

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A041  
**Title:** Create of a Task Force on The Episcopal Church-Anglican Communion Relationship  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations  
**Topic:** Anglican Communion

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A056 Appoint a Task Force on Communion Across Difference  
2018-A038 Affirm Commitment to Anglican Communion and Inter-Anglican Secretariat  
2018-A227 Create a Task Force on Communion Across Difference  
2015-A019 Affirm an Ongoing Commitment to the Anglican Communion  
2012-D008 Reaffirm Commitment to and Participation in the Anglican Communion

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

2018-A090 Amend Multiple Canons in Title I, III, IV [Regarding Full Communion]  
2009-A125 On the Topic of Establishing an Anglican Communion Task Force (Rejected)  
2006-B032 Affirm Intent that No Resolution Affect the Status of the Anglican Communion  
2000-C009 Celebrate the Anglican Communion and Affirm Understanding of Authority

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).*

# A041 - Create of a Task Force on The Episcopal Church-Anglican Communion Relationship

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$30,000.00

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** Yes

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** Yes

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** Yes

**HiA:** No House Assigned

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** No Committee Assigned

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention , pursuant to Joint Rule VII, create a task force on The Episcopal Church-Anglican Communion relationships, to work in collaboration with the Presiding Bishop, and whose mandate includes, but is not limited to, (1) conducting a study of issues impairing relationships of communion between The Episcopal Church and other Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and the development of proposals for engaging constructively across differences; (2) proposing systematic ways for the Episcopal Church to respond to theological statements issued by the instruments of the Communion; (3) proposing a means of establishing clear guidance for representatives of The Episcopal Church to the triennial meetings of the Anglican Consultative Council; and (4) supporting the work of the Offices of Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church as it relates to relationships with our Anglican Communion partners; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force begin its work no later than January 1, 2025, with the task force concluding its work at the conclusion of the 82nd General Convention, unless its mandate is extended by the 82nd Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force report annually to the Executive Council's Joint Standing Committee on Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church and a report with recommendations to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the membership of this task force be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies and include up to three Bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop; up to three Clergy and up to three Lay Persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; up to two members of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) appointed by the SCWM; up to two members of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (SCEIR), appointed by the SCEIR; and up to four representatives with expertise in the history and polity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Presiding Bishop appoint a member of staff from the Presiding Bishop's Office to serve as consultant to the task force; and be it further

*Resolved*, That \$30,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution.

## **Explanation**

In the short time since the 80th General Convention concluded, significant developments have made clear the possibility of important changes in the relationships between Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Statements by leaders of some Anglican provinces that they no longer regard themselves as in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury—a *sine qua non* of the bonds of Communion relationships—is one example.

The Episcopal Church should be a constructive voice in the conversations shaping the future of the Anglican Communion. Locating the responsibility for these issues within an Interim Body of the General Convention would be a clear signal to partner churches in the Communion of the seriousness with which our church will offer its voice in those conversations.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A056  
**Title:** Appoint a Task Force on Communion Across Difference  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention directs the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to appoint a second Task Force on Communion Across Difference to continue the work started but limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, consisting of not more than 12 people, who represent the cultural, generational, racial, ethnic and theological diversity in the Church, including especially members from dioceses outside the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That half of the members appointed hold that marriage is a “covenant between a man and a woman” (BCP, 422), half hold that marriage is a “covenant between two people” in the presence of God (Resolution 2018-A085), and that all of those appointed seek a pathway toward mutual flourishing in The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will seek to build on the Blue Book report of the previous triennium, continuing to seek a lasting path forward for mutual flourishing consistent with this Church’s polity and the 2015 “Communion across Difference” statement of the House of Bishops, affirming (1) the clear decision of General Convention that Christian marriage is a covenant open to two people of the same sex or of the opposite sex, (2) General Convention’s firm commitment to make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to authorized liturgies; and also affirming (3) the indispensable place that the minority who hold to this Church’s historic teaching on marriage have in our common life, whose witness our Church needs; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force develop and publicize further tools for engaging the members of this Church in the substance of the Task Force on Communion Across Difference Blue Book Report to this Convention, including but not limited to videos documenting experiences across this Church that demonstrate positive examples of communion across difference, and materials that broaden the conversation beyond matters of human sexuality and marriage; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force consult widely with members of this Church who represent its diversity of cultural background, age, race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, particularly its members in countries other than the United States; and also with representatives from the Anglican Communion, our full-communion ecumenical partners, and those churches with whom we carry on ecumenical dialogues; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commends to dioceses, parishes, and churchwide staff the Conversation Tool created by the Task Force on Communion Across Difference included in the Supplemental Materials section of their Blue Book report to this Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force report and make recommendations to the 81th General Convention, ending its term at that time except by further action of General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$75,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 778-779.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A038

**Title:** Affirm Commitment to Anglican Communion and Inter-Anglican Secretariat

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred

**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That through our funding and active participation, this Church continues to bear witness to this Church's ongoing commitment to the Anglican Communion and the work of the Inter-Anglican Secretariat (Anglican Communion Office).*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 853.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A227  
**Title:** Create a Task Force on Communion Across Difference  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint jointly a Task Force on Communion across Difference, consisting of not more than 14 people, who represent the diversity in this Church including members from countries other than the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That half of the members appointed hold that marriage is a “covenant between a man and a woman” (BCP, 422), half of whom hold that marriage is a “covenant between two people” (Resolution 2018-A085), in the presence of God , and that all of those appointed seek a pathway toward mutual flourishing in The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force seek a lasting path forward for mutual flourishing consistent with this Church’s polity and the 2015 “Communion across Difference” statement of the House of Bishops affirming (1) the clear decision of General Convention that Christian marriage is a covenant between two people, of the same sex or of the opposite sex, (2) General Convention’s firm commitment to make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to authorized liturgies; and also affirming (3) the indispensable place that the minority who hold to this Church’s historic teaching on marriage have in our common life, whose witness the Church needs; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force consult widely with members of this Church who represent its diversity of cultural background, age, race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, particularly its members in countries other than the United States, and also with representatives reflecting the diversity of views and voices of the Anglican Communion, our full-communication ecumenical partners, and those churches with whom we carry on ecumenical dialogues; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force report and make recommendations to the 80th General Convention, ending its term at that time except by further action of General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$75,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1037-1038.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A019  
**Title:** Affirm an Ongoing Commitment to the Anglican Communion  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm our common identity and membership in the Anglican Communion; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct The Episcopal Church's members of the Anglican Consultative Council to express our appreciation to the 16th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC16, Lusaka 2016) for the gift of Inter-Anglican conversation and partnership in God's mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church affirm its ongoing commitment to the Anglican Communion and the work of the Inter-Anglican Secretariat through our funding and active participation.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 432.





**Resolution Number:** 2012-D008  
**Title:** Reaffirm Commitment to and Participation in the Anglican Communion  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The 77th General Convention express its profound gratitude to those who so faithfully work at encouraging dialogue within the diversity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we celebrate the great blessing of the Anglican Communion in its diversity within community as autonomous churches in relationship bound together in our differences in service to God's mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we hold fast and reaffirm our historic commitment to and constituent membership in the Anglican Communion as expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion committing itself to continued participation in the wider councils of the Anglican Communion; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church deepen its involvement with Communion ministries and networks using where applicable the Continuing Indaba process: conversations across differences to strengthen relationships in God's mission (<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/continuingindaba> and [www.continuingindaba.com](http://www.continuingindaba.com)); and be it further*

*Resolved, That The 77th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and individual members of The Episcopal Church to educate themselves about the Communion as well as promote and support the Anglican Communion and its work.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 241.