

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

Resolution No.: 2022-D032
Title: Condemning Patriarch Kirill of Moscow for Promoting War in Ukraine
Proposer: Deputy Nathan Brown
Topic: Warfare

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.

D032 Condemning Patriarch Kirill of Moscow for Promoting War in Ukraine

Proposer	Deputy Nathan Brown
Endorsed by	Mr. Richard Pryor and Ms. Michele Glidden
Supported by	—
HiA / Leg. Cttee	House of Bishops / —
Current Status	—
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That this 80th General Convention condemns Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, for providing religious justification for Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and promoting Russian aggression as a “holy war”; and be it further

Resolved, that this Conventions praises the courage of the more than 300 priests of the Russian Orthodox Church who signed a letter condemning the aggression and expressed their grief over the ordeal of the Ukrainian people, calling for an end to the war; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention calls for Patriarch Kirill to repudiate his comments, make true repentance, and call for an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine by arriving at a just peace; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention directs that until Patriarch Kirill repudiates his comments, or his comments are repudiated by his successor, the Episcopal Church shall not engage in any official ecumenical outreach with the Russian Orthodox Church, including the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention directs the Secretary of General Convention or their designee to send a copy of this resolution to Patriarch Kirill; the Rev. Prof Ioan Sauca, Acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Metropolitan Hilarion, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York and First-Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia; and Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Chair of the National Council of Churches.

EXPLANATION

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow is the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church and has, since the beginning of the Ukraine War, blessed the war and declared it to be a struggle of “metaphysical significance,” for humanity to follow God’s laws. In his errant teachings, he has advocated for bloodshed citing “gay pride parades”, and has made other inflammatory statements providing the Russian Orthodox Church’s blessing for the war in Ukraine that has cost countless lives and resulted in well documented

war crimes.

In the aftermath of the Bucha massacre on April 3, 2022, Kirill praised the armed forces of Russia for "feats" of service, saying Russia is "peaceful", despite the well documented evidence of war crimes committed by Russian forces.

As a Church, it is important for us to send a clear message that to use God to justify an unprovoked invasion that has resulted in the deaths of countless people and well documented war crimes is not acceptable and that we, as the Episcopal Church, condemn his actions wholeheartedly and refuse to engage in any further dialogue with the Russian Orthodox Church until these comments are repudiated.