

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A049
Title: Affirming the Goal of Full Communion between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church
Proposer: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Topic: Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A093 Commend and Engage with The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Church Dialogue
2022-A094 Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
2022-A201 Celebrate the Work of the Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue
2018-A036 Affirm Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
2018-A041 Receive and Study Proposal of Ecumenical Dialogue with United Methodists
2018-A261 Commend Ongoing Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue
2015-A017 Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
2006-A055 Continue Dialogue with the United Methodist Church

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

1997-B038 Express Gratitude to Ecumenical Partners

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

The Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue Team, [A Theological Foundation for Full Communion between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church](#), April 2010.

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](#).

A049 - Affirming the Goal of Full Communion between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: Yes

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

That this 81st General Convention affirms previous resolutions 2018-A041, 2018-A261, and 2006-A055 for The Episcopal Church to continue dialogue with the United Methodist Church with the goal of reaching full communion; and be it further

Resolved, That as the United Methodist Church's General Conference meets in 2024 after a four-year hiatus, this Convention joyfully anticipates advancing towards full communion with the United Methodist Church as outlined in The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue 2010 document, "A Theological Foundation for Full Communion between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church" and then summarized in 2018's "A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness"; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages all Episcopalians to utilize the many resources available to understand the substance of the dialogue and its goal of full communion. Resources can be found on the websites of The Episcopal Church (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/ecumenical-interreligious/united-methodist-episcopal-dialogue/>), the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (edeio.org), and umc-tec.org, a website supporting full communion between the United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, “That this Convention encourages and supports prayerful consideration by all Episcopalians during the coming triennium of this significant step forward in response to our Lord’s fervent wish “that all may be one.”

Explanation

Psalm 126: 5-6 (NRSVA): “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.” 2024 marks 71 years of dialogue between Episcopalians and Methodists in the United States, the last 21 of which have been spent preparing for full communion between our two churches. The creation in 2006 of interim eucharistic sharing (described in *Gift* lines 19-21) resulted in the 2010 document setting out the theological foundations for full communion between the two churches (see summary in *Gift* lines 49-57). Both documents are attached for further reading. These carefully nurtured hopes recently experienced delays due to profoundly painful and unjust internal divisions within both our communities.

In 2024, however, new signs of hope for further ecumenical progress may be in view. As both supporting documents explain, the two churches are in harmony on the essentials of our faith. We share compatible views and practices on baptism, Eucharist, Scripture, ordained and lay ministry, mission, and the role of bishops. We believe our two churches will soon be poised to affirm full communion together as two branches of the same Jesus Movement tree, and to share in ministry by producing leaves fruitful for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22; quoted in *Gift* lines 12-15). As we prepare for that future, we commend the continued study and reception of the many gifts offered by the United Methodist Church that can enrich and sustain our life as The Episcopal Church.



Resolution Number: 2022-A093
Title: Commend and Engage with The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Church Dialogue
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commends the current version of “A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness,” which was prepared and distributed by The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages all Episcopalians to utilize the many resources available to understand the substance of this dialogue and its goal of full communion. Resources can be found on the websites of The Episcopal Church (episcopalchurch.org), the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (edeio.org), and umc-tec.org, a website supporting full communion between the United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention expresses its particular, prayerful support for the LGBTQIA+ communities among both the lay and clergy members of the United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages and supports prayerful consideration by all Episcopalians during the coming triennium of this significant step forward in response to our Lord’s fervent wish “that all may be one.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 455-456.



Resolution Number: 2022-A094
Title: Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which The Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue; the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA), and the work toward full communion with the United Methodist Church (UMC); and be it further
*Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of work of the dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern) and commends the document *Sharing the Gifts of Communion* to the church for consideration; and be it further*
Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further
Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms our representation and participation in national ecumenical bodies, including the National Council of Churches (NCC), Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) and Christian Churches Together (CCT).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 456.



Resolution Number: 2022-A201

Title: Celebrate the Work of the Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue

Legislative Action Taken: Adopted

Final Text:

Resolved, That the House of Bishops, meeting at this 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, gathered in Baltimore, Maryland, recognizing the unique historical relationship that exists between our two Churches, celebrates the ongoing work of the official dialogue between us as a visible expression of the vocation of the Church to the ministry of reconciliation and to the unity of all in Christ, praying and working earnestly for the restoration of full communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 793.



Resolution Number: 2018-A036
Title: Affirm Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which The Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue; the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA), noting particularly a renewed round of conversations; and the work toward full communion with the United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention celebrates with joy and gratitude the deepening international relationship among the leaders of The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and commends the members of these churches for the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have jointly issued.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 412-413.



Resolution Number: 2018-A041
Title: Receive and Study Proposal of Ecumenical Dialogue with United Methodists
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention receives with gratitude the proposal “A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness,” which was prepared and distributed by The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages all Episcopalians to utilize the many resources available to understand the substance of this dialogue and its goal of full communion. Resources can be found on the websites of The Episcopal Church (episcopalchurch.org), the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (edeio.org), and umc-tec.org, a website supporting full communion between the United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages and supports prayerful consideration by all Episcopalians during the coming triennium of this significant step forward in response to our Lord’s fervent wish “that all may be one.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 524-525.



Resolution Number: 2018-A261
Title: Commend Ongoing Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue
Legislative Action Taken: Adopted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the House of Bishops meeting at the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, gathered in Austin, Texas, recognizing the unique historical relationship that exists between our two Churches, celebrates the ongoing work of the official dialogue between us as a visible expression of the vocation of the Church to the ministry of reconciliation and to the unity of all in Christ, praying and working earnestly for the restoration of full communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1104.



Resolution Number: 2015-A017
Title: Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues sponsored currently by The Episcopal Church: The dialogue toward full communion with the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue, and the renewed round of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the U.S.A. (ARCUSA); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continued coordinating committee work with The Episcopal Church's full communion partners, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern and Southern Provinces of The Moravian Church in America; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention note with joy and gratitude the deepening relationship between the Primates and Presiding Bishops of The Episcopal Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Anglican Church of Canada, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and commend, to members of all four churches, the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have issued jointly.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 665-666.



Resolution Number: 2006-A055
Title: Continue Dialogue with the United Methodist Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

1. **Welcome and rejoice in the substantial progress of The United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogue and of international conversations between Anglicans and Methodists, and give thanks for the Anglican-Methodist Covenant in Great Britain. We look forward to the day when full communion is established between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church;**
2. **Recognize now The United Methodist Church as a member of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught;**
3. **Encourage the development of common Christian life throughout our respective Churches by such means as the following:**
 - a) **Mutual prayer and mutual support, including parochial/congregational and diocesan/annual conference covenants or agreements,**
 - b) **Common study of the Holy Scriptures, the histories and theological traditions of each Church, and the materials produced by The United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogue.**
 - c) **Joint programs of religious education, theological discussion, mission, evangelism, and social action,**
 - d) **Joint use of facilities;**
4. **Affirm now on the basis of the documents**
 - a) *Sharing in the Apostolic Communion*, produced by the International Anglican-Methodist Conversations in 1996;
 - b) the “Constitution and Canons” of The Episcopal Church and the “Book of Common Prayer” of The Episcopal Church
 - c) The United Methodist *Book of Worship* and the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church;
 - d) and the documents “This Holy Mystery” on the Lord’s Supper and “By Water and the Spirit” on Baptism affirmed by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church that the basic teaching of each respective Church is consonant with the Gospel and is sufficiently compatible with the teaching of this Church that a relationship of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist is hereby established between The United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church under the following guidelines:
 - i) The Episcopal Church extends a special welcome to members of The United Methodist Church to receive Holy Communion in it under the Standard for Occasional Eucharistic Sharing of its 1979 General Convention. This welcome constitutes a mutual recognition of Eucharistic teaching sufficient for Interim Sharing of the Eucharist, although this does not intend to signify that final recognition of each other's ministries has yet been achieved.
 - ii) Bishops and Dioceses of The Episcopal Church and Bishops of The United Methodist Church may by mutual agreement extend the regulations of Church discipline to permit common, joint celebration of the Eucharist within their

jurisdictions. This is appropriate in particular situations where the said authorities deem that local conditions are appropriate for the sharing of worship jointly by congregations of the respective Churches. The presence of an ordained bishop or elder in the United Methodist Church and a bishop or priest of The Episcopal Church at the altar in this way reflects the presence of two or more Churches expressing unity in faith and baptism as well as the remaining divisions which they seek to overcome; however, this does not imply rejection or final recognition of either Church's Eucharist or ministry. In such circumstances the Eucharistic prayer will be from an approved liturgy as authorized jointly by the Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese and The United Methodist Episcopal Area.

iii) Clergy and Lay leadership of Episcopal and United Methodist congregations that might see such Interim Sharing of the Eucharist will support this relationship by establishing steps and activities among their local congregations, such as those outlined in section (3) above, so that the truest fulfillment of the vision for Interim Sharing of the Eucharist might be realized.

iv) This resolution and experience of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist will be communicated at regular intervals to other Churches of the World Methodist Council and the Anglican Communion throughout the world, as well as to the various ecumenical dialogues in which Anglicans and Methodists are engaged, especially Churches Uniting in Christ, in order that consultation may be fostered, similar experiences encouraged elsewhere, and already existing relationships of full communion respected;

5. Authorize continued United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogues for the discussion of any other outstanding questions that must be resolved before full communion can be established between the respective Churches, e.g., historic episcopate, and the ordering of ministry (Bishops, Priests, and Deacons) in the total context of apostolicity.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 693-695.