

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A137  
**Title:** Church of Sweden - Full Communion Relationship  
**Proposer:** Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical & Interreligious Work  
**Topic:** Ecumenism

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-D085     Affirm Full Communion with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden  
2015-B004     Commend Report on Relations with Church of Sweden  
2009-A076     Begin a Dialogue with the Church of Sweden

**Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.*

# A137 - Church of Sweden - Full Communion Relationship

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical & Interreligious Work

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** Yes

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 19 - Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church accept the Memorandum of Understanding dated January 15, 2022 between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden (which can found on the Ecumenical and Inter-religious page of The Episcopal Church's website at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/ecumenical-interreligious/> and which shall be added to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships page of the Archives upon acceptance of the Memorandum by the General Convention <https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sceir>) the basis for a relationship of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church request that the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, convey this action to the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the ecumenical officers of The Episcopal Church, working with the Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical and Interreligious Work, establish policies and procedures to facilitate exchange of ministry between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden as set forth in the Memorandum; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Canon I.20 be amended by adding a new subsection, as follows:

**<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

I.20

( ) The Episcopal Church has a relationship of full communion with the Church of Sweden under the terms of the Memorandum [name of Memorandum] dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden, which was accepted by the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church as Resolution 2022-A\_\_\_\_\_.

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**<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

I.20

*( ) The Episcopal Church has a relationship of full communion with the Church of Sweden under the terms of the Memorandum [name of Memorandum] dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden, which was accepted by the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church as Resolution 2022-A\_\_\_\_\_.*

## **Explanation**

The Task Force to Coordinate Ecumenical and Interreligious Work was tasked by 79th General Convention Resolution 2018-D085 “Affirm Full Communion with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden” to “to prepare, in concert with the Church of Sweden, a memorandum of understanding setting forth the terms and procedures of the full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden.”

This Memorandum of Understanding is based on the recognition of our existing full communion relationship, which is set forth in 78th General Convention’s Resolution B004, which received and commended the “Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church,” ([https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/07/eir\\_report\\_on\\_the\\_grounds\\_for\\_future\\_relations\\_between\\_the\\_church\\_of\\_sweden\\_and\\_the\\_episcopal\\_church.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/07/eir_report_on_the_grounds_for_future_relations_between_the_church_of_sweden_and_the_episcopal_church.pdf))

A **Memorandum of Understanding** (attached) has been prepared as directed by 2018-D085 by representatives of the Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden, dated January 15, 2022.

January 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

*THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, represented by \_\_\_\_\_,*

and THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN, represented by \_\_\_\_\_

*Recalling the summary of our dialogue, "Report on the Grounds for Future Relations between the Church of Sweden and the Episcopal Church," which made clear the existing relationship of communion between our two churches.*

*Grateful that this report was accepted by the Seventy-Eighth General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held in 2015.*

*Inspired by the formal celebration of this relationship held at a service of Holy Eucharist at Uppsala Cathedral, Sweden, in November of 2015, led by The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, then Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, and The Most Reverend Antje Jackelén, Archbishop and Primate of the Church of Sweden.*

*Mindful of the request of the Seventy-Ninth General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held in 2018, that the Presiding Bishop facilitate the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between us "setting forth the terms and procedures of full communion between The Episcopal Church and The Church of Sweden".*

*Recommend that the governing bodies of both our churches receive and affirm the following Memorandum of Understanding:*

We, the Church of Sweden and the Episcopal Church, on the basis of our common understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church, fundamental agreement in faith and our agreement on episcopacy in the service of the apostolicity of the Church, contained in "Report on the Grounds for Future Relations between the Church of Sweden and the Episcopal Church", make the following acknowledgements and commitments:

1. We agree to the following:
2. We acknowledge one another's churches as churches belonging to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ and truly participating in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God.
3. We acknowledge that in our churches the Word of God is authentically preached, and the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist are duly administered.
4. We acknowledge that our churches share in the common confession of the apostolic faith.
5. We acknowledge that one another's ordained ministries are given by God as instruments of God's grace and as possessing not only the inward call of the Spirit, but also Christ's commission through his Body, the Church.
6. We acknowledge that personal, collegial and communal oversight (episcopate) is embodied and exercised in both our churches in a variety of forms, in continuity of apostolic life, mission and ministry.
7. We acknowledge that the episcopal office is valued and maintained in both our churches as a visible sign expressing and serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission and ministry.
8. We commit ourselves:
9. To share a common life in mission and service, to pray for and with one another, and to share resources.

10. To welcome one another's members to receive sacramental and other pastoral ministrations.
11. To regard baptized members of both our churches as members of our own.
12. To welcome diaspora congregations into the life of the indigenous churches, to their mutual enrichment.
13. To welcome persons episcopally ordained in either of our churches to the office of bishop, priest or deacon to serve, by invitation and in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be in force, in that ministry in the receiving church without re-ordination.
14. To invite one another's bishops (normally) to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of bishops as a sign of the unity and continuity of the Church.
15. To establish appropriate forms of collegial and conciliar consultation on significant matters of faith and order, life and work.
16. To encourage consultations of representatives of our churches, and to facilitate learning and exchange of ideas and information in theological and pastoral matters.
17. To establish a contact group to nurture our growth in communion and to co-ordinate the implementation of this agreement.

*Following approval of this Memorandum of Understanding by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and the synod of the Church of Sweden, This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING comes into force immediately after being signed by the Archbishop of Uppsala and the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.*

*DONE in \_\_\_\_\_ Cathedral, this \_\_\_\_\_*





**Resolution Number:** 2018-D085  
**Title:** Affirm Full Communion with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention acknowledge and affirm the existing full communion relationship between The Episcopal Church and the (Evangelical Lutheran) Church of Sweden, in furtherance of the 78th General Convention’s Resolution B004, which received and commended the “Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church,” and called on the Presiding Bishop to explore ways for the relationship with the Church of Sweden to be deepened, and which full communion relationship was formally celebrated during a Eucharist service at Uppsala Cathedral, Sweden in November 2015, a service led by former Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, at the invitation of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and the Church of Sweden Archbishop Antje Jackelén; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention request the Presiding Bishop to prepare, in concert with the Church of Sweden, a memorandum of understanding setting forth the terms and procedures of the full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 697.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-B004  
**Title:** Commend Report on Relations with Church of Sweden  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention receive the Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church, and commend it to all members of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations or its successor body to work with the Church of Sweden to deepen the relationship.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 666.





**Resolution Number:** 2009-A076  
**Title:** Begin a Dialogue with the Church of Sweden  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to begin a dialogue with the appropriate ecumenical offices of the Church of Sweden, the ultimate goal of which is to reach a relationship of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden; and be it further Resolved, That the Standing Commission do so in consultation with the Standing Inter-Anglican Commission on Unity, Faith and Order.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 515.