

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D029
Title: Affirming Non-Binary Access and Leadership
Proposer: The Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge
Topic: Gender Identity

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A284 Amend Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2 [Rights of Laity, Access to Discernment Process]
2018-C022 Support End of Discrimination Against Transgender and Non-Binary People
2012-D002 Amend Canon III.1.2 [Access to Discernment Process for Ministry]
2012-D019 Amend Canon I.17.5 [Rights of Laity]
2009-D032 Commit to Non-Discrimination in Lay Employment

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

2018-C054 Adopt Guiding Principles for Inclusion of Transgender and Non-binary People

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.

D029 - Affirming Non-Binary Access and Leadership

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: The Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge

Endorsed by: The Rev. Lisa Fry, Ms. Sarah Lawton

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 15 - Ministry

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th Convention affirm that “[n]o one shall be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, governance, or employment of this Church” due to “gender identity and expression” (Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 5); and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm that “no person shall be denied access to the discernment process or to any process for the employment, licensing, calling, or deployment for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church” due to “gender identity and expression” (Title III, Canon 1, Sec. 2); and be it further

Resolved, That non-binary as well as binary identified transgender and cisgender people are included in the phrase “gender identity and expression,” and that the provisions of these canons apply equally to people of all genders.

Explanation

For well over a decade, The Episcopal Church (via General Convention resolutions 2009-D032, 2012-D002, 2012-D019, 2018-A284, and 2018-C022) has made public commitments to support transgender people, both those who are binary (male or female) and who are non-binary (neither male nor female). When The Episcopal Church added the phrases “gender identity and expression” or “gender identity or gender expression” to our nondiscrimination canons, we sought to safeguard fair, free, and equal access to all parts of

our Church's life together as the Body of Christ for all gender diverse individuals. Yet people whose gender is non-binary, whose pronouns may be they/them rather than the binary pronouns he/him or she/her, continue to experience barriers to congregational life and leadership. These barriers have included the incorrect assertion that "gender identity and expression" only applies to binary transgender people (e.g. transgender men or transgender women), or that coming out as transgender and/or non-binary during the process toward ordination requires completely reapplying to the ordination process. Therefore, this resolution unambiguously affirms that non-binary as well as binary people—indeed, people of all genders – are in fact covered by the language of "gender identity and expression" in our nondiscrimination canons.



Resolution Number: 2018-A284
Title: Amend Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2 [Rights of Laity, Access to Discernment Process]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.17.5 be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. No one shall be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, ~~and~~ governance, *or employment* of this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital *or family* status (*including pregnancy or child care plans*), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons.

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.1.2 be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. No person shall be denied access to the discernment process *or to any process for the employment, licensing, calling, or deployment* for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital *or family* status (*including pregnancy and child care plans*), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to *employment, licensing, ordination, call, deployment, or election* is hereby established.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 674.



Resolution Number: 2018-C022
Title: Support End of Discrimination Against Transgender and Non-Binary People
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm its support for the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal level that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one's gender identity; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church support legislative, educational, pastoral, liturgical, and broader communal efforts that seek to end the pattern of violence against transgender people in general and transgender women in particular, calling attention especially to the rising violence against transgender women of color and gender non-conforming people; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church oppose all legislation that restricts public restroom, locker room and shower access for transgender and gender non-conforming people, recognizing that such bills disproportionately impact and contribute to a pattern of violence against transgender women and non-binary identified people; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church ask dioceses and parishes to remove barriers to full participation in congregational life by making their gender-specific facilities and activities fully accessible to all, regardless of gender identity and expression; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for passage of federal legislation that protects transgender and gender non-conforming persons from discrimination; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church urge dioceses, parishes, and Episcopalians to advocate for passage and enactment of similar legislation at the local and state level.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 421.



Resolution Number: 2012-D002

Title: Amend Canon III.1.2 [Access to Discernment Process for Ministry]

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That Title III, Canon 1, Sec. 2 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church be hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, *gender identity and expression*, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing, ordination, or election is hereby established.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 512.



Resolution Number: 2012-D019
Title: Amend Canon I.17.5 [Rights of Laity]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 5 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church be hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. No one shall be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, *gender identity and expression*, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 505-506.



Resolution Number: 2009-D032

Title: Commit to Non-Discrimination in Lay Employment

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church not to discriminate in employment of lay employees based on race, color, sex, national origin, age, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 712.