

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C087
TITLE: Repeal B033
PROPOSER: Diocese of Maine
COMMITTEE: World Mission

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A092 Applaud Anti-Racism Training
2006-A095 Reaffirm Support of Gay and Lesbian Persons
2006-A159 Affirm Commitment to the Anglican Communion
2006-A160 Express Regret for Straining the Bonds of the Church
2006-A161 On the Topic of Contributing to Strains on the Communion (Rejected)
2006-A165 Commend the *Windsor Report* and Commit to the "Windsor Process"
2006-A167 Reaffirm Church Membership of Gay and Lesbian Persons
2006-B032 Affirm Intent that No Resolution Affect the Status of the Anglican Communion
2006-B033 Exercise Restraint in Consecrating Candidates
2003-A111 Revise Title III Canons
2000-C043 Affirm and Endorse The Cambridge Accord
2000-D039 Acknowledge Relationships Other Than Marriage and Existence of Disagreement on the Church's Teaching
1997-A053 Implement Mandatory Rights of Women Clergy under Canon Law
1997-D011 Apologize for the Church's Rejection of Gays and Lesbians
1994-D007 Amend Canon III.4.1 [Equal Access to Ordination Process]
1985-B013 Express the Mind of the House on Gender and the Episcopate
1979-A053 Recommend Guidelines on the Ordination of Homosexuals
1976-A069 Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals

Indirectly Related:

1976-B101 Study the Matter of the Ordination of Homosexuals
1976-B102 Study the Matter of the Ordination of Homosexuals
1976-D058 Study the Matter of the Ordination of Homosexuals

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.

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Resolution Number: 2006-A092
Title: Applaud Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention applaud the training provided by the Anti-Racism Committee and Church Center staff; the training's encouragement of the church's membership to appreciate cultural differences and assistance in helping us understand the negative effects of racism, prejudice, and other types of oppression; and the committee's encouragement of the leadership of The Episcopal Church at all levels to become totally inclusive of diverse groups in their midst by the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 534.



Resolution Number: 2006-A095
Title: Reaffirm Support of Gay and Lesbian Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm The Episcopal Church's historical support of gay and lesbian persons as children of God and entitled to full civil rights; and be it further
Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm the 71st General Convention's action calling upon "municipal council, state legislatures and the United States Congress to approve measures giving gay and lesbian couples protection[s] such as: bereavement and family leave policies; health benefits; pension benefits; real-estate transfer tax benefits; and commitments to mutual support enjoyed by non-gay married couples"; and be it further
Resolved, That the 75th General Convention oppose any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 704.



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-A160
Title: Express Regret for Straining the Bonds of the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, mindful of “the repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation enjoined on us by Christ” (Windsor Report, paragraph 134), express its regret for straining the bonds of affection in the events surrounding the General Convention of 2003 and the consequences which followed; offer its sincerest apology to those within our Anglican Communion who are offended by our failure to accord sufficient importance to the impact of our actions on our church and other parts of the Communion; and ask forgiveness as we seek to live into deeper levels of communion one with another.

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



Resolution Number: 2006-A161
Title: On the Topic of Contributing to Strains on the Communion
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church regret the extent to which we have, by action and inaction, contributed to strains on communion and caused deep offense to many faithful Anglican Christians as we consented to the consecration of a bishop living openly in a same-gender union. Accordingly, we urge nominating committees, electing conventions, Standing Committees, and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise very considerable caution in the nomination, election, consent to, and consecration of bishops whose manner of life present a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.



Resolution Number: 2006-A165
Title: Commend the Windsor Report and Commit to the "Windsor Process"
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend the Windsor Report “as offering a way forward for the mutual life of our Communion” (Primates’ Communiqué), and as an essential and substantive contribution to the process of living into deeper levels of communion and interdependence across the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to the ongoing “Windsor Process,” a process of discernment as to the nature and unity of the Church, as we pursue a common life of dialogue, listening, and growth, formed and informed by the bonds of communion we share; and urge all members of this Church to commit themselves to the call of greater communion and interdependent life; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commend the “listening process” as recommended in the Windsor Report, “so that greater common understanding might be obtained on the underlying issue of same gender relationships” (Windsor Report, ¶135); and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention gratefully acknowledge the practical steps taken by the Anglican Communion Office to begin a formal “listening process” across the Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit this Church to participating fully and openly in this “listening process,” both at the local level and with the rest of the Communion (ACC 13, Resolution 12); and be it further

Resolved, That a staff person at The Episcopal Church Center be identified to forward this “listening process” in coordination with the cognate person for the Communion and with our Communion partners.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 688-689.



Resolution Number: 2006-A167
Title: Reaffirm Church Membership of Gay and Lesbian Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm that gay and lesbian persons are by Baptism full members of the Body of Christ and of The Episcopal Church as “children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church” (GC1976–A069); and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reiterate its apology “on behalf of The Episcopal Church to its members who are gay or lesbian, and to lesbians and gay men outside the Church, for years of rejection and maltreatment by the Church,” and recommit to “seek amendment of our life together as we ask God’s help in sharing the Good News with all people” (GC1997–D011); and be it further

Resolved, That, in evidence of that apology, The Episcopal Church pledge to include openly gay and lesbian persons on every committee, commission or task force developed for the specific purpose of discussing issues about sexuality and request the same of our sister churches in the Anglican Communion and Anglican Communion bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reiterate that “our baptism into Jesus Christ is inseparable from our communion with one another, and we commit ourselves to that communion despite our diversity of opinion and, among dioceses, a diversity of pastoral practice with the gay men and lesbians among us” (GC2003–C051).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 669-670.



Resolution Number: 2006-B032
Title: Affirm Intent that No Resolution Affect the Status of the Anglican Communion
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention affirm that no resolution of the General Convention is intended to affect either the historic separate and independent status of the churches of the Anglican Communion or the legal identity of The Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 688.



Resolution Number: 2006-B033
Title: Exercise Restraint in Consecrating Candidates
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention receive and embrace The Windsor Report's invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation; and be it further
Resolved, That this Convention therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 650-653.



Resolution Number: 2003-A111
Title: Revise Title III Canons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

[*Resolved*, That Canon III.1 is amended to read as follows.]

CANON 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons

Sec.1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

- (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
- (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.

Sec. 2. No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing, ordination, or election is hereby established.

Citation: Canon III.1 is excerpted from the Final Text of the revision to Canons Title III. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), pp. 641-667.



Resolution Number: 2000-C043
Title: Affirm and Endorse The Cambridge Accord
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm and endorse the Cambridge Accord of October 1, 1999 and urge all members of the House of Bishops to affix their names to the Accord, the text of which follows.

THE CAMBRIDGE ACCORD

In the name of God, we, the bishops of the Anglican Communion who have affixed our names to this Accord, publish it as a statement of our shared opinion in regard to all persons who are homosexual. We affirm that while we may have contrasting views on the Biblical, theological, and moral issues surrounding homosexuality, on these three points we are in one Accord:

- **That no homosexual person should ever be deprived of liberty, personal property, or civil rights because of his or her sexual orientation.**
- **That all acts of violence, oppression, and degradation against homosexual persons are wrong and cannot be sanctioned by an appeal to the Christian faith.**
- **That every human being is created equal in the eyes of God and therefore deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.**

We appeal to people of good conscience from every nation and religious creed to join us in embracing this simple Accord as our global claim to human rights not only for homosexual men and women, but for all God's people.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 565f.



Resolution Number: 2000-D039
Title: Acknowledge Relationships Other Than Marriage and Existence of Disagreement on the Church's Teaching
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the members of the 73rd General Convention intend for this Church to provide a safe and just structure in which all can utilize their gifts and creative energies for mission; and be it further Resolved, That we acknowledge that while the issues of human sexuality are not yet resolved, there are currently couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in marriage and couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in other life-long committed relationships; and be it further

Resolved, That we expect such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God; and be it further

Resolved, That we denounce promiscuity, exploitation, and abusiveness in the relationships of any of our members; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church intends to hold all its members accountable to these values, and will provide for them the prayerful support, encouragement, and pastoral care necessary to live faithfully by them; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge that some, acting in good conscience, who disagree with the traditional teaching of the Church on human sexuality, will act in contradiction to that position; and be it further

Resolved, That in continuity with previous actions of the General Convention of this Church, and in response to the call for dialogue by the Lambeth Conference, we affirm that those on various sides of controversial issues have a place in the Church, and we reaffirm the imperative to promote conversation between persons of differing experiences and perspectives, while acknowledging the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 287f.



Resolution Number: 1997-A053
Title: Implement Mandatory Rights of Women Clergy under Canon Law
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That

- a. **no member of this Church shall be denied access to the ordination process, postulancy, candidacy, ordination, license to officiate in a Diocese, a call to a cure in a Diocese or Letters Dimissory on account of their sex or their theological views on the ordination of women;**
- b. **no member of this Church shall be denied a place in the life and governance of this Church on account of their sex or their theological views on the ordination of women;**
- c. **it is the mind of this Convention that, notwithstanding the legislative history surrounding the passage of those Title III canons relating to the ordination of women, and notwithstanding subsequent actions of the House of Bishops not in General Convention assembled, the provisions of the canons of the General Convention, insofar as they may relate to the ordination of women and the licensing and deployment of women clergy, are mandatory; and**
- d. **during the next triennium each Diocese where women do not have full access to ordination and where ordained women are not permitted to carry out their full ministries shall develop and implement a process to implement fully Canons III.8.1, III.16.1(d), III.16.2, and III.17.3 and that status reports on these Diocesan processes be reported to the interim House of Bishops meeting in 1999, the Executive Council in 1999, and the 73rd General Convention through the Executive Council.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 112.



Resolution Number: 1997-D011
Title: Apologize for the Church's Rejection of Gays and Lesbians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That, while acknowledging the diversity of opinion among the Bishops and Deputies of this Convention on the morality of gay and lesbian sexual relationships, the 72nd General Convention apologize on behalf of the Episcopal Church to its members who are gay or lesbian, and to lesbians and gay men outside the Church, for years of rejection and maltreatment by the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church shall seek amendment of our life together as we ask God's help in sharing the Good News with all people.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 278.



Resolution Number: 1994-D007
Title: Amend Canon III.4.1 [Equal Access to Ordination Process]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title III, Canon 4 be amended by adding a new sentence to Section 1 as follows:

No one shall be denied access to the selection process for ordination in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by these Canons. No right to ordination is hereby established.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 811-12.



Resolution Number: 1985-B013
Title: Express the Mind of the House on Gender and the Episcopate
Legislative Action Taken: Adopted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the majority of the members of this House do not intend to withhold consent to the election of a Bishop of this Church on ground of gender, and we call upon the Presiding Bishop-elect to communicate this intention to the Primates of the Anglican Communion and seek the advice of the Episcopate of the Anglican Communion through the Primates at the earliest possible date.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 198.



Resolution Number: 1979-A053
Title: Recommend Guidelines on the Ordination of Homosexuals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 66th General Convention receive with gratitude and appreciation the Report and Recommendations of its Standing Commission on Human Affairs and Health with special reference to the requested study of the matter of ordination of homosexual persons; and be it further**

Resolved, **That this General Convention recommend to Bishops, Pastors, Vestries, Commissions on Ministry and Standing Committees, the following considerations as they continue to exercise their proper canonical functions in the selection and approval of persons for ordination:**

1. **There are many human conditions, some of them in the area of sexuality, which bear upon a person's suitability for ordination;**
2. **Every ordinand is expected to lead a life which is "a wholesome example to all people" (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 517, 532, 544). There should be no barrier to the ordination of qualified persons of either heterosexual or homosexual orientation whose behavior the Church considers wholesome;**
3. **We re-affirm the traditional teaching of the Church on marriage, marital fidelity and sexual chastity as the standard of Christian sexual morality. Candidates for ordination are expected to conform to this standard. Therefore, we believe it is not appropriate for this Church to ordain a practicing homosexual, or any person who is engaged in heterosexual relations outside of marriage.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-93.



Resolution Number: 1976-A069
Title: Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.

TOPIC/TITLE: Repeal B033
 PROPOSER: Diocese of Maine
 C&C PAGE:
 BB PAGE:

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Episcopal Church maintain its
- 2 commitment to participation in the Anglican Communion and to the listening process
- 3 described in the Windsor Report; and be it further
- 4
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention will refrain from restricting the field of
- 6 potential candidates for future episcopates on the basis of gender or sexual orientation
- 7 and to reject interference from outside the Convention that would attempt to affect its
- 8 parliamentary process or negate the polity of The Episcopal Church.
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- 10
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EXPLANATION:

Our Lord is not one to show partiality (Acts 10:34-35) and calls us to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). Our baptismal covenant calls us to respect the dignity of every human being; Undue discrimination limits the ability of the faithful to elect qualified persons to leadership, including the position of bishop; Title III, Canon 1, Section 2 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church clearly states that No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age; Resolution B033, if interpreted to mean that a person living in a same-sex partnership should be excluded from consecration, stands in conflict with Title III, Canon 1, Section 2 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church; As a result of the Windsor Report, bishops and deputies at the 75th General Convention were under a great deal of pressure to enact measures relating to the consecration of gay or lesbian bishops living in same-sex relationships. On June 20, 2006 the House of Deputies rejected Resolution A161, which would have prohibited the consecration of such individuals. However, using parliamentary procedure, the former Presiding Bishop brought forth Resolution BO33, which instructed "Standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on the communion." It was widely understood that "candidate... manner of life" was a coded euphemism for gay and lesbian persons, and this interpretation was later validated by the House of Bishops. However, as was promptly pointed out following its passage, BO33 is in violation of the ecclesiastical laws of the Episcopal Church. In particular, Title III, Canon 1, Section 2 of the Canons of the General Convention prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation. While BO33 has had the intended chilling effect on the consecration of otherwise qualified gay and lesbian priests to the episcopate, with many such candidates declining nomination for fear of withheld consent, it has done little to mollify the increasingly strident voices throughout the Anglican Communion. As such, it has proven both unjust and ineffective in its aims. Being that it is in violation of canon law, inconsistent with the scriptural message of God's immeasurable and unconstrainable love for humanity, and an impediment to the work of the Spirit in the Church, we call for the revocation of BO33.

