

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D084
TITLE: Solidarity with the Church and People of Pakistan
PROPOSER: Ms. Hisako M. Beasley
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

Directly Related: (attached)

2000-B047 Express Concern and Urge Support for Persecuted Christian Minority in Pakistan

Indirectly Related:

None

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: 2000-B047
Title: Express Concern and Urge Support for Persecuted Christian Minority in Pakistan
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention express anguish over the victimization of the Christian minority in Pakistan, including imprisonment, political disenfranchisement, and other forms of harassment and persecution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church, dioceses, congregations, and individual members urge the President, the U.S. State Department, the Congress, and the United Nations to work toward political reform and humanitarian relief; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church call on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to investigate the country of Pakistan.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 651.

TOPIC/TITLE: International Relations: Solidarity with the Church and People of Pakistan

PROPOSER: Ms. Hisako M. Beasley

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church express its solidarity with the Church of Pakistan, especially the
3 Diocese of Peshawar, which borders Afghanistan; and be it further
4
5 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church facilitate the visit to the United States of one or
6 more representatives of the Church of Pakistan to speak to the American people about the
7 situation in Pakistan, and what Christians in the USA can do to help; and be it further
8
9 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon the
10 belligerent parties to seek a peaceful resolution of the difficulties in Pakistan; and be it
11 further
12
13 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon the
14 international community to provide food, clothing, shelter and medical care for the
15 people of Pakistan who have fled from their homes, including those who are refugees in
16 their own country, because of the ongoing fighting; and be it further
17
18 *Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon the
19 government of the United States to cease using pilotless drones and missiles to attack
20 targets within the territory of Pakistan; and be it further
21
22 *Resolved*, That church members and the Office of Government Relations communicate
23 the position of The Episcopal Church on this issue to the President and members of
24 Congress, and advocate passage of federal legislation consistent with this resolution; and
25 be it further
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27 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of two thousand dollars
29 (\$2,000) for the implementation of this resolution.
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Endorser(s):The Rev. Charles M. Carpenter, Mr. Michael P Spencer

Review Status:Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F

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EXPLANATION:

Ongoing fighting between the Pakistani armed forces, conservative Muslim militias and Taliban forces have caused more than three million Pakistani people to flee their homes. Most have taken refuge in huge camps within the territory of Pakistan. This is the largest civilian exodus since the genocide in Rwanda, and the largest mass migration in southern Asia since the partition of India 60 years ago. Most international assistance for refugees is focused on people who are displaced from one country to another. The people who fall through the cracks are those who are displaced in their own country. The people in the camps need increasing amounts of food, water, shelter and medical care. The Church of Pakistan is a united church which is part of the Anglican Communion and a member church of the World Methodist Council. It was established in 1970 with a union of Anglicans, Scottish Presbyterians (Church of Scotland), Methodists, and Lutherans. Most of its 800,000 members are Anglicans. The Church is laboring under difficult conditions, and its members and leadership are frequently victims of persecution. Compounding the problem is that the United States has been bombing targets within Pakistan using pilotless drones and Hellfire missiles. Since August 2008, nearly 50 strikes have killed at least 450 people, both militants and civilians. On the deadliest day, June 24, 2009, more than 60 people died when a drone struck a funeral party. The government of Pakistan has condemned the drone and missile attacks, and has stated that the U.S. is violating international law.

Endorser(s): The Rev. Charles M. Carpenter, Mr. Michael P Spencer

Review Status: Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F