

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-B012
TITLE: Marriage Rites for the Whole Church
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano
TOPIC: Liturgy

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A037 Appoint an Expanded Task Force on the Study of Marriage
2015-A054 Authorize Trial Use of Marriage and Blessing Rites in "Liturgical Resources I"
2015-A300 Express Mind of the House on the Marriage Resolutions
2012-A049 Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships
2006-A163 Affirm Pastoral Care for All Members of the Church
2000-D039 Acknowledge Relationships Other Than Marriage and Existence of Disagreement

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

2012-A050 Create a Task Force on the Study of Marriage
2009-C056 Develop Liturgies for Blessings Unions and Provide Generous Pastoral Response
2003-C051 Consider Blessing Committed, Same-Gender 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.

B012 Marriage Rites for the Whole Church

Proposer	The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano
Endorsed by	Knisely, The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas; McConnell, The Rt. Rev. Dorsey
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize for continued trial use, in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and Canon II.3.6, “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage” and “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2” (from “Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015”), and be it further

- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention authorize for trial use, in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and Canon II.3.6, “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage 2” and “An Order for Marriage 2” (as appended to the report of the Task Force for the Study of Marriage to the 79th General Convention), beginning the first Sunday of Advent 2018, and be it further

- 3 *Resolved*, That the period of trial use for these liturgies shall extend without limit of time; and be it further

- 4 *Resolved*, That “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage 2” and “An Order for Marriage 2” be published in a revised and expanded 2018 version of “Liturgical Resources 1: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing,” and made available electronically in English, Spanish, and French at no cost by the first Sunday of Advent 2018, and be it further

- 5 *Resolved*, That all congregations and worshipping communities of this Church that understand themselves called to incorporate these liturgies into their common life, are authorized to do so by the rector or priest-in-charge (Canon III.9.6), and are permitted to do so by civil law, shall have access to these liturgies, under the direction of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority; and be it further

- 6 *Resolved*, That where diocesan canons or bishops exercising ecclesiastical authority do not authorize the use of these liturgies for persons of the same sex, congregations may request, and when requesting shall receive delegated episcopal pastoral oversight (DEPO) by a bishop of this Church who shall provide access to these liturgies, as permitted by civil law; and be it further

- 7 *Resolved*, That bishops continue the work of leading the Church in comprehensive engagement with these materials and continue to provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of

members of this Church; and be it further

- 8 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music study and monitor the ongoing trial use of these rites, and report and make recommendations to the 80th General Convention on any modifications or additions that may be judged advisable, and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, That the provision of Canon I.18.7 applies by extension to these liturgies, namely, “It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize or bless any marriage”; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, That the provisions of Canon I.19.3 regarding marriage after divorce apply equally to these liturgies, in accordance with guidelines established by each diocese or bishop exercising delegated oversight; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That this Church continue to honor theological diversity in regard to matters of human sexuality; and that no lay person, bishop, priest, or deacon should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical disabilities, as a result of his or her theological support for or objection to the 79th General Convention’s action pertaining to this resolution; and be it further
- 12 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint jointly a Task Force on Communion across Difference, consisting of not more than 14 people, who represent the diversity in this Church with respect to cultural background, age, race, gender, and sexual orientation, including members from countries other than the United States, half of whom hold that marriage is a “covenant between a man and a woman” (BCP, 422), half of whom hold that marriage is a “covenant between two people” in the presence of God (Resolution 2018-A085), and all of whom seek a pathway toward mutual flourishing in The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That the Task Force seek a lasting path forward for mutual flourishing consistent with this Church’s polity and the 2015 “Communion across Difference” statement of the House of Bishops, affirming (1) the clear decision of General Convention that Christian marriage is a covenant open to two people of the same sex or of the opposite sex, (2) its firm commitment to make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to authorized liturgies; and also affirming (3) the indispensable place that the minority who hold to this Church’s historic teaching on marriage have in our common life, whose witness our Church needs; and be it further
- 14 *Resolved*, That the Task Force consult widely with members of this Church who represent its diversity of cultural background, age, race, gender, and sexual orientation, particularly its members in countries other than the United States; and also with representatives from the Anglican Communion, our full-communication ecumenical partners, and those churches with whom we carry on ecumenical dialogues; and be it further

- 15 *Resolved*, That the Task Force report and make recommendations to the 80th General Convention, ending its term at that time except by further action of General Convention; and be it further
- 16 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$90,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

As the Task Force on the Study of Marriage notes (Resolution 2018-A085):

The 2012 General Convention authorized liturgical resources for “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant” (Resolution 2012-A049), and three (3) years later the 2015 General Convention authorized the trial use of two (2) liturgies for marriage, available for use by all couples (“The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage” and “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2”), as well as the continued use of “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant” (Resolution 2015-A054).

...In a survey of U.S. dioceses in 2017, the Task Force on the Study of Marriage learned that ninety-three (93) Bishops with jurisdiction authorized the trial use of the marriage liturgies. Seventy-three (73) of those bishops authorized their use with no conditions. Twenty (20) bishops authorized their use with some conditions. Of those twenty (20), twelve (12) required Vestry approvals, two (2) required Vestry approval and permission of the Bishop, one (1) required approval of the Bishop, two (2) required a parish discernment process and three (3) authorized only one of the available rites. Eight (8) bishops did not allow the trial use of the marriage liturgies.

Their survey did not include the nine (9) non-U.S. jurisdictions: Haiti, Taiwan, Europe, Central Ecuador, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Litoral Ecuador, and Venezuela, in most of which same-sex marriage is not presently provided for by civil law.

This resolution re-authorizes the two (2) trial use liturgies for marriage authorized in 2015, but with modified terms and conditions, as provided for by Canon II.3.6(a). Resolution 2015-A054 provided that all bishops exercising ecclesiastical authority “will make provision” for all couples to have access to these liturgies, while also providing that trial use of these liturgies in a diocese is only available under the direction of and with the permission of the diocesan bishop.

By contrast, this resolution proposes that access to these trial use liturgies now be provided for in all dioceses, without requiring the permission of the diocesan bishop. Nevertheless, it preserves the role of the bishop in providing direction for the use of these trial liturgies, allowing the twenty (20) bishops who presently authorize their use with some conditions to continue doing so. Moreover, it preserves the canonical “authority and responsibility” of the rector or priest-in-charge for the conduct of worship (Canon III.9.6) in the congregation.

For the eight (8) dioceses where same-sex marriage is permitted by civil law, but whose bishops and/or diocesan canons do not allow trial use, this resolution specifies that bishops shall delegate episcopal pastoral oversight (DEPO) of a congregation requesting access to these rites to another bishop of this Church who shall provide access.

As in Resolution 2015-A054, further resolved clauses (first proposed by the Task Force on the Study

of Marriage) specify that bishops provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of the Church and that they lead the Church in engaging with these materials. The provisions acknowledging that any member of the clergy may decline to solemnize or bless a marriage (Canon I.18.7) and that the provisions regarding marriage after divorce (Canon I.19.3) apply to the use of the trial liturgies were also in the 2015 Resolution, along with an assurance that no one in the Church, lay person, bishop, priest, or deacon, shall suffer any coercion or penalty because of theological support for or opposition to the blessing or marriage of same-sex couples.

This resolution also authorizes two (2) new trial use rites, as proposed by the Task Force on the Study of Marriage: “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage 2,” and “An Order for Marriage 2.” As such, it provides access to versions of these rites in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer suitable for all couples.

As the trial use authorization of “The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant” (Resolution 2015-A054) has not expired, this resolution proposes no change to its present status.

The third and fourth resolved clauses specify that there is no time limit placed upon the period of authorized trial use, and provide for publishing and making this material available to the Church. The eighth resolved clause refers ongoing study of these trial use rites to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, should it be judged advisable to recommend modifications during the ongoing Trial Use period.

In 2015, Resolution A054 did not propose the trial use liturgies it authorized as a first reading for amendment of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. This resolution declines to do so as well, proposing instead the creation of a Task Force in the spirit of the 2015 “Communion Across Difference” statement of the House of Bishops. Rather than move toward the potential amendment of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer by 2021, this proposal seeks instead to find a lasting way forward for all Episcopalians in one Church.



Resolution Number: 2015-A037
Title: Appoint an Expanded Task Force on the Study of Marriage
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention requests dioceses and parishes use the study materials on marriage provided in the last triennium by the Task Force on the Study of Marriage, namely the “Dearly Beloved” toolkit and the appended essays in their Blue Book report to this Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to appoint jointly an expanded Task Force on the Study of Marriage to continue this work, consisting of not more than 15 people, including theologians, ethicists, pastors, liturgists, and educators, who represent the cultural and theological diversity in the Church; membership should include some of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage appointed in 2012, some from dioceses outside the United States, and young adults; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force explore further those contemporary trends and norms identified by the Task Force on the Study of Marriage in the previous triennium, specifically regarding those who choose to remain single; unmarried persons in intimate relationships; couples who cohabitate either in preparation for, or as an alternative to, marriage; couples who desire a blessing from the Church but not marriage; parenting by single or and/or unmarried persons; differing forms of family and household such as those including same-sex parenting, adoption, and racial diversity; and differences in marriage patterns between ethnic and racial groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force consult with (i) individuals and couples within these groups about their experience of faith and church life; and (ii) the results of diocesan and parochial study of "Dearly Beloved" toolkit; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force explore biblical, theological, moral, liturgical, cultural, and pastoral perspectives on these matters, and develop written materials about them which represent the spectrum of understanding in our Church and which include responses from theologians, ethicists, pastors, liturgists, social scientists, and educators who are not members of the expanded Task Force, and whose perspectives represent the spectrum of understandings on these matters in our Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force study and monitor, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, the impact of same-sex marriage and rites of blessing on our Church; the continuing debate about clergy acting as agents of the state in officiating at marriages; and any other matters related to marriage by action of or referral by this Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force report and make recommendations to the 79th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force provide educational and pastoral resources for congregational use on these matters that represents the spectrum of understandings on these matters in our Church; 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 \$90,000 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. 702-704.



Resolution Number: 2015-A054
Title: Authorize Trial Use of Marriage and Blessing Rites in "Liturgical Resources I"
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend “**Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015,**” as found in the Blue Book, Liturgy Supplemental Materials: Appendices of the Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (BBLSM), pp. 2-151 with the following revisions:

BBLSM p. 84: In The Commitment, change the rubric to read “Each member of the couple, in turn, takes the right hand of the other and says”

BBLSM p.84: After “I N., give myself to you, N.” add “, and take you to myself.”

BBLSM p. 85: At the Pronouncement, change the rubric to read “The Presider joins the right hands and says”

BBLSM p. 87: In Concerning the Service, change the second paragraph to read “At least one of the couple must be a baptized Christian, and the marriage shall conform to the laws of the state and canons of this church.”

BBLSM p. 88: Under Gathering, change the rubric to read “The couple joins the assembly.”

BBLSM p. 89: Change “In marriage according to the laws of the state [or civil jurisdiction] of X” to “In marriage [according to the laws of the state or civil jurisdiction of X]”

BBLSM p. 89: Change “Solemnize their marriage according to the laws of the state [or civil jurisdiction] of X” to “are married [according to the laws of the state or civil jurisdiction of X]”

BBLSM p.94: After “I N., give myself to you, N.” add “, and take you to myself.”

BBLSM p. 95: At the Pronouncement, change the rubric to read “The Presider joins the right hands of the couple and says”

BBLSM p. 95: Replace “I pronounce that they are married according to the laws of the state [or civil jurisdiction] of X” to “I pronounce that they are married [according to the laws of the state or civil jurisdiction of X]”

BBLSM p. 100: At The Marriage, change the rubric to read “Each member of the couple, in turn, takes the right hand of the other and says” for study and use in congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize for use “**The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant**” from “**Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015,**” (as found in Supplemental Materials: Appendices of the Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, pp. 77-86, (as amended)),” beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2015; under the direction and with the permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize for trial use in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and Canon II.3.6 “**The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage,**” and “**The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2,**” from “**Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015,**” (as found in Supplemental

Materials: Appendices of the Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, pp. 87-105) beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2015. Bishops exercising ecclesiastical authority or, where appropriate, ecclesiastical supervision, will make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to these liturgies. Trial use is only to be available under the direction and with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, **That bishops may continue to provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the provision of Canon I.18.4 applies by extension to “Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015,” namely, “It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to” preside at any rite contained herein; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the provisions of Canon I.19.3 regarding marriage after divorce apply equally to all the rites of “Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015,” in accordance with guidelines established by each diocese; and be it further**

Resolved, **That this convention honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality; and that no bishop, priest, deacon or lay person should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical disabilities, as a result of his or her theological objection to or support for the 78th General Convention’s action contained in this resolution; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music continue to monitor the use of this material and report to the 79th General Convention; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the 78th General Convention direct the Secretary of General Convention, and the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer in consultation with the outgoing Chair of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and the Chairs of the Legislative Committees to whom this legislation is referred, to finalize and arrange for the publication with Church Publishing of the material (in English and Spanish) contained in “Liturgical Resources 1: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing, Revised and Expanded 2015” as approved by the 78th General Convention, no later than the first Sunday of Advent 2015, these materials to be available electronically at no cost.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 778-781.



Resolution Number: 2015-A300
Title: Express Mind of the House on the Marriage Resolutions
Legislative Action Taken: Adopted
Final Text:

We the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church wish to express our love and appreciation to our colleagues who identify as Communion Partners and those bishops who have affinity with the Communion Partners’ position as stated in their “Communion Partners Salt Lake City Statement.” Our time together in Salt Lake City, in conversation and in prayer, has demonstrated how profoundly the love of God in Jesus binds us together and empowers us for service to God’s mission. As we have waited upon the leading of the Holy Spirit in our deliberations, we have been reminded that the House of Bishops is richly gifted with many voices and perspectives on matters of theological, liturgical, and pastoral significance. This has been shown in our discernment with respect to doctrinal matters relative to Christian marriage. We thank God for the rich variety of voices in our House, in our dioceses, in The Episcopal Church, and in the Anglican Communion, that reflect the wideness of God’s mercy and presence in the Church and in the world.

We give particular thanks for the steadfast witness of our colleagues in the Communion Partners. We value and rely on their commitment to The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. We recognize that theirs is a minority voice in the House of Bishops in our deliberations with respect to Christian marriage; and we affirm that they are an indispensable part of who we are as the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. Our church needs their witness. Further, we appreciate that each of us will return to dioceses where there will be a variety of responses to Resolutions A054 and A036. The equanimity, generosity, and graciousness with which the Communion Partners have shared their views on Christian marriage and remain in relationship is a model for us and for the lay and ordained leaders in our dioceses to follow. We thank God that in the fullness of the Holy Trinity we can and must remain together as the Body of Christ in our dioceses, in the Episcopal Church, and in our relationships with sisters and brothers in Christ in the Anglican Communion. The bonds created in baptism are indeed indissoluble and we pray that we have the confidence to rely upon the Holy Spirit who will continue to hold us all together as partners in communion through the love of God in Jesus.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 378-379.



Resolution Number: 2012-A049
Title: Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" for study and use in congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church, with the following revisions:

Throughout "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" change "same-gender" to "same-sex";

Blue Book p. 184: change "Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships" to "Resources for The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant in a same-sex relationship"

Blue Book p. 240: Add rubric after first rubric, stating: "At least one of the couple must be a baptized Christian."

Blue Book p. 240: In paragraph 2, line 1, delete "at least one of whom is baptized,"

Blue Book p. 241: In Presider's address to the assembly, delete "come what may," (paragraph 1, line 9)

Blue Book pp. 241-242: In Presider's address to the assembly, delete all of paragraph 2 ("Ahead of them...calls us all to share.")

Blue Book p. 242: In Presider's address to the assembly, change "let us pray, then," (paragraph 3, line 1) to "Therefore, in the name of Christ, let us pray"

Blue Book p. 245: After the bidding for peace in their home and love in their family, add the following bidding: "For the grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours: Lord, in your mercy (or Lord, in your goodness) Hear our prayer."

Blue Book p. 246: Change rubric that begins "After a time of silence" to the following: "The leader may add one or more of the following biddings"

Blue Book p. 247: In Commitment (both forms) line 7, change "I will honor and keep you" to "I will honor and love you"

Blue Book p. 248: In first form of blessing rings, change line 2 to "as signs of the enduring covenant"

Blue Book p. 248: In Blessing of the Couple, add rubric between first and second paragraphs: "The Presider continues with one of the following"

Blue Book p. 248: In Blessing of the Couple, add third paragraph after the "Amen": "or this / God, the holy and undivided Trinity, bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

Blue Book p. 257: In paragraph under E. Vocation, change "1 Samuel 18" to "1 Samuel 3"; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention authorize for provisional use "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and

You Will Be a Blessing" beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2012, under the direction and subject to the permission of the bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority; and be it further
Resolved, That bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same-sex marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church; and be it further
Resolved, That bishops may authorize adaptation of these materials to meet the needs of members of this Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the provision of Canon I.18.4 applies by extension to “Theological Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships,” namely, “It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to [preside at any rite of blessing defined herein]”; and be it further
Resolved, That this convention honor the theological diversity of this church in regard to matters of human sexuality, and that no bishop, priest, deacon or lay person should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical disabilities, as a result of his or her conscientious objection to or support for the 77th General Convention’s action with regard to the Blessing of Same-Sex Relationships; and be it further
Resolved, That the theological resource for the blessing of a life-long covenant be further developed by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music over the 2013-2015 triennium with specific attention to further engagement with scripture and the relevant categories and sources of systematic theology (e.g., creation, sin, grace, salvation, redemption, human nature); and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music include the work of diverse theological perspectives in the further development of the theological resource; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music develop an open process to review "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing," inviting responses from provinces, dioceses, congregations, and individuals from throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and from our ecumenical partners, and report to the 78th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 565-567.



Resolution Number: 2006-A163
Title: Affirm Pastoral Care for All Members of the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the centrality of effective and appropriate pastoral care for all members of this Church and all who come seeking the aid of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to the ongoing engagement of and sensitive response to the request and need of all the people of God – in particular, but not exclusively, those who agree and those who disagree with the actions of this body, those who feel isolated thereby, and gay and lesbian persons within and without this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention recognize the agonizing position of those who do not feel able to receive appropriate pastoral care from their own bishops, and urges the members of the House of Bishops to seek the highest degree of communion and reconciliation within their own dioceses, using when requested in good faith the Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) process detailed in the March 2004 statement of the House of Bishops, “Caring for All the Churches;” and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention urge continued maintenance of historic diocesan boundaries, the authority of the diocesan bishop, and respect for the historical relationships of the separate and autonomous Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 356.



Resolution Number: 2000-D039
Title: Acknowledge Relationships Other Than Marriage and Existence of Disagreement
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the members of the 73rd General Convention intend for this Church to provide a safe and just structure in which all can utilize their gifts and creative energies for mission; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge that while the issues of human sexuality are not yet resolved, there are currently couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in marriage and couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in other life-long committed relationships; and be it further

Resolved, That we expect such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God; and be it further

Resolved, That we denounce promiscuity, exploitation, and abusiveness in the relationships of any of our members; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church intends to hold all its members accountable to these values, and will provide for them the prayerful support, encouragement, and pastoral care necessary to live faithfully by them; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge that some, acting in good conscience, who disagree with the traditional teaching of the Church on human sexuality, will act in contradiction to that position; and be it further

Resolved, That in continuity with previous actions of the General Convention of this Church, and in response to the call for dialogue by the Lambeth Conference, we affirm that those on various sides of controversial issues have a place in the Church, and we reaffirm the imperative to promote conversation between persons of differing experiences and perspectives, while acknowledging the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 287f.