

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C012
TITLE: Scientific Integrity and Environmental Policy
PROPOSER: Diocese of California
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A129 Affirm Evolution and Science Education
2003-A011 Establish Ethical Guidelines for Genetic Research and Interventions

Indirectly Related:

2000-D011 Authorize the Development of a Science, Technology and Faith Curriculum for
 Congregations
1997-D024 Appoint a Working Group on Science, Technology and Faith
1982-D090 Reject the Dogma of Creationism

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: 2003-A011
Title: Establish Ethical Guidelines for Genetic Research and Interventions
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention recognize that God has entrusted us to use our medical and other capabilities to work toward healing and restoring creation where it has gone awry. Therefore, that the General Convention set forth the following guidelines for genetic research and interventions:

- **It is morally acceptable, in principle, to engage in experimental somatic cell human gene transfer for therapeutic purposes, in an effort to treat or prevent disease.**
- **All experimental genetic interventions in human beings must meet ethical standards of research, which require that investigators demonstrate the scientific merit of their research, protect the health and welfare of human volunteers, while ensuring their volunteers' choice to participate without conflicts of interest or undue financial influence.**
- **Until there is strong scientific evidence that the use of germline procedures is safe, effective, and stable across generations and that guidelines have been established for their use before they are employed, we should not consider the use of germline interventions in human beings.**
- **Ongoing public oversight of research into both somatic cell and germline interventions, in both the public and private sectors, is essential. Members of a federally appointed interdisciplinary review body should be chosen by publicly accountable methods.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 254f.

09 - National and International Concerns

C012

TOPIC/TITLE: Environment: Scientific Integrity and Environmental Policy

PROPOSER: Diocese of California

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of the
2 Episcopal Church urges that policy decisions affecting the health and well-being of
3 humans and ecosystems must be based on scientifically evaluated, peer-reviewed data;
4 and be it further

5
6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention supports legislative efforts to maintain the highest
7 degree of scientific integrity, including the ability to conduct thorough, independent,
8 peer-reviewed research, and to communicate the findings of that research openly and
9 accurately for the benefit of all.

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