

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A036
TITLE: Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
PROPOSER: Executive Council
TOPIC: Ecumenism

Directly Related: (Attached)

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)

2012-A036 Continue Dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2009-A073 Add Canon I.20.3 [Full Communion: Moravian Church in America]
2009-A075 Adopt an Agreement Between the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Executive Council](#), see page 123.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A036 Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies

Proposer	Executive Council
Topic	Ecumenism
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 19 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which the Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian-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. This Convention also affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That this Convention celebrates with joy and gratitude the deepening 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 all four churches for the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have jointly issued.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



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.