

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A040  
**TITLE:** Formal Response to "The Church: Towards a Common Vision"  
**PROPOSER:** Executive Council  
**TOPIC:** Ecumenism

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

None

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

2012-A037 Commend Guidelines for Ecumenical Shared Ministries  
1991-A039 Endorse an Ecumenical Agenda for the Years Ahead  
1988-A043 Commend Recommendations on Participation in the NCCC and WCC  
1982-A042 Commend Study of Ecumenical Statements

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

*The Church: Towards a Common Vision*, [World Council of Churches](#), 2018

*(Blue Book) Report to General Convention*, [Executive Council](#), see page 124.

*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.*

# A040 Formal Response to "The Church: Towards a Common Vision"

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

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to refer the issue of a formal response from the Episcopal Church to the 2013 World Council of Churches statement *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* (TCTCV) to the Joint Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for the purpose of proposing a definitive response from the 79th General Convention.

## EXPLANATION

The full statement *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* (TCTCV) can be found at the following url: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/i-unity-the-church-and-its-mission/the-church-towards-a-common-vision>

The proposed draft response from the Episcopal Church to *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* can be found here:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/draft-proposed-response-episcopal-church-church-towards-common-vision>

By way of background, please note the following resolution which was adopted by the Executive Council on this matter:

Resolved, That the Executive Council, meeting February 5-8, 2017, at the Maritime Center, Linthicum, Maryland, acknowledges the receipt of a proposed draft response from an ad hoc committee of The Episcopal Church to the 2013 statement issued by the World Council of Churches entitled *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* (TCTCV), a convergence statement that has been developed over the last thirty years by the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order; and be it further

Resolved, That the title of this proposed response developed by this ad hoc group be changed to "A Draft of a Proposed Response of the Episcopal Church to *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council also acknowledge that the World Council has invited all member

churches to respond formally to this significant document; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council, as the body duly authorized to act on behalf of the General Convention between the triennial meetings thereof, directs the Secretary of Executive Council to submit to the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches this proposed, draft response along with a copy of this resolution by no later than March 31, 2017, clearly noting in a cover letter that a final and definitive response from The Episcopal Church must await formal and final action by the General Convention of this Church.

(At General Convention, there will be a hard copy of each document available for review in the Secretariat.)