

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D096
TITLE: Prevention of Domestic Violence
PROPOSER: The Rev. Martha H. Kreamer
COMMITTEE: Education

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
2006-A138 On the Topic of Developing Domestic Abuse Training Curricula (Rejected)
2006-D018 Support Nonviolence Training
2000-C025 Urge Education, Prayer, and Local Response to Issues of Sexual and Domestic Violence
2000-D073 Support Legislation to Reduce Domestic Violence and Protect Victims
1994-A049 Encourage Ministries That Respond to Violence Against Women
1991-C022 Renew Commitment to Address Violence in Society
1988-D064 Urge Training to Respond to Family Violence

Indirectly Related:

1994-A055 Urge Government Funding in Matters Affecting the Health of Women

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-A086
Title: Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to create and disseminate training materials to assist leaders in ministry to recognize and respond to evidence of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report on this initiative to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 511.



Resolution Number: 2006-A138
Title: On the Topic of Developing Domestic Abuse Training Curricula
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention strongly encourage that each diocese provide education in the area ~~for the development of a standardized curriculum in the area~~ of domestic and intimate partner violence for clergy and lay professionals which will focus on awareness, identification, and prevention of domestic violence; and be it further

Resolved, That all clergy and lay professionals receive this education ~~be required to take a minimum of six hours of such training~~ by the year ~~2012~~ 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$5,000 to the Committee on the Status of Women for the purpose of ~~evaluating and recommending materials for such education. development of materials and a training program, to then be implemented by each Diocese.~~



Resolution Number: 2006-D018
Title: Support Nonviolence Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention urge the provinces, dioceses, congregations, and institutions of The Episcopal Church to adopt and support for the next triennium nonviolence training for personal and social change, to advance the mission priorities of Congregational Transformation and Justice and Peace; and be it further

Resolved, That each Episcopal diocese be encouraged to make available active nonviolence training to congregations and institutions, to assist them in addressing conflicts, controversies, and divisions; to respond to violence, oppression, and injustice at all levels, including issues of racism, social and economic injustice, crime, and domestic violence; and where possible to create trainings that represent a diversity of perspectives within communities, including intergenerational trainings for youth/young adults with adults; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese be invited to identify candidates to attend training to become training facilitators in the diocese.

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



Resolution Number: 2000-C025
Title: Urge Education, Prayer, and Local Response to Issues of Sexual and Domestic Violence
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention call upon every congregation within the church to designate at least one Sunday each year during one of the following months:

- a. April (National Sexual Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month) or
- b. May (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month) or
- c. October (National Domestic Violence Awareness Month)

for special prayers for all whose lives have been affected by any form of sexual, domestic, or family violence, remembering in particular those who have been violated by sexual misconduct within the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call upon the National Church Center to make available to every congregation within the church educational opportunities for its members about practical, pastoral, spiritual, and/or theological issues related to the problems of sexual or domestic violence and call upon congregations to make an active and ongoing response to these problems in their local community.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 326f.



Resolution Number: 2000-D073
Title: Support Legislation to Reduce Domestic Violence and Protect Victims
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church call upon state governments to promote and enact statutes addressing the reduction of domestic violence and the protection of victims of domestic violence and child neglect.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 680.



Resolution Number: 1994-A049
Title: Encourage Ministries That Respond to Violence Against Women
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 71st General Convention condemn violence against women in all its forms, and resolves that each deputy and bishop will work toward making the Episcopal Church a truly safe place for all God's people, by encouraging every parish to develop appropriate ministries to this end;** and be it further

Resolved, **That the Committee on the Status of Women continue to raise awareness about the Church's role in responding to violence against women by supporting extension of the consultation process in every province and diocese, providing resource people and educational materials for use in regional and local programs, and securing outside funds to support training local planners and presenters.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 146.



Resolution Number: 1991-C022
Title: Renew Commitment to Address Violence in Society
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 70th General Convention call upon the Church at every level to renew a commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially that of domestic violence aimed toward spouses, children and older adults; violence of hate directed toward persons of differing ethnic, religious or political persuasions; violence stemming from homophobia and other irrational fears; and be it further**

Resolved, **That parishes and dioceses be urged to develop educational programs and resources through preaching, through liturgy, through pastoral care for both the victims and the perpetrators of all kinds of violence and through advocacy with the public sector for programs of education, social service and public policy that will address the problems of violence.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 388.



Resolution Number: 1988-D064
Title: Urge Training to Respond to Family Violence
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 69th General Convention urge every bishop to direct an appropriate body within the diocese to:**

1. **establish and conduct training workshops for clergy and laity to identify the signs of battering and sexual abuse of women and children;**
2. **produce a register for the clergy and laity of available resources within their communities, such as support services, shelters and entitlement programs;**
and
3. **encourage clergy and laity to consult with and refer victims to professionally trained counselors and support groups;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That this Convention urge the seminaries of the church to include in their curricula appropriate education and training in the area of family violence.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 277.

TOPIC/TITLE: Violence: Prevention of Domestic Violence

PROPOSER: The Rev. Martha H. Kreamer

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention speak out
- 2 clearly against the widespread practice of Domestic Violence; and be it further
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- 4 Resolved, That members of General Convention covenant to pray for victims and their
- 5 families; and be it further
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- 7 Resolved, That we urge the appropriate interim bodies to review and recommend the
- 8 utilization of existing training developed for Domestic Violence prevention, in order to
- 9 counter the culture which sustains it; and be it further
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- 11 Resolved, That the convention encourage all Episcopal clergy and lay leadership to take
- 12 responsibility to participate in such training as may be available to them.
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EXPLANATION:

According to Department of Justice statistics, in the last five years, more women in the US have been killed by the men they live with, or used to live with, than American soldiers have been killed in war. The loss of these precious lives, and the grief suffered by their families, is a national tragedy. Thousands more women are battered, abused, and humiliated. Thousands of children are exposed to conditions that breed more batterers, as well as more victims. Yet, where is the outrage against the cycle of violence? Who will speak for these victims? Advocacy groups, one being the Alabama Council Against Domestic Violence, recognize that faith traditions have great influence on the culture of permissiveness surrounding this behavior. They have developed powerful programs to educate church leadership in prevention and pastoral care for those involved in domestic violence situations. These programs and trainers would gladly share their knowledge at no cost to us; however, they have found it extremely difficult to persuade clergy and lay leadership of the need to participate. Consequently, church leaders have all too often exacerbated the problem, inadvertently creating a culture of permissiveness. The focus and priority of the Episcopal Church on peace and justice issues, in the spirit of Ubuntu, makes this convention a perfect advocate to speak out against domestic violence. Furthermore, with a resolve to take action, we have the ability to become leaders in transforming cultures that accept such cycles of violence. This resolution is being simultaneously submitted as D079.

Endorser(s): The Very Rev. Edward O'Connor, The Rev. John Pollock