

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-B009
TITLE: Civil Discourse
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas
TOPIC: National Concerns

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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

2003-D031 Develop Plans for a Culture of Nonviolence

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.

B009 Civil Discourse

Proposer	The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas
Endorsed by	Provenzano, The Rt. Rev. Lawrence; Johnston, The Rt. Rev. Shannon
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 14 - Christian Formation and Discipleship
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 calls on all Episcopalians to practice civil discourse in our political life, while not making peace with evil and injustice; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urge individual Episcopalians, parishes, dioceses and seminaries to use the Civil Discourse Curriculum developed by The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations as a resource to guide discussions about politics, policy, and legislation, while strengthening our relationships with one another; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the General Convention direct The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations to work with bipartisan efforts in Congress, when possible, and intentionally engage with elected and career government officials from all political parties.

EXPLANATION

Currently in the United States there is a level of uncivility and disrespect in our political and civil life. Such uncivility does not serve our common good nor foster constructive political action. There is a need across our political, social, and theological spheres to engage with those who hold different positions than our own as we seek to serve the Gospel mandate of love and justice. This resolution calls on all Episcopalians to practice civil discourse in our political life utilizing the Civil Discourse Curriculum developed by The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations. More information on the curriculum can be found here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/civil-discourse-curriculum-program-reflection-consideration-discussion> Finally this resolution empowers The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations to work with bipartisan efforts, when possible, and other strategic allies in pursuing the mandates given to the office by The General Convention.