

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C007
Title: Designate March 10 as the Date to Commemorate Harriet Ross Tubman
Proposer: Province III
Topic: Church Calendar

Directly Related: (Attached)

2006-A061 Consider Change in Commemoration Date for Harriet Tubman
2003-D035 Refer a Resolution on the Commemoration of Harriet Tubman (Referred)
1997-A080 Approve Commemorations for Calendar of the Church Year
1994-A078 Propose Commemorations to be Added to the Church Calendar
1994-A079 Authorize Trial Use of Propers for Proposed Commemorations

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.

C007 - Designate March 10 as the Date to Commemorate Harriet Ross Tubman

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Province III

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That this 80th General Convention urges the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to designate March 10 as the date on the calendar of commemorations of the Episcopal Church for honoring Harriet Ross Tubman; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses and parishes, in cooperation with other judicatories and local communities of faith, be encouraged to honor Harriet Ross Tubman on the 110th anniversary of her death (March 10, 2023) in a worship service on or close to that date.

Explanation

Currently on our calendar of commemorations Harriet Ross Tubman, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Sojourner Truth, are assigned the date of July 20. Yet in recent years, within the Black community and elsewhere, the significance of Tubman's life and ministry has grown significantly.

Soon her portrait will appear on the \$20 bill replacing the seventh President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, an owner of slaves.

It has been suggested that the James Webb Space Telescope, often dubbed "the next Hubble" and slated to launch in the latter part of 2021, be renamed the "Harriet Tubman Space Telescope" because she liberated people and used the North Star as her guide. (*Scientific American*, March 1, 2021)

Furthermore, Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md) are sponsoring S. 3423, which would bring a statue of Harriet Tubman to the Washington, DC, Capitol Building in recognition of her extraordinary life and service to the nation. They note that through art in the Capitol, Congress can make a powerful statement about our nation's history and values. From the Statuary Hall collection to the ceilings of the Brumidi corridors, "we tell the story of our nation.

From time to time, Congress authorizes new additions to its collection, and in recent years has honored Rosa Parks and Sojourner Truth."

Messrs. Carden and Van Hollen further state: "Congress has an opportunity to recognize another of our nation's heroes, Harriet Tubman. Through the course of her life, Tubman showed extraordinary courage – escaping slavery, leading others to freedom on the Underground Railroad, operating an espionage network to fight the Confederacy, tending to the wounded as an army nurse, and devoting her later years to women's suffrage, the care of orphans, and the establishment of freedmen's schools. A statue of Harriet Tubman in our Capitol Building would be a powerful reminder to all visitors, from schoolchildren to foreign leaders, of the values she represents – strength, tenacity, equality, and compassion.

"Because Harriet Tubman is a favorite daughter of Maryland, our state has passed legislation to facilitate the acquisition of a statue. They established the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission to work with the Joint Committee on the Library and Architect of the Capitol to raise private funds and procure a statue that is consistent with the art and architecture of the Capitol Building. Through this process, Congress would be gifted the statue at no cost to taxpayers."

The General Convention was ahead of the curve when it added Harriet Ross Tubman to our calendar of commemorations (first reading in 1994, second reading in 1997). Now, the time has come to assign her a unique date. As this 80th General Convention gathers just 64 miles (as the crow flies) from the birthplace of Harriet Ross Tubman and the nearby National Park dedicated to her life and times – both located in Cambridge, MD, let us henceforth commemorate her on the anniversary of her death: March 10.

Furthermore, the 110th anniversary of her death, March 10, 2023, will be an appropriate opportunity to join with other communities of faith in celebrating the extraordinary life and ministry of Harriet Ross Tubman. Let us encourage all Episcopal dioceses and congregations to intentionally join with others in our own local areas on this date to honor her.



Resolution Number: 2006-A061

Title: Consider Change in Commemoration Date for Harriet Tubman

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

*Resolved, That a change in the date of the commemoration of Harriet Ross Tubman be duly considered by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music during the preparation of the new revision of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 480.



Resolution Number: 2003-D035
Title: Refer a Resolution on the Commemoration of Harriet Tubman
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the commemoration of Harriet Ross Tubman Davis be observed on March 10 in the Calendar of Lesser Feasts and that her name be removed from the commemorations of July 20.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 679f.



Resolution Number: 1997-A080
Title: Approve Commemorations for Calendar of the Church Year
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the commemorations of Julia Chester Emery, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Macrina, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ignatius of Loyola, Paul Jones, Alexander Crummell, Hildegard, and Thomas Becket, proposed by the General Convention of 1994 (*Journal*, page 684) and approved for trial use, be now finally approved and entered in the Calendar of the Church Year (Book of Common Prayer, pages 15-30); and be it further*

Resolved, That the commemoration of William Law be transferred from April 9 to April 10; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be sent within six months to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 271-272.



Resolution Number: 1994-A078
Title: Propose Commemorations to be Added to the Church Calendar
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention propose additional commemorations for inclusion in the Calendar of the Church Year and authorize trial use thereof for the triennium 1994-1997, as follows:

January 9 -Julia Chester Emery, Missionary, 1922
February 18 -Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546
April 9 -Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian, 1945
July 19 -Macrina, Monastic and Teacher, 379
July 20 -Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, 19th Century Liberators and Prophets
July 31 -Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, Monastic, and Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556 (transferring the commemoration of Joseph of Arimathea to August 1)
September 4 -Paul Jones, Bishop of Utah and Peace Advocate, 1941
September 10 -Alexander Crummell, Priest, Missionary, and Educator, 1898
September 17 -Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Mystic, 1170
December 29 -Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 684.



Resolution Number: 1994-A079
Title: Authorize Trial Use of Propers for Proposed Commemorations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention authorize, for trial use until the General Convention of 1997, the commemorations proposed by this Convention, with the following propers, allowing possible revision of the collects and propers by the Standing Liturgical Commission.

January 9

JULIA CHESTER EMERY

Missionary, 1922

I. O God, whose purposes never fail, and who dost constantly build up thy Church upon the love and devotion of thy saints: We give thee thanks for thy servant Julia Emery, whom we commemorate today. Inspire us to follow her example of lifelong service in the worldwide mission of thy Church, and grant that we, in our day, may merit thy commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. O God, whose purposes never fail, you constantly build up your Church upon the love and devotion of your saints: We give you thanks for your servant Julia Emery, whom we commemorate today. Inspire us to follow her example of lifelong service in the worldwide mission of your Church, and grant that we, in our day, may merit your commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen. Psalm - 67 or 96:1-7*

Lesson - Romans 12:6-13

Gospel - Mark 10:42-45

Preface of a Saint (2)

February 18

MARTIN LUTHER

Reformer, 1546

I. O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out thy Holy Spirit upon thy faithful people; Keep them, as thou didst keep thy servant Martin Luther, steadfast in thy grace and truth; protect and strengthen them in all temptation; defend them against all enemies of thy Word; and bestow upon thy Church thy saving grace; through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people; Keep them, as you kept your servant Martin Luther, steadfast in your grace and truth; protect and strengthen them in all temptation; defend them from all enemies of your Word; and bestow upon your Church your saving grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 46

Lesson - Isaiah 55:6-11

Gospel - John 15:1-11
Preface of Trinity Sunday

April 9
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
Pastor and Theologian, 1945

I. Almighty God, the beyond in the midst of our life, thou gavest grace to thy servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer to know and to teach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and to bear the cost of following him: Grant that we, strengthened by his teaching and example, may live under thy Word in all its forms and richness, and embrace its call to faithfulness with an undivided heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

II. Almighty God, the beyond in the midst of our life, you gave grace to your servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer to know and to teach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and to bear the cost of following him: Grant that we, strengthened by his teaching and example, may live under your Word in all its forms and richness, and embrace its call to faithfulness with an undivided heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm - 119:89-96

Lesson - Proverbs 3:1-7

Gospel - Matthew 13:47-52

Preface of a Saint (2)

July 19
MACRINA
Monastic and Teacher, 379

I. Merciful God, thou didst call thy servant Macrina to reveal in her life and her teaching the riches of thy grace and truth: May we, following her example, seek after thy wisdom and live according to her way; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

II. Merciful God, you called your servant Macrina to reveal in her life and her teaching the riches of your grace and truth: May we, following her example, seek after your wisdom and live according to her way; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm - 119:97-104

Lesson - Ecclesiasticus 51:13-22

Gospel - Matthew 11:27-30

Preface of a Saint (2)

July 20
ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, AMELIA BLOOMER,
SOJOURNER TRUTH AND HARRIET TUBMAN
19th Century Liberators and Prophets

I. O God, whose Spirit guidest us into all truth and makest us free: Strengthen and sustain us as thou didst thy servants Elizabeth, Amelia, Sojourner and Harriet. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that worketh against the glorious

liberty to which thou callest all thy children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. O God, whose Spirit guides us into all truth and makes us free: Strengthen and sustain us as you did your servants Elizabeth, Amelia, Sojourner and Harriet. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that works against the glorious liberty to which you call all your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 146

Lesson - Wisdom 7:24-28

Gospel - Luke 11:5-10

Preface of Baptism

July 31

IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Priest, Monastic and Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556

I. Almighty God, from whom all good things come: We thank thee for calling Ignatius of Loyola to the service of thy Divine Majesty and to find thee in all things. Inspired by his example and strengthened by his companionship, may we labor without counting the cost and seek no reward other than knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, from whom all good things come: We thank you for calling Ignatius of Loyola to the service of your Divine Majesty and to find you in all things. Inspired by his example and strengthened by his companionship, may we labor without counting the cost and seek no reward other than knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 34:1-8

Lesson - I Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel - Luke 9:57-62

Preface of a Saint (3)

August 1

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

(moved from 31 July)

September 4

PAUL JONES

Bishop of Utah and Peace Advocate, 1941

I. Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of the human race, who didst send thy beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in this and every land and time courageous men and women who, like thy servant Paul Jones, will, in the face of opposition, stand firm in proclaiming the gospel of peace. This we ask in the Name of him who is the Prince of peace, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of the human race, who sent your beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in this and every land and time courageous men and women who, like your servant Paul Jones, will, in the face of opposition, stand firm in proclaiming the gospel of peace. This we ask in the Name

of the Prince of peace, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 133

Lesson - Malachi 2:17-3:5

Gospel - John 14:1,18-27

Preface of a Saint (3)

September 10

ALEXANDER CRUMMELL

Priest, Missionary, and Educator, 1898

I. Almighty God, who willest to be glorified in thy saints, and didst raise up thy servant Alexander Crummell to be a light in the world: Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we also in our generation may show forth thy praise, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, and who raised up your servant Alexander Crummell to be a light in the world: Shine in our hearts, we pray, that we also in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 19:7-11

Lesson - Sirach 39:6-11

Gospel - Mark 4:1-10,13-20

Preface of a Saint (2)

September 17

HILDEGARD

Abbess of Bingen and Mystic, 1170

I. Creator God, thy whole creation, in all its varied and related parts, showeth forth thy verdant and life-giving power: Grant that we thy people, illuminated by the visions recorded by thy servant Hildegard, may know, and make known, the joy and jubilation of being part of this cycle of creation, and may manifest thy glory in all virtuous and godly living; through Jesus Christ whom thou has sent, and who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Creator God, your whole creation, in all its varied and related parts, shows forth your verdant and life-giving power: Grant that we your people, illumined by the visions recorded by your servant Hildegard, may know, and make known, the joy and jubilation of being part of this cycle of creation, and may manifest your glory in all virtuous and godly living; through Jesus Christ whom you sent, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm - 104:25-34

Lesson - Sirach 43:1-2,6-7,9-12,27-28

Gospel - John 3:16-21

Preface of the Epiphany

December 29

THOMAS BECKET

Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170

I. Almighty God, who didst give to thy servant Thomas Becket boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of the same our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

II. O Almighty God, who gave to your servant Thomas Becket boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm - 126

Lesson - 2 Esdras 2:42-48

Gospel - Matthew 10:16-22

Preface of a Saint (3)

The following names were submitted to the SLC for consideration and are not proposed for inclusion:

***Philander Chase* - is viewed as a local rather than a national figure at this time.**

***William Lawrence* - does not have evidence of significant support of the local church.**

***C. S. Lewis* - has not been dead for two generations.**

***Florence Nightingale* - information has not been received giving evidence of her commitment to the Christian faith. She is perceived to be more of a secular rather than a Christian hero.**

***Charles Stuart* - has limited significance for the Episcopal Church.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 685-90.