

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-B024
TITLE: Cuban Annuity
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Leopold Frade
COMMITTEE: Church Pension Fund

Directly Related: (attached)

2003-D050 Request the Release of Funds for the Diocese of Cuba
1997-D023 Extend Greetings to the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Cuba
1991-D021 Urge Improved Diplomatic Relations Between U.S. and Cuba

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: 2003-D050
Title: Request the Release of Funds for the Diocese of Cuba
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention, through both its national and diocesan leadership, request our federal legislative delegations in Washington, D.C. to encourage immediate action on the filed applications to release pension payments, restricted endowment, and trust income held by ECUSA for the Diocese of Cuba, and other grants the disbursement of which was stopped by the Patriot Act passed after September 11th by Congress; and be it further
Resolved, That we continue to work with the Anglican Church of Canada which continues to provide oversight and assistance to the Cuban Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 683f.



Resolution Number: 1997-D023
Title: Extend Greetings to the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Cuba
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church accept with gratitude the greetings of peace and love from our brothers and sisters in the more than 50 churches and missionary stations throughout Cuba, the Rt. Rev. Jorge Perera, Bishop of Cuba, the Rt. Rev. Emilio Hernandez, retired Bishop of Cuba, and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship Chapter in Cuba, and sends in return our greetings and prayers for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Cuba.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 60.



Resolution Number: 1991-D021
Title: Urge Improved Diplomatic Relations Between U.S. and Cuba
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church urge the United States government to (1) lift the trade embargo against Cuba, (2) remove restrictions on travel between the United States and Cuba, (3) restore full diplomatic relations between the two countries and (4) cease propaganda broadcasts; and be it further**

Resolved, **That this 70th General Convention join with the Episcopal Bishop of Cuba when he says "This Convention, seeking a spirit, of reconciliation and peace, stands in the hope that the Government of Cuba will initiate a process of change in a period of time that would be adequately reasonable to the actual political, economic, and social context in Cuba that will facilitate the possibility that what is expressed in this resolution becomes a tangible reality"; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the Secretary of General Convention send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Chairmen of the House Foreign Affairs and the Senate Foreign Relations Committees, and to the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 838.

16 - Church Pension Fund: HB

B024

TOPIC/TITLE: Church Pension Fund: Cuban Annuity

PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Leopold Frade

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of the
2 Episcopal Church request the Church Pension Fund and the Joint Standing Committee on
3 Program, Budget and Finance to work towards the establishment of a benevolent fund
4 that will provide the clergy of the Episcopal Church in Cuba with a small annuity in lieu
5 of a pension; and be it further

6
7 *Resolved*, That the Church Pension Fund will administer such benevolent fund; and be it
8 further

9
10 *Resolved*, That to reaffirm resolution 2003-D050, "to release pension payments, restricted
11 endowment, and trust income held by The Episcopal Church for the Diocese of Cuba"
12 and direct the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church to, in a concerted effort with
13 concerned ecumenical partners, to seek from the appropriate government agency the
14 necessary variances to the present regulations and to count for this effort the assistance of
15 legal counsel from the Church Pension Fund.

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EXPLANATION:

Since 1871 The Episcopal Church of Cuba came into being as the result of the missionary effort of the American Church. The Church steadily progress from ministry to expatriates to a Missionary Diocese in the late fifties. In 1967, the House of Bishops decided without a diocesan process in place and under the political pressure of the Cold War to declare the Diocese of Cuba autonomous. At the time of autonomy, the clergy of the Cuban church were members of the Church Pension Fund. Meetings took place between the Department of State and delegations of the National Council of Church in the USA to guarantee the continuance of financial assistance from American churches to their counterparts in the Island, which also included pension payments. After the passing of the Patriot Act 2001 there was for the first time a tightening of the embargo that this time included the churches in United States ever since, limiting the

*Endorser(s):*The Rt. Rev. S. Johnson Howard, The Rt. Rev. David Alvarez

*Review Status:*Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F

amounts able to disburse to the Cuban clergy and their heirs. Consequently, some considerable amounts are being accumulated in escrow accounts held by the CPF. There are other funds that the Cuban church has in the custody of the national church similarly limited in their ability to be disbursed, that includes the annual apportionment, which for the last several triennia has been limited to \$30,000 dollars. Cuban clergy are considered self-employed by the Cuban social security system and therefore not included in the State sponsored Pension Plan. Some members of the clergy are in imminent retirement age will retire penniless after devoting their entire lives to the service of the Episcopal Church and the furthering of the Kingdom of God in the face of considerable odds.

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*Review Status:*Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F