

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C057
TITLE: Amend Canon I.1.2(n)
PROPOSER: Province III
TOPIC: Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A006 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions of the General Convention]
2015-A017 Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
2006-A055 Continue Dialogue with the United Methodist Church

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

2015-A070 Make Ecumenical Appointments in Consultation

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.

C057 Amend Canon I.1.2(n)

Proposer	Province III
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 18
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 19 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.2.1(n) be amended by the addition of the following:
- 2 *(3) A Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:*
- 3 *(i) recommend to the General Convention a comprehensive and coordinated policy and strategy on relations between this Church and other Churches, and this Church and other religions.*
- 4 *(ii) make recommendations to the General Convention concerning inter-church cooperation and unity.*
- 5 *(iii) make recommendations to the General Convention on interreligious dialogue and action.*
- 6 *(iv) submit to the General Convention the proposed text of any formal response to an ecumenical initiative, statement, proposal for full communion, and/or covenant.*

EXPLANATION

This resolution was originally adopted by the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on World Mission on February 7, 2017, and submitted to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It was our understanding that the Standing Commission would give this proposal serious consideration. However, it was their decision not to recommend this to General Convention and neglected to inform the ECJSCWM of their decision. The absence of a positive recommendation was discovered on April 19, 2018.

There are two major issues on the ecumenical and interreligious horizon:

- a) a proposal for full communion with the United Methodist Church, and
- b) a formal response to the 2013 statement issued by the World Council of Churches: *The Church: Towards a Common Vision (TCTCV)*, a convergence statement that has been developed over the last thirty years by the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order.

Both issues require, and again I say, require, a careful response from the highest authority in the Episcopal Church, i.e. our General Convention. This amendment to our Canons, if adopted, will reestablish this essential Standing Commission, comprised of Episcopalians with knowledge,

experience, and expertise in the area of ecumenical and interreligious relations, and qualified to prepare recommendations on these two very significant upcoming issues as well as other matters of importance to the 80th and subsequent General Conventions.

I served on the ECJSCWM for the past four years. After the Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations and Interreligious Affairs was abolished by the 2015 General Convention (on the recommendation of TREC), all ecumenical issues have been referred to the ECJSCWM whose members have had virtually no prior experience with ecumenical issues. I urge your support.

Submitted by The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce



Resolution Number: 2015-A006
Title: Amend Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions of the General Convention]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

[*Resolved*, that Canon I.1.2(n) be stricken in its entirety and replaced to read as follows:]

(n) There shall be the following Standing Commissions:

(1) A Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

(i) Review such proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons as may be submitted to the Commission, placing each such proposed amendment in proper Constitutional or Canonical form, including all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change. The Commission shall express its views with respect to the substance of any such proposal only to the proponent thereof; provided, however, that no member of the Commission shall, by reason of membership, be deemed to be disabled from expressing, before a Legislative Committee or on the floor of the General Convention, personal views with respect to the substance of any such proposed amendment.

(ii) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons with respect to their internal consistency and clarity, and on the basis of such a review, propose to the General Convention such technical amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to achieve such consistency and clarity without altering the substance of any Constitutional and Canonical provisions; provided, however, that the Commission shall propose, for the consideration of the appropriate Legislative Committees of the General Convention, such amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are technically desirable but involve a substantive alteration of a Constitutional or Canonical provision.

(iii) On the basis of such review, suggest to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society such amendments to its By-laws as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.

(iv) Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the authorized "Annotated Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as The Episcopal Church" to reflect actions of General Convention which amend the Constitution and Canons and, in the discretion of the Commission, develop other materials which are appropriate to the purpose of the "Annotated Constitution and Canons," and facilitate the publication of this document and related materials. The Commission may provide or support forums to promote commentary, discussion, and understanding of the Constitution and Canons.

(v) Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the General Convention.

(vi) Study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the operation of the several

Committees, Commissions, and Boards to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and to bring about a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new Committee, Commission, Board or Agency, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred to this Standing Commission for its consideration and advice.

Citation: Canon I.1.2(n) is excerpted from the Final Text of 2012-A006, which revised Canon I.1.2(n). See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 343-347.



Resolution Number: 2012-A035
Title: Reaffirm Commitment to Interreligious Engagement
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention reaffirm the commitment of The Episcopal Church to engage in interreligious relations; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Statement on Interreligious Relations, Resolution 2009-A074, approved by the 76th General Convention to all dioceses, seminaries, congregations, and other organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Church be encouraged to be involved actively and appropriately on every possible level in interreligious work such as, but not limited to, services, prayer groups, educational programs, community service, and study groups; and be it further

Resolved, That diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officers gather and report the interreligious activities in their respective dioceses to the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, which will then report these findings to the 78th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 413.



Resolution Number: 2006-A055
Title: Continue Dialogue with the United Methodist Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

1. **Welcome and rejoice in the substantial progress of The United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogue and of international conversations between Anglicans and Methodists, and give thanks for the Anglican-Methodist Covenant in Great Britain. We look forward to the day when full communion is established between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church;**
2. **Recognize now The United Methodist Church as a member of the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught;**
3. **Encourage the development of common Christian life throughout our respective Churches by such means as the following:**
 - a) **Mutual prayer and mutual support, including parochial/congregational and diocesan/annual conference covenants or agreements,**
 - b) **Common study of the Holy Scriptures, the histories and theological traditions of each Church, and the materials produced by The United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogue.**
 - c) **Joint programs of religious education, theological discussion, mission, evangelism, and social action,**
 - d) **Joint use of facilities;**
4. **Affirm now on the basis of the documents**
 - a) *Sharing in the Apostolic Communion*, produced by the International Anglican-Methodist Conversations in 1996;
 - b) the “Constitution and Canons” of The Episcopal Church and the “Book of Common Prayer” of The Episcopal Church
 - c) The United Methodist *Book of Worship* and the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church;
 - d) and the documents “This Holy Mystery” on the Lord’s Supper and “By Water and the Spirit” on Baptism affirmed by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church that the basic teaching of each respective Church is consonant with the Gospel and is sufficiently compatible with the teaching of this Church that a relationship of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist is hereby established between The United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church under the following guidelines:
 - i) The Episcopal Church extends a special welcome to members of The United Methodist Church to receive Holy Communion in it under the Standard for Occasional Eucharistic Sharing of its 1979 General Convention. This welcome constitutes a mutual recognition of Eucharistic teaching sufficient for Interim Sharing of the Eucharist, although this does not intend to signify that final recognition of each other's ministries has yet been achieved.
 - ii) Bishops and Dioceses of The Episcopal Church and Bishops of The United Methodist Church may by mutual agreement extend the regulations of Church discipline to permit common, joint celebration of the Eucharist within their

jurisdictions. This is appropriate in particular situations where the said authorities deem that local conditions are appropriate for the sharing of worship jointly by congregations of the respective Churches. The presence of an ordained bishop or elder in the United Methodist Church and a bishop or priest of The Episcopal Church at the altar in this way reflects the presence of two or more Churches expressing unity in faith and baptism as well as the remaining divisions which they seek to overcome; however, this does not imply rejection or final recognition of either Church's Eucharist or ministry. In such circumstances the Eucharistic prayer will be from an approved liturgy as authorized jointly by the Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese and The United Methodist Episcopal Area.

iii) Clergy and Lay leadership of Episcopal and United Methodist congregations that might see such Interim Sharing of the Eucharist will support this relationship by establishing steps and activities among their local congregations, such as those outlined in section (3) above, so that the truest fulfillment of the vision for Interim Sharing of the Eucharist might be realized.

iv) This resolution and experience of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist will be communicated at regular intervals to other Churches of the World Methodist Council and the Anglican Communion throughout the world, as well as to the various ecumenical dialogues in which Anglicans and Methodists are engaged, especially Churches Uniting in Christ, in order that consultation may be fostered, similar experiences encouraged elsewhere, and already existing relationships of full communion respected;

5. Authorize continued United Methodist-Episcopal Dialogues for the discussion of any other outstanding questions that must be resolved before full communion can be established between the respective Churches, e.g., historic episcopate, and the ordering of ministry (Bishops, Priests, and Deacons) in the total context of apostolicity.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 693-695.