

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-B022
TITLE: Indigenous Artifacts
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Sanford Z.K. Hampton
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

Directly Related: (attached)

1991-C041 Urge Creation of Government Commission on the Rights of American Indians
1985-B007 Request Church-wide Advocacy of Indian Rights

Indirectly Related:

2006-D046 Reaffirm the Jamestown Covenant
2003-C008 Reaffirm the "Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation"
1997-A035 Designate a "Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation"
1991-D179 Celebrate the Survival of Native Americans on the Columbus Quincentennial
1979-B058 Urge Congress to Establish a Hawaiian Native Claims Commission
1976-D063 Support Native Indian Claims to Land in Canada

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: 1991-C041
Title: Urge Creation of Government Commission on the Rights of American Indians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the Congress of the United States be urged to authorize and create a Special Presidential Commission on treaty rights and civil rights of American Indians to study claims and disputes arising under treaties and other agreements with all Indian nations within the United States and to recommend just and equitable settlements of them;** and be it further
Resolved, **That the Secretary of General Convention be requested to communicate this resolution to the President of the United States and to Episcopalian and other appropriate members of the Congress;** and be it further
Resolved, **That the Episcopal Council of Indian Ministries be directed to monitor and to advocate for the fair and prompt settlement of the claims and rights of American Indians as provided for in their existing treaties and other agreements.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 270.



Resolution Number: 1985-B007
Title: Request Church-wide Advocacy of Indian Rights
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the National Committee on Indian Work be instructed by the 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to request all agencies of the Church to advocate and support the honoring of all Indian treaty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 147.

TOPIC/TITLE: Reconciliation: Indigenous Artifacts
 PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Sanford Z.K. Hampton
 C&C PAGE:
 BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention endorse
 2 the commitment of the Diocese of Oregon to partner with the Confederated Tribes of
 3 Grand Ronde, Oregon, in seeking return of Pacific Northwest Tribal artifacts, collectively
 4 known as "The Summers Collection," now in the possession of the British Museum.
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EXPLANATION:

The "Summers Collection" consists of some 556 Native artifacts from the region of Western and Southern Oregon. They were collected by an Episcopal priest named R.W. Summers in the last half of the nineteenth century. Father Summers documented the items and many of the families they came from in a journal which is now called "The Indian Journal of Rev. R. W. Summers, First Episcopal Priest of Seattle and McMinnville, OR", published by Guadalupe Translations, a ministry of Gaudalupe Trappist Abbey in Lafayette, Oregon. The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon by resolution passed at its 2008 convention, has entered into a collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Western Oregon to call for the return of these items to the Tribe, as an expression of the ministries of justice and reconciliation. Representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have visited the British Museum on several occasions since 2000 and have photographed and documented the collection as well. The Tribe also began conversations with the British Museum some years ago and have been informed that it would take an "Act of Parliament" to release the artifacts from the British Museum. The Diocese of Oregon does not seek by resolution to affect the legislative procedures of the British Parliament but to offer a ministry of encouragement to the Native Peoples of the Pacific Northwest, the authorities of the British Museum, and our brothers and sisters in the Church of England through this particular opportunity. As a player in the history of this collection, we understand that we share common moral and spiritual ground with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and feel compelled by the dictates of our own principles and the grace of God to add our voice to this Tribal quest. Return of Native artifacts is required under U.S. law and by U.N. resolutions, rules and procedures. There are many equitable options that can be pursued. Ongoing negotiations regarding the possible return of the "Summers Collection" are strictly in the purview of the Confederated tribes of Grand Ronde and the British Museum. Recent professional publications, notably Utimut (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Copenhagen, 2008) provide professional insight and suggestions into various means by which Museum and Tribe may collaborate, such as long term loans, extended visitations, dividing collections, artifact swapping and or replacement, and so on, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have plans in the making for a tribal museum. The Tribe is appreciative of the British Museum's stewardship of these precious artifacts and is deeply grateful for the efforts of Father Summers and the support of the Diocese of Oregon.

Endorser(s): The Rt. Rev. Bavi E. Rivera, The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner