

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A207  
**TITLE:** Encouraging Mission as Part of the Beloved Community  
**PROPOSER:** 05 - World Mission  
**TOPIC:** World Mission

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A096 Affirm Relationships in Approaches to Social Justice Ministry  
2012-A135 Commit to Alleviating Poverty and Injustice  
2009-D075 Challenge Dioceses and Congregations to Participate in One New Mission Project

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

2015-A001 Reform Seminary Training and Develop Transformative Encounters  
2015-A012 Continue Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones  
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice  
2015-D009 Create a Congregational Revitalization Network  
2012-A073 Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones  
2009-B030 Direct Facilitation of Companion Domestic Mission Relationships

*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.*

# A207 Encouraging Mission as Part of the Beloved Community

<b>Proposer</b>	05 - World Mission
<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 / 05 - World Mission
<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 remind dioceses, congregations, and individuals that “being a beloved community” is being members of a global community honoring our full name: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church (DFMS); and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That this Convention affirm that in baptism we are called to companionship, which is by its very nature, standing with, traveling with, and sharing bread with another; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That this Convention commit to moving away from colonialism and recognize that the work of mission is a Christ-centered, mutual undertaking, which is most effective when the traditional roles of “giver” and “receiver” are discarded, and the gifts of all are accepted, welcomed, and utilized; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That this Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and mission organizations to establish productive, mutual relationships with other outreach communities that have similar intent, but may not be part of the Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That dioceses, congregations, and individuals be encouraged to pray regularly for specific dioceses and congregations and individuals with whom they are in companionship; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That dioceses, congregations and individuals be encouraged to form personal sharing relationships through messaging and social media with individuals and congregations with whom they are in companionship.

## EXPLANATION

In our contemporary globally interconnected world, international mission has evolved from a colonial paternalistic view of mission to an understanding of being sent to share the gospel of Jesus’ love. Mission is now understood as a companion relationship, sharing of gifts, that all parties bring to the relationship. Mission experiences of encountering God in others whose culture may be very different from our own

have the power to transform individuals and communities. In the words of Barbara Brown Taylor, “The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self- to encounter human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.”

This proposed resolution encourages dioceses, congregations, individuals to develop international mission relationships of mutually shared gifts, shared worship, and shared experiences. It is the intent that there be an understanding of mutual work among faith based organizations when working to live out our baptismal vows. In preparation and implementation of mission engagement, we encourage use of resources from the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN), Episcopal Relief & Development, or other diocesan resources that may be available.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A096  
**Title:** Affirm Relationships in Approaches to Social Justice Ministry  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the many justice ministries of service and advocacy throughout The Episcopal Church, ministries that are grounded in the Baptismal Covenant and that were initiated by General Conventions, dioceses, congregations, and other Episcopal organizations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the use of various methods to discern, develop, and sustain justice ministries, such as Asset-Based Community Development, needs surveys, and community organizing; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the formation of partnerships between congregations and well-established community organizing groups in their local contexts in order to be trained in the practice of community organizing and sustained by those partnerships that they may do justice ministry more effectively and efficiently; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention acknowledge that one of the greatest challenges of our time and culture is the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the sin of economic injustice that pervades our society; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention challenge all Episcopalians to hear in a bold way the call of both Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi to befriend and be with the poor, and that we come to know that the future vitality of The Episcopal Church is grounded in our mutually affirming relationships with our brothers and sisters who are poor; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention encourage all Episcopal congregations to establish relationship-based, social-justice ministries through which relationships are developed between those who serve and those who are served, resulting in shared and transformational experiences and in a greater commitment to work for justice on all sides of the socio-economic divide; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention encourage churches and dioceses to discover and partner with local experts such as Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), Direct Action and Research Training (DART), Gamaliel Foundation, Asset Based Community Development, People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO), and other local formulations of interfaith or cross cultural organizations that use relationships to structure their transformative work; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention ask Episcopal groups that are participating in relationship-based social justice to share their experiences with the broader Church through social media, the internet, and official communication channels, so that other groups can learn from their successes, challenges, and insights.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 368-369.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A135  
**Title:** Commit to Alleviating Poverty and Injustice  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That a faithful response to the Gospel as well as the Five Marks of Mission in this time of growing economic inequality and political gridlock requires that we "respond to human need by loving service" and "seek to transform unjust structures of society"; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to a triennium of teaching, preaching, organizing, advocating, and building mutually transformative relationships with those who are poor to focus our hearts and the mission of our congregations and dioceses on reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the church cultivate mindfulness about poverty in our communities and world, as well as the poverty into which Christ calls us, by including in our prayer and in every meeting agenda, time for prayer and reflection on how our work engages issues of poverty and economic and racial justice networks; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we identify and build strong partnerships within The Episcopal Church as well as with interfaith organizations and secular agencies and institutions to increase our learning and to maximize our investment of time and treasure; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourage congregations to join local faith-based organizing networks such as PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing), IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), Gamaliel Foundation, The DART Network (Direct Action and Research Training Center), and the Inter-Valley Project to build power and to increase our effectiveness in strengthening our communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That congregations and dioceses seek out training in and use the tools of Asset Based Community Development recognizing that God has blessed each of us with gifts for the good of the kingdom and that we strengthen our communities not by implementing programs from outside but by identifying and building from the assets already existing in the community; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church continue its strategic and prophetic investment in locally defined community development initiatives in Native People's communities through an annual commitment of \$100,000 during the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That through asset based community development grants, community organizing grants, and Jubilee Ministry grants that [sic] The Episcopal Church support local ministries and regional trainings that increase the church's capacity to reduce poverty and increase economic and racial justice through an annual commitment of \$300,000 during the 2013-2015 triennium using available social media networks of the Offices of Missions and Communication of the DFMS to communicate availability of funds and provide reports on program activity and grants made; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church's commitment to reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice be facilitated, encouraged, inspired, and supported by the Mission Program Office of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and by an Executive Council Advisory Committee on Domestic Poverty; 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 \$400,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 590-592.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-D075  
**Title:** Challenge Dioceses and Congregations to Participate in One New Mission Project  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend, endorse, and embrace the Presiding Bishop's statement (July 8, 2009) that "the heartbeat of the Church is mission;" and be it further*

*Resolved, That as a sign of our commitment to Christ's mission, the 76th General Convention challenges dioceses and congregations to participate in one new or ongoing project that engages in a relationship with another part of the Body of Christ in the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on World Mission be directed to develop strategies to enable and to support individuals, congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church to engage in mission activities which further our participation in God's mission.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 377.