

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-D089  
**TITLE:** Invitation to Receive Holy Communion  
**PROPOSER:** The Very Rev. Ernesto R. Medina  
**COMMITTEE:** Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-D084 Uphold Baptism as a Requirement of Receiving Holy Communion  
1979-A043 Adopt a Standard for Non-Episcopalians Receiving Holy Communion

**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:** 2006-D084  
**Title:** Uphold Baptism as a Requirement of Receiving Holy Communion  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention recognize the position of the Constitution and Canons (I.17.7), that only those who have been baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit shall be eligible to receive Holy Communion; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops, in deliberate consultation with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and others they may deem appropriate, provide to the 76th General Convention a pastoral and theological understanding of the relationship between Holy Baptism and eucharistic practice.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 683.



**Resolution Number:** 1979-A043  
**Title:** Adopt a Standard for Non-Episcopalians Receiving Holy Communion  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the following standard be adopted for those of other Churches who on occasion desire to receive the Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church:**

- a. They shall have been baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and shall have previously been admitted to the Holy Communion within the Church to which they belong.
- b. They shall examine their lives, repent of their sins, and be in love and charity with all people, as this Church in its catechism (*PBCP*, p. 860). says is required of all those who come to the Eucharist.
- c. They shall approach the Holy Communion as an expression of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ whose sacrifice once upon the cross was sufficient for all mankind.
- d. They shall find in this Communion the means to strengthen their life within the Christian family "through the forgiveness of (their) sins, the strengthening of (their) union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet...." (*PBCP*, p. 859-60)
- e. Their own consciences must always be respected as must the right of their own Church membership to determine the sacramental discipline of those who, by their own choice, make that their spiritual home; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the "Commentary on Eucharistic Sharing," which has been recommended by the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations and is appended to this official Report to the 66th Convention, be hereby commended as a pastoral context for the interpretation of these standards.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-51.

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

D089

TOPIC/TITLE: Doctrine: Invitation to Receive Holy Communion  
PROPOSER: The Very Rev. Ernesto R. Medina  
C&C PAGE: 55  
BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the
- 2 Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons to review and provide a
- 3 recommendation to resolve the conflict between Article X of the Constitution,
- 4 specifically, the invitation offered in the Book of Common Prayer "The Gifts of God for
- 5 the People of God" and Canon I.17.7, restricting communion to only the baptized; and be
- 6 it further
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- 8 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons consult with other
- 9 appropriate Standing Commissions, as needed; and be it further
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- 11 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission report back to the 77th General Convention.
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**EXPLANATION:**

There appears to be a conflict between the Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the Canons of the Episcopal Church with respect to who is able to receive Holy Communion. Constitution - Article X The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the authority of this Church, shall be in use in all the Dioceses of this Church. BCP clearly states in the invitation to receive Communion "The Gifts of God for the People of God." The question we ask is "who is the People of God?" Canon 17 - Section 7 No unbaptized person shall be eligible to receive Holy Communion in this Church. We are asking the Standing Commission on Constitutions and Canons to help resolve this conflict.

*Endorser(s):* Ms. Ellen W. Bruckner, The Rev. Neysa A Ellgren

*Review Status:* Not Yet Reviewed for Canonical Form; Not Yet Reviewed for Constitutional Form