions of our unity in the Body of Christ described above. We do not yet know how the particular traditions of each of the Communion will be maintained and developed for the enrichment of the whole Church. We do not see how the Church will be shaped by the particular histories and cultures within which she is called to fulfill her mission. All Christians are challenged to express more fully among themselves the biblical call to mutual responsibility and interdependence. We believe ways can now be found to express this call to a communion of the Churches in the Body of Christ. As the Churches become partners in mission they will move from present interrelatedness to interdependence.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-47.

08 - World Mission

A134

TOPIC/TITLE: Missionaries: Mission Partners
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on World Mission
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 636

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church build upon the work of Companions in Transformation; and
3 recognizing our desire to work towards mutuality in mission we resolve to change the
4 name of all our mission personnel in ministry around the Anglican Communion from
5 "Missionary" to "Mission Partner".
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EXPLANATION:

Recognizing the reciprocal nature of mission work in the Anglican Communion today, as well as the historical understanding of the term "missionaries", which has caused tensions with our brothers and sisters around the globe, the SCWM, along with the Mission Personnel Office, seeks to find ways of addressing mutual responsibility and interdependence in our relationships outside of The Episcopal Church. "Mission partner" recognizes the reality that when we engage in work overseas, we are learning just as much from those we encounter as we are able to teach. This Resolution calls for changing all references in the Canons from "missionary" to "mission partner".