

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-B021  
**TITLE:** Call for Access to DNA Testing  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane  
**COMMITTEE:** National and International Concerns

---

---

**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A111 Investigate Criminal Justice Issues  
2000-D070 Support Legislation to Make DNA Testing Available to Accused Persons and Prisoners

**Indirectly Related:**

1985-A090 Encourage Genetic Engineering and the Study of Its Implications

*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-A111  
**Title:** Investigate Criminal Justice Issues  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on National Concerns to investigate issues relating to criminal justice in the United States and The Episcopal Church's ministry within the criminal justice system.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 192.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-D070  
**Title:** Support Legislation to Make DNA Testing Available to Accused Persons and Prisoners  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Submitted  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention call on state and federal governments to enact legislation to ensure that DNA testing be made available to accused persons when evidence to allow such testing is available or can be collected; and be it further***

***Resolved, That such testing should be made available to prisoners at any time during the corrections process to ensure that innocent persons are not wrongly incarcerated or executed.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 681.

**09 - National and International Concerns: HD**

B021

TOPIC/TITLE: Justice: Call for Access to DNA Testing

PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

- 
- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention urge the  
2 Episcopal Church and all Episcopalians to call on their legislators and members of  
3 Congress to ensure that all those accused and convicted have broad access to DNA  
4 testing, not only to exonerate those who are innocent but also to identify the true  
5 perpetrators of their crimes; and be it further  
6  
7 *Resolved*, That the Convention direct the Secretary of the General Convention to send  
8 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to appropriate members of  
9 the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and to other appropriate officials and  
10 institutions.  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15

**EXPLANATION:**

At this writing, 240 wrongly incarcerated individuals have been exonerated by DNA testing, including 16 who were on death row. In Almost 40 percent of the cases, the actual perpetrator has been identified by DNA. While 47 states allow some statutory access to DNA testing, the laws are limited and motions for testing are often denied, even where the inmate offers to pay for it and the test could confirm guilt or innocence.

*Endorser(s):*The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, The Rt. Rev. James J. Shand