

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A076
TITLE: Establish Dialogue with the Church in Sweden
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
COMMITTEE: Ecumenical Relations

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A025 Amend Canon I.20 [Of Churches in Full Communion]

Indirectly Related:

1997-C031 Express Support for the Convocation of American Churches in Europe

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-A025
Title: Amend Canon I.20 [Of Churches in Full Communion]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Title I be amended by adding a new Canon 20, to be named “Of Churches in Full Communion,” as follows:

Sec. 1. The Episcopal Church, a member of the Anglican Communion, has a relationship of full communion with those Churches in the historic episcopal succession and with whom it has entered into covenant agreements including:

- (a) the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht,*
- (b) la Iglesia Filipina Independiente / the Philippine Independent Church, and*
- (c) the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.*

Sec. 2. The Episcopal Church has a relationship of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America under the terms of “Called to Common Mission,” which was adopted by the 73rd General Convention of The Episcopal Church as Resolution A040.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 695.

TOPIC/TITLE: Ecumenism: Establish Dialogue with the Church in Sweden
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 166

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the
2 Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to begin a dialogue with the
3 appropriate ecumenical offices of the Church of Sweden, the ultimate goal of which is to reach a
4 relationship of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden; and be it
5 further

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7 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission do so in consultation with the Inter-Anglican Standing
8 Commission on Ecumenical Relations.

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EXPLANATION:

The relationship between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden goes back to the beginnings of The Episcopal Church, including the transfer of oversight of several Swedish Lutheran congregations during the colonial and Revolutionary periods. In addition, the Lambeth Conferences of Bishops have given favorable consideration to the historic Episcopal succession of the Church of Sweden (see relevant Resolutions from the 1908, 1920, and 1930 Lambeth Conferences). However, the informal recognition of the validity of each Church's Orders by the other has never been formally instituted by The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden. During recent dialogues among the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht and la Iglesia Independiente Filipina with The Episcopal Church, with Swedish Lutheran observers present, this lack of formal recognition became highlighted. Pursuing a formal dialogue will not only result hopefully in a full-communion agreement, but also raise the question anew of joining the full communion relationship between the Scandinavian Lutheran churches and the Church of England known as the Porvoo Agreement. It will also help to facilitate common ministry, mission and witness in the Convocation of American Episcopal Churches in Europe.