

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C026
TITLE: Amend Canon I.20.1 - Building Full communion with Church of Sweden
PROPOSER: Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
TOPIC: Ecumenism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-B004 Commend Report on Relations with Church of Sweden
2009-A076 Begin a Dialogue with the Church of Sweden
2006-A025 Amend Canon I.20 [Of Churches in Full Communion]

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

None

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

2015 *Report on the Grounds for Future Relations between the Church of Sweden and the Episcopal Church, [Episcopal Church's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations and the Church of Sweden's Secretariat for Theology and Ecumenism](#)*

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.

C026 Amend Canon I.20.1 - Building Full communion with Church of Sweden

Proposer	Diocese of Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
Topic	Ecumenism
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 60
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
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 proclaim that both Churches have acted as if they have always been in full communion, and therefore are so; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons amend Canon I.20.1 to read:
- 3 CANON 20: Of Churches in Full Communion
- 4 Sec. 1. The Episcopal Church, a member of the Anglican Communion, has a relationship of full communion with those Churches in the historic episcopal succession and with whom it has entered into covenant agreements including:
- 5 (a) the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht,
- 6 (b) la Iglesia Filipina Independiente/the Philippine Independent Church,
- 7 ~~and~~(c) the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar,
- 8 and (d) the Church of Sweden.

EXPLANATION

The 76th General Convention directed the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to begin a dialogue with the appropriate ecumenical offices of the Church of Sweden, the ultimate goal of which is to reach a relationship of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden (2009-A076). The 78th General Convention commended the Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church to all members of this Church (2015-B004).

The Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church stated in its introduction that its

[...] proposal is not that a new ecumenical agreement on communion between these two churches be written, such as has been the case between a number of Lutheran and Anglican churches. Both the present churches are party to such agreements. Rather this document intends to show that there are historical and contemporary reasons for claiming that the two churches have in practice lived in fellowship with each other at various times, and therefore can be understood to do so today. This is a fact that we wish to acknowledge and celebrate, as the basis for closer cooperation where suitable in the future.



Resolution Number: 2015-B004
Title: Commend Report on Relations with Church of Sweden
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention receive the Report on the Grounds for Future Relations Between the Church of Sweden and The Episcopal Church, and commend it to all members of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations or its successor body to work with the Church of Sweden to deepen the relationship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 666.



Resolution Number: 2009-A076
Title: Begin a Dialogue with the Church of Sweden
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to begin a dialogue with the appropriate ecumenical offices of the Church of Sweden, the ultimate goal of which is to reach a relationship of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Church of Sweden; and be it further Resolved, That the Standing Commission do so in consultation with the Standing Inter-Anglican Commission on Unity, Faith and Order.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 515.



Resolution Number: 2006-A025
Title: Amend Canon I.20 [Of Churches in Full Communion]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Title I be amended by adding a new Canon 20, to be named “Of Churches in Full Communion,” as follows:

Sec. 1. The Episcopal Church, a member of the Anglican Communion, has a relationship of full communion with those Churches in the historic episcopal succession and with whom it has entered into covenant agreements including:

- (a) the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht,*
- (b) la Iglesia Filipina Independiente / the Philippine Independent Church, and*
- (c) the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.*

Sec. 2. The Episcopal Church has a relationship of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America under the terms of “Called to Common Mission,” which was adopted by the 73rd General Convention of The Episcopal Church as Resolution A040.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 695.