

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A068
TITLE: Reconciliation Training
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
COMMITTEE: Education

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A039 Identify and Evaluate Curricula for Faith-Based Reconciliation Training
2003-D017 Refer a Resolution on Reconciliation Efforts (Referred)
2000-D023 Authorize and Develop Resources for a "Season of Reconciliation" for the Church
1991-C033 Encourage the Peaceful Resolution of Conflict Within the Church and Beyond

Indirectly Related:

2006-A101 Seek and Support Reconciliation
2006-D018 Support Nonviolence Training

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-A039
Title: Identify and Evaluate Curricula for Faith-Based Reconciliation Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention direct the Office of Ministry Development to identify and evaluate curricular materials for formal faith-based reconciliation training appropriate for all ages, and to promote the use of these materials in congregations, dioceses, provinces, the House of Bishops, and Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the House of Bishops to participate in formal reconciliation training during the next triennium in order to prepare all bishops to carry the skills and tools of faith-based reconciliation home to their dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism report on the participation in faith-based reconciliation training by congregations, dioceses, provinces, the House of Bishops, and Executive Council to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 691-692.



Resolution Number: 2003-D017
Title: Refer a Resolution on Reconciliation Efforts
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, That, the 2003 General Convention direct the Executive Council to lead and encourage reconciliation efforts throughout the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council report the results of those efforts in their annual report; and be it further

Resolved, That the reports include descriptions of the use of the Faith-Based Reconciliation model including:

1. **acknowledgment of the wound**
2. **repentance**
3. **telling of stories**
4. **grief-sharing**
5. **making apologies to those adversely impacted**
6. **sharing of privilege**
7. **planning for and carrying out of changes**
8. **positively affirming and supporting multiculturalism, and**
9. **other, as those reporting deem appropriate; and be it further**

Resolved, That the 2003 General Convention commend the leadership and ministry of the Presiding Bishop and the New Commandment Task Force in the work of reconciliation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 333f.



Resolution Number: 2000-D023
Title: Authorize and Develop Resources for a "Season of Reconciliation" for the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention proclaim the first four triennia of the 21st century to be the Season of Reconciliation within the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies shall appoint a committee of ordained and lay leaders to study the scriptural and historic role of church leaders as reconcilers and [study] contemporary reconciliation and mediation methodologies developed by other denominations and dispute resolution professionals. Upon conclusion of this study, the committee shall issue a pastoral letter on reconciliation and an accompanying study guide for use by the entire Church and the Executive Council as it develops a reconciliation process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council, informed by the pastoral letter on reconciliation, by the work done by the New Commandment Task Force, and any other restorative justice work on reconciliation processes, recommend a formal process for dispute resolution and reconciliation in the church to the 74th General Convention. The process shall include, but not be limited to:

- **The training of church leaders in reconciliation principles and practices;**
- **Ways/methods of addressing all manner of conflicts with the church (ideological and non-ideological);**
- **Mechanisms for accountability and oversight of this process.**

The goals of this process shall be:

- **Increasing the capacity of the church to practice reconciliation in the midst of profound conflicts;**
- **Reducing the human and financial costs associated with the resolution of conflicts.**

It is intended that this process be used to address present and future conflicts in the Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 626.



Resolution Number: 1991-C033
Title: Encourage the Peaceful Resolution of Conflict Within the Church and Beyond
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the Episcopal Church encourages the settlement of disputes within the Church by peaceful dispute resolution processes, and in furtherance thereof:**

1. **Calls upon all dioceses and other administrative units of the Church to develop and employ consensus building methods in the conduct of their decision making business and to initiate, continue and strengthen their training of persons in conflict management and resolution and to promote the use of such personnel in the Church.**
2. **Urges seminaries and other schools for ministry to include training in conflict management and resolution for all candidates for ordination.**
3. **Encourages all congregations to offer training in conflict management and resolution.**
4. **Commits itself through the appropriate agencies of the National Church staff to make available appropriate curricula in conflict management and resolution for use by dioceses and congregations.**
5. **Encourages all members of the Episcopal Church to make use of enlightened methods of negotiation and mediation as they work to resolve conflicts between the Episcopal Church and other Christian communions;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That the Episcopal Church call upon the Government of the United States:**

1. **To resolve disputes affecting it and other nations by negotiation, mediation, non-binding arbitration, binding arbitration, and adjudication.**
2. **To recognize and respect the jurisdiction and judgments of the International Court of Justice.**
3. **To provide sufficient funding for the Institute for Peace in order to train individuals in the peaceful management and resolution of international conflicts;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That the Episcopal Church call upon all nations:**

1. **To utilize the United Nations and to respect the authority of the Secretary General in the resolution of international conflicts.**
2. **To strengthen the role and authority of the Secretary General in the resolution of international conflicts.**
3. **To adhere to the rule of the law in dealing with their own citizens and those of other countries.**
4. **To utilize regional and private organizations in conflict resolution;**

and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be transmitted to the President, Members of Congress, Secretary of State, Secretary General of the United Nations, the Ambassadors to the United Nations of all member nations, other Anglican Churches, and the appropriate body of other Christian Churches.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 379.

TOPIC/TITLE: Reconciliation: Reconciliation Training
 PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
 C&C PAGE:
 BB PAGE: 127

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the
- 2 Mission Leadership Center to continue the process of identifying and evaluating curricular
- 3 materials for formal faith-based reconciliation training appropriate for all ages, and to continue
- 4 promoting the use of these materials in congregations, dioceses, provinces, the House of Bishops
- 5 and Executive Council; and be it further
- 6
- 7 *Resolved*, That General Convention urge the House of Bishops to continue participating in formal
- 8 reconciliation training during the next triennium in order to further prepare all bishops to use the
- 9 skills and tools of faith-based reconciliation in their dioceses; and be it further
- 10
- 11 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism report on the
- 12 participation in faith-based reconciliation training by congregations, dioceses, provinces, the
- 13 House of Bishops and Executive Council to the 77th General Convention.
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17

EXPLANATION:
 Reconciliation is the mission of the church and the ongoing mission of God. The 75th General Convention adopted Resolution A039, which commended reconciliation training as a tool of evangelism and called upon The Episcopal Church, and particularly the House of Bishops, to participate in formal reconciliation training. The explanation that accompanied A039 emphasized the need for reconciliation training in a church wracked with conflict. The response to that Resolution during the intervening triennium was encouraging: several hundred Episcopalians, including all members of the House of Bishops, participated in some form of formal reconciliation training. The feedback from participants has been powerful and affirming. Many more Episcopalians need reconciliation training, however. The proposed Resolution is offered to maintain the momentum A039 set in motion and in furtherance of the mission of the church "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."