

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A209
TITLE: Reunification with La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba
PROPOSER: 06 - The Episcopal Church in Cuba
TOPIC: Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-B003 Strengthen the Relationship with the Episcopal Church of Cuba

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

2003-D050 Request the Release of Funds for the Diocese of Cuba
1997-D023 Extend Greetings to the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Cuba

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.

A209 Reunification with La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba

Proposer	06 - The Episcopal Church in Cuba
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 06 - The Episcopal Church in Cuba
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 expresses its joy at the request of the community of La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba (IEC) to reunite our two bodies and welcomes the prospect of restoring the relationship between The Episcopal Church (TEC) and IEC; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention laments the actions of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church in 1966 that led to the precipitous and painful separation of these two bodies; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That TEC and IEC seek to employ God's justice to confront our shared brokenness, and to equip and empower our efforts toward healing, wholeness and reconciliation for generations to come; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention desires complete reunification of IEC with TEC; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention expresses our deep regret that structural and constitutional issues prevent the realization of our fullest expression of reunification at the 79th General Convention; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention expresses our eagerness to share a future in which TEC is informed by the extraordinary circumstances surrounding IEC that have produced widespread and empowered lay leadership, as well as resilient and creative clergy, with an exceptional missional skillset and a heart for evangelism that is essential for future health and vitality of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.

EXPLANATION

In 1966, with the effects of the Cuban Revolution and the political response of The United States, the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church voted to separate the Diocese of Cuba from The Episcopal Church leaving it an autonomous diocese without a provincial home. Prior to that time, in 1961, Episcopal Schools in Cuba had been closed and appropriated, and many clergy and their families were displaced. Some remained in Cuba; some either returned or immigrated to the United States. Some clergy who remained in Cuba were imprisoned, executed, or disappeared. Church buildings were

closed and left to deteriorate. The church was polarized politically, and its clergy and lay leaders suffered.

But the Church continued, in the living rooms of the grandmothers, who held prayer services and Bible Studies in their homes. Through them is transmitted a story of pain, and of faith.

Under the leadership of more recent Cuban Bishops, including Bishop María Griselda Delgado del Carpio, the people have devoted themselves to the vision of a missional church. Innovative projects are evolving that benefit the need of the local communities: creating day care centers, inventing irrigation systems that help with sustainable farming, developing animal husbandry to raise and tend to animals to help feed communities.

La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba has, through its own synods, expressed a clear desire to reunify with The Episcopal Church. Episcopal Church canonical and constitutional issues do not make a clear pathway evident. This resolution expresses regret for the historic separation and expresses the 79th General Convention's intention to work for reunification.



Resolution Number: 2015-B003
Title: Strengthen the Relationship with the Episcopal Church of Cuba
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention acknowledge and affirm The Episcopal Church of Cuba's recent synodical decision to request membership as a Diocese of the Episcopal Church; and identify and address the canonical issues (including those around pension) involved in pursuing such an intention; and be it further

Resolved, That the office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Global Partnerships take action to continue to strengthen the relationship between the Episcopal Church and La Iglesia Episcopal De Cuba, with the goal of promoting both greater understanding and fellowship between the Anglican Diocese of Cuba and particularly the Dioceses of The Episcopal Church located in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That such efforts seek to promote mutual ministry and understanding through cultural exchange, prayer, worship, fellowship, education, and humanitarian work- identifying and facilitating specific opportunities for exchange, including but not limited to, travel, so that an exchange may occur between Cuban and North American Episcopalians; that such efforts seek to strengthen and support the Diocesan Center in Havana and The Episcopal Church, through the Executive Council, seek to collaboratively enhance and bolster theological education, discernment, and preparation of lay and ordained leaders for ministry within the Diocese of Cuba; and be it further

Resolved, As the United States and Cuba move cautiously toward a time of more open relationship, reconciliation and peace after long years of political conflict, That we encourage and support our nations leaders in moving to lift the embargo as we recognize the realities of the embargo and our hope for its end; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention reaffirm resolution GC2009-BO24 which called for the establishment of a benevolent fund that provides the clergy of The Episcopal Church in Cuba with an annuity upon retirement and requested the Presiding Bishop to take all actions as the Presiding Bishop deems necessary or desirable to carry out the intent of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church establish a team representative of a wide cross-section of the church including, but not limited to, Episcopal Relief & Development, Church Pension Fund and those experienced in foreign missions to work alongside the staff officer assigned in order to facilitate our collaboration around these endeavors with a budget of \$30,000.00 for the triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 789-790.