

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C005
TITLE: Endorse The Clergy Letter Project
PROPOSER: Diocese of Southeast Florida
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A129 Affirm Evolution and Science Education
2000-D011 Authorize the Development of a Science, Technology and Faith Curriculum for
Congregations
1982-D090 Reject the Dogma of Creationism

Indirectly Related:

1997-D024 Appoint a Working Group on Science, Technology and Faith

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-A129
Title: Affirm Evolution and Science Education
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention affirm that God is Creator, in accordance with the witness of Scripture and the ancient Creeds of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the theory of evolution provides a fruitful and unifying scientific explanation for the emergence of life on earth, that many theological interpretations of origins can readily embrace an evolutionary outlook, and that an acceptance of evolution is entirely compatible with an authentic and living Christian faith; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopalians strongly encourage state legislatures and state and local boards of education to establish standards for science education based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopal dioceses and congregations seek the assistance of scientists and science educators in understanding what constitutes reliable scientific knowledge.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 690-691.



Resolution Number: 2000-D011
Title: Authorize the Development of a Science, Technology and Faith Curriculum for Congregations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention authorize the Working Group on Science, Technology and Faith of the Executive Council to develop material for congregations, which will examine critical issues in the dialogue about science and technology within the framework of Christian theology and ethics.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 539.



Resolution Number: 1982-D090
Title: Reject the Dogma of Creationism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 67th General Convention affirm its belief in the glorious ability of God to create in any manner, and in this affirmation reject the rigid dogmatism of the "Creationist" movement; and be it further**

Resolved, **That we affirm our support of the scientists, educators, and theologians in the search for truth in this creation that God has given and entrusted to us.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-161.

TOPIC/TITLE: Education: Endorse The Clergy Letter Project

PROPOSER: Diocese of Southeast Florida

C&C PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention endorse
 - 2 The Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science,
 - 3 and urge Episcopal clergy participation in The Clergy Letter Project; and be it further
 - 4 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention urge Episcopal scientists to serve as
 - 5 technical consultants for members of the clergy as part of The Clergy Letter Project; and
 - 6 be it further
 - 7 *Resolved*, That 76th General Convention reaffirm Resolution A129 of the 75th General
 - 8 Convention and oppose the introduction into the science curriculum of public schools of
 - 9 faith-based theories of creation such as Creationism, including Intelligent Design; and be
 - 10 it further
 - 11 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention strongly encourage participation by
 - 12 Episcopal parishes in the Annual Evolution Weekend sponsored by The Clergy Letter
 - 13 Project.
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EXPLANATION:

Resolution A129 of the 75th General Convention affirmed that the theory of evolution "provides a fruitful and unifying scientific explanation for the emergence of life on earth [and] that many theological interpretations of origins can readily embrace an evolutionary outlook." It also encouraged "science education based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community." (www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution-complete.pl?resolution=2006-A129) The Catechism of Creation published in 2005 by The Episcopal Church's Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith presents an affirmation of creation theology that is fully cognizant of and consistent with the best contemporary scientific understandings of nature (www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/CreationCatechism.pdf). The Clergy Letter Project (www.butler.edu/clergyproject/Clergy_project.htm) asks clergy to sign a letter that science and religion are not in conflict. Over 11,000 clergy have signed the letter. Over 600 scientists have agreed to serve as technical consultants for members of the clergy as part of The Clergy Letter Project. The Clergy Letter Project encourages faith communities to participate in Evolution Weekend in February each year. In 2008, as reported by Episcopal Life Online (www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_94294_ENG_HTM.htm), over 100 Episcopal congregations participated in the Third Annual Evolution Weekend and many leaders of The Episcopal Church's Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith actively participated.