

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

Resolution No.: 2022-C043
Title: To Include the Name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar
Proposer: Washington
Topic: Church Calendar

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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.

C043 - to Include the Name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Washington

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 of the Episcopal Church hereby directs the inclusion the name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar of The Episcopal Church, and authorize trial use of the proper for the triennial 2023-2024 to be celebrated on March 13; and be it further

Resolved, that this 80th General Convention approve the appropriate proper to be prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

Explanation

The Episcopal Church publishes Lesser Feasts & Fasts, which contains feast days for the various men and women the Church wishes to honor. Bishop Harris died on March 13, 2020. While the typical process calls for such a resolution, seeking to add a name to the Calendar, be presented at two successive General Conventions, there have been exceptions to this rule. For example, the Episcopal Church added Jonathan Myrick Daniels to its Lesser Feasts and Fasts calendar of commemorations in 1994. His feast day is August 14, the day of his arrest. It seems appropriate in this case since Bishop Harris was a woman of color as well as the first woman ordained bishop, which will not change over time.

Barbara C. Harris (1930 – 2020) became the first woman to be ordained a bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion on February 11, 1989. Her years of episcopal leadership were filled with traveling and witnessing, preaching, and teaching and administering the sacraments. A gifted storyteller known for her quick wit and raspy-voiced delivery, she was also a spirited and sought-after preacher of hymn laced, Gospel-grounded sermons, and an outspoken advocate for, in her words, "the least, the lost and the left out." With great grace, she worked tirelessly serving the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as their Suffragan Bishop for 13 years, until her retirement in 2002.

After her retirement, she served from 2003 until 2007 as an Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Washington (D.C.) where she won many friends and colleagues.