

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C022
TITLE: Establish Restorative Justice Sunday
PROPOSER: Diocese of Newark
COMMITTEE: Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-D021 Review Actions Regarding Prison Ministry (Rejected)
2000-B001 Implement and Allocate Funds for the Committee on Criminal Justice Issues
2000-B003 Endorse the Study of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System
1994-D035 Support Ministry to the Incarcerated

Indirectly Related:

2003-A125 Establish Ministries to Assist Prisoners and Their Families
1994-D087 Encourage Parishes to Minister to Newly Discharged Inmates

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-D021
Title: Review Actions Regarding Prison Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention re-activate the Task Force on Reform of the Criminal Justice System mandated by the 1985 General Convention (C043) as a joint committee of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, with staff support under the direction of the Director of Prison Ministries, recognizing the unique character of the pastoral and program needs of this mission area with an expanded mandate, and that any residual, appropriate and unresolved issues resulting from the actions of subsequent Conventions, viz. D062 (1988), D056 (1991), D087 (1994), D035 (1994), and A125(2003) be handled by this Committee. The expanded mandate of the Committee will include implementation and oversight of the following:

Development and provision of information, networking resources, funding, recruitment, training, support, and encouragement by parishes and diocesan means for prison ministers at the Federal, State, County, and local levels.

Liaison and interaction with government agencies, organizations involved with the Justice system, Federal and State representatives on the one hand, and Bishops, appropriate diocesan sources and organized prison ministries already in place, on the other.

Development and provision of information and workable programs for parishes to engage in prison ministries of worship and fellowship within prisons at the Federal, State, County, and local levels.

Development of Episcopal congregations inside of prisons at the Federal and State levels.

Development and provision of information and programs for dioceses, parishes, and prison ministers to minister to the families of incarcerated people.

Provision of theological education for residents of prisons at the Federal and State levels.

Provision of proclamation, advocacy, leadership, and materials for the advancement, awareness, and implementation of effective prison ministry throughout The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention request and require that each diocese of The Episcopal Church include in Diocesan Cycles of Prayer intercession for prison ministries, and for all incarcerated persons and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That the Director of Prison Ministries be placed under the direction of the Office of Congregational Development; and be it further

Resolved, That the new committee shall be named the Committee on Prison Ministry, and the General Convention request that the Joint Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation in the amount of \$175,000 for the triennium for the work of this committee.



Resolution Number: 2000-B001
Title: Implement and Allocate Funds for the Committee on Criminal Justice Issues
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention activate the Task Force on Reform of the Criminal Justice System mandated by the 1985 General Convention (C043) as a joint committee of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies staff support under the direction of the Bishop for the Armed Services, Health and Prison Ministries [sic], and the Director of Prison Ministries, recognizing the unique character of the pastoral and program needs of this mission area with an expanded mandate, and that any residual, appropriate and unresolved issues resulting from the actions of subsequent Conventions, viz. D062 (1988), D056 (1991), D087 (1994) and D035 (1994) be handled by this Committee. The expanded mandate of the Committee will include implementation and oversight of the following:

- **Development and provision of information, networking resources, funding, recruitment, training, support, and encouragement by parishes and diocesan means for prison ministers at the Federal, State, County, and local levels.**
- **Liaison and interaction with government agencies, organizations involved with the Justice system, Federal and State representatives on the one hand, and Bishops, appropriate diocesan sources and organized prison ministries already in place, on the other.**
- **Provision of proclamation, advocacy, leadership, and materials for the advancement, awareness, and implementation of effective prison ministry throughout the Episcopal Church; and be it further**

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention request and require that each diocese of the Episcopal Church include in Diocesan Cycles of Prayer intercession for prison ministries, and for all incarcerated persons and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That the new committee shall be named the Committee on Criminal Justice Issues, and be allocated funding to enable the deliberations of the Committee in the amount of \$90,000 for the triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 564f.



Resolution Number: 2000-B003
Title: Endorse the Study of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church endorse the exploration and study of restorative justice for our nation's criminal justice system; and be it further
Resolved, That the office of the Bishop for the Armed Services, Healthcare and Prison Ministries report back to the 74th General Convention the results of the study.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 492.



Resolution Number: 1994-D035
Title: Support Ministry to the Incarcerated
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church declare its support of ministry to the incarcerated as a ministry priority, offering support and encouragement to those who minister to the incarcerated on the federal, state, county, and local levels, and quality ministry to inmates, prison staff, and families; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention declare its appreciation to the Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop, for sponsoring the first Episcopal Church Conference for those who minister to the incarcerated, entitled, "The Episcopal Church Goes to Prison," in April of 1994; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention request that the Presiding Bishop set forth a means of coordinating ministry to the incarcerated at the national church level by designating the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces, whose jurisdiction presently includes the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as Episcopal Church Center Liaison for all ministry to the incarcerated; and be it further

Resolved, That \$6,000 be appropriated to support this additional responsibility; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention encourage the Episcopal Church on all levels to provide funding for quality prison ministry, subject to funding in the budget.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 290.

13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music: HB

C022

TOPIC/TITLE: Church Calendar: Establish Restorative Justice Sunday

PROPOSER: Diocese of Newark

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention commend
2 to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to proclaim the third Sunday of
3 November each year Restorative Justice Sunday.
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EXPLANATION:

Restorative Justice Week is observed in the third week of November. Its purpose is to raise public awareness of incarcerated men and women and the causes and consequences of crime, and to pray for and contemplate solutions. We need to find Godly solutions to the social problems of society. Incarceration is not the answer to drug addiction, mental illness and poverty. The United States has the highest incarceration rates of any developed nation in the world. As of June 30, 2007 - 2,299,116 prisoners were held in federal or state prisons or in local jails. [New Jersey alone incarcerates as many as 27,000 prisoners.] Incarceration has an impact that extends far beyond the men and women who are imprisoned. The majority of women and men in prison are parents of dependent children and there are many concerns about intergenerational crime and putting these children at risk.