

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A170  
**TITLE:** Observance of First Ordination of Women to the Priesthood  
**PROPOSER:** Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women  
**COMMITTEE:** Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A139 Celebrate Women in Ministry  
2003-A017 Give Thanks for the Ministry of Ordained Women  
1991-D175 Request a Celebration of Ministries of Ordained Women at the 1994 General Convention

**Indirectly Related:**

1985-D101 Request the Addition of Women to the Church Calendar

*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-A139  
**Title:** Celebrate Women in Ministry  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church offer thanksgiving for the gift of all women in ministry, and especially those enabled by General Convention action including the seating of lay women deputies in 1970, the canons enabling the ordination of women to the diaconate in 1970, the priesthood in 1976, the consecration of a woman as bishop in 1989, and the election of a woman as Presiding Bishop in 2006; and be it further*

*Resolved, That all dioceses be encouraged to celebrate these ministries in ways that are appropriate to their locale; and be it further*

*Resolved, That pioneers in the ordination of women in all orders be part of this celebration and that their witness and courage be recognized; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses that as yet have not ordained women to the priesthood continue to be encouraged to provide for the ordination and exercise of priestly ministry by women in their dioceses.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 343.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A017  
**Title:** Give Thanks for the Ministry of Ordained Women  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 74th General Convention give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit within our communion through the life-giving ministry of ordained women.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 222.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-D175  
**Title:** Request a Celebration of Ministries of Ordained Women at the 1994 General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of The Episcopal Church request the 71st General Convention to affirm and celebrate the ministries of women in all orders of this church;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That a special Eucharist of the 1994 General Convention celebrate the ministries of ordained women in all orders of this Church.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 400.

**13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music: HB**

A170

TOPIC/TITLE: Observance of First Ordination of Women to the Priesthood  
PROPOSER: Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women  
C&C PAGE:  
BB PAGE: 698

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The  
2 Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consider adding an  
3 observance to the Church calendar commemorating the first ordinations of women to the  
4 priesthood in The Episcopal Church.  
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EXPLANATION:

The first ordinations to the priesthood of women in The Episcopal Church occurred on the Feast of Mary and Martha, July 29, 1974. While controversial at the time, those ordinations eventually were recognized by the church and are now an important part of our history (just as the ordination of Absalom Jones in 1795 is an important part of the history of The Episcopal Church).