

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A225
TITLE: On the Importance of Ecumenism for Becoming Beloved Community
PROPOSER: 19 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
TOPIC: Ecumenism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
1991-A059 Reaffirm Definition of and Commitment to Evangelism

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

2015-A086 Create a Network of Latino/Hispanic Partners for Congregational Development
2015-A096 Affirm Relationships in Approaches to Social Justice Ministry
2000-A001 Support International Education, Advocacy and Development Programs

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.

A225 On the Importance of Ecumenism for Becoming Beloved Community

Proposer	19 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
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	Passed review

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That, whereas the Presiding Bishop has articulated three foci for the work of Becoming Beloved Community—care of creation, racial reconciliation, and evangelism--the 79th General Convention recognizes that we cannot do this work alone, and that we have much to offer other church traditions and much to learn from them in the work of the three above named areas; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourage all Provinces, Regional Consultative Groups, Dioceses, Episcopal Communities, and Parishes to seek ecumenical partners for mutual up building in the areas of care of creation, racial reconciliation, and evangelism; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That they be encouraged to seek ecumenical partners that reflect the racial, ethnic, national, linguistic, and cultural diversity of their context.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-C019
Title: Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church confesses that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, the abomination and sin of racism continue to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity; we formally acknowledge our historic and contemporary participation in this evil and repent of it; and be it further

Resolved, That in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015; numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed black men and youth at the hands of law enforcement personnel; and the moral atrocity of mass incarceration in which a hugely disproportionate number of persons of color have been unfairly caught in the net of an unjust criminal justice system, the 78th General Convention affirms as a top priority of The Episcopal Church in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church understands and affirms that the call to pray and act for racial reconciliation is integral to our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to our living into the demands of our Baptismal Covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies be charged to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church's work of racial justice and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$1.2 million for the Triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 310-311.



Resolution Number: 1991-A059
Title: Reaffirm Definition of and Commitment to Evangelism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm the definition of evangelism adopted by the General Convention in 1973: "Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in such ways that persons may be led to believe in him as Savior and follow him as Lord within the fellowship of his Church"; and be it further Resolved, That the General Convention wholeheartedly call the Church to continuing commitment to this Decade of Evangelism, during which we reclaim and affirm our baptismal call to evangelism and endeavor, with other Christian denominations, to reach all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ using the following plan of apostolic action:

- to educate all Episcopalians that every member of the Church is called by God by virtue of Holy Baptism to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, sharing his or her faith;*
- to call each congregation to be a center for the extension of the Gospel;*
- to incorporate evangelism into the official and ongoing structure of every diocese and congregation;*
- to express the Good News in loving acts of service and justice as well as in words;*
- to pray for God's grace and empowerment in this mission; and*
- to reach out beyond the individual congregations to invite new members to share in the Good News.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 399.