

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-C064  
**TITLE:** Support of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Opposing Enbridge Line #3  
**PROPOSER:** North Dakota  
**TOPIC:** Environment

---

---

**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-C053 Support Subsistence Rights of Indigenous Cultures  
2012-A131 Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples  
2009-D035 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery  
1985-B007 Request Church-wide Advocacy of Indian Rights

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

2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism  
2012-B023 Seek Environmental Justice  
1976-D063 Support Native Indian Claims to Land in Canada

*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.*

# C064 Support of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Opposing Enbridge Line #3

---

<b>Proposer</b>	Diocese of North Dakota
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HB / 20 - Environmental Stewardship and Care of Creation
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

---

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention reaffirm the 76th General Convention’s Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention continue to support and encourage the Presiding Bishop and Staff, the Executive Council and its Committees and each of the Dioceses of the Episcopal Church to continue that repudiation with actions, statements, prayers and witness that are consistent with the recognition of Tribal/First Nation Sovereignty in their stewardship of water, land and mineral resources found within their various historic and treaty territories; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That this General Convention add its voice to echo the concerns of Faron Jackson, Sr., Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chairman, who expressed his opposition to the placement of crude oil pipeline known as Enbridge Line #3 because of its threat to land, water and minerals, “The Lake Reservation will always be our home. Unlike a house, however, we can never rebuild or move if a disaster were to happen.”; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church provide its historic moral standing among the indigenous peoples of Minnesota to stand with our congregations St. John’s in Onigum and St. Peter’s in Cass Lake, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, our ecumenical partners and tribal governments to oppose the threat of pollution to sacred lands and the manoomin (wild rice) that has been given to these people to sustain them and provide a sovereign food source that nourishes body and soul; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church encourage the State of Minnesota to refrain from responding to those exercising their First Amendment Right of Free Speech by using a militarized police presence, refrain from escalating and inciting violence, and develop and maintain a continued open dialogue with Tribal Authorities, Church Leaders and leaders of any Camps established along the proposed route of Line #3; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church learn from its engagement as allies of the Standing Rock

Nation, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and other times of solidarity with indigenous people by collecting and examining our history, theology, tradition, liturgy, and financial commitments. This examination will be conducted by the Advocacy and Networking Committee of the Executive Council, the Presiding Bishop's Staff of Ethnic Ministries, the Office of Government Relations and those diocesan bodies and congregations that are relevant to the work. This reflection is to strengthen the good that has been done and reform our beliefs and actions as needed.

---

#### EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has a powerful story of Bishop Whipple standing with the Ojibwe and Dakota people in Minnesota. He continued his advocacy for the Dakota people as they were exiled into the Dakota Territory and called on the House of Bishops to elect William Hobart Hare for mission among the Great Sioux Nation and he became known as the Apostle of the West.

Today the Episcopal Church continues to be known as an ally to the Indigenous Nations in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Most recently it was known to Stand With Standing Rock in the confrontation with the Dakota Access Pipeline that runs through treaty land (1851 & 1868) and adjacent to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation. The Bishops of North and South Dakota, Bp. Smith and Bp. Tarrant, together with Presiding Bishop Curry were counted among those that supported Standing Rock in its stand against the risks brought to its water.

Now, Minnesota, has given its permission for Enbridge Line #3 to develop a route through the waters and land of Northern Minnesota. Bishop Prior of Minnesota has spoken in support of Ojibwe sovereignty and their responsibility to protect the water. When the State and County officials in North Dakota placed themselves in opposition to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, and Standing Rock's call for the Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) to come to its aid, a sometimes violent standoff with Law Enforcement ensued against the Water Protectors that gathered at the Backwater Bridge.

As a church we support prayerful, peaceful and non-violent approaches to express our concerns of the risks to the environment and the people of these territories. As a church we call on all elected officials to guide and direct their conduct to be above reproach. As a church we call upon all levels of government to support and honor treaty obligations. We believe the Ojibwe Bands of northern Minnesota are right to assert their opposition to the pipeline under the treaties that were made on their behalf by their ancestors.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C053  
**Title:** Support Subsistence Rights of Indigenous Cultures  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church urge the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to study and theologically interpret the social justice issues facing Alaska Native and Native American subsistence hunters and gatherers, and to recommend policies and strategies to support subsistence rights and access to traditional native food sources to the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That this work give attention to the consequences for subsistence cultures of climate change, and policy decisions or proposals that have affected, or may affect the future migration patterns, population, and health of wild fish and game—the native and traditional food source of subsistence cultures; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society engage this work in direct consultation with elders, indigenous subsistence hunters and the bishops of the native and indigenous communities they represent; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society engage the ministry of the Episcopal Public Policy Network to advocate for public policies that address the sustainable subsistence rights of indigenous cultures.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 406-407.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A131  
**Title:** Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention expresses its solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the world and supports the rights of Indigenous Peoples to live in and retain their traditional lands and territories, to maintain their languages and enrich their cultures, and to ensure that their traditions are strengthened and passed on for generations to come; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention ask the Presiding Bishop and other representatives of The Episcopal Church to make protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples a priority in joint work with other Provinces of the Anglican Communion, in ecumenical work with other Christian denominations, and in interfaith work with other faith communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention reaffirm the 76th General Convention's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, a misguided, unfair, and harmful legal doctrine which the Church helped promote in earlier centuries, a legal doctrine which has been used in English, Continental, and American law to justify the unfair treatment and exploitation of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention urges the United States government and governments in other countries in which the Episcopal Church has dioceses to review their laws and policies, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, and to identify and correct those which treat Indigenous Peoples unfairly or which, although neutral in content, result in invidious discrimination against Indigenous Peoples; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, to make protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples a high priority in its advocacy about United States foreign policy, including advocacy about trade agreements, human rights advocacy, and international environmental protection; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and corporate offices of The Episcopal Church, with the aid of resources such as "Exposing the Doctrine of Discovery," to reflect upon their history and to encourage them to support Indigenous Peoples in their ongoing efforts to exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights, to continue to raise awareness about the issues facing Indigenous Peoples, and to develop advocacy campaigns to support the rights, aspirations, and needs of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in consultation with Indigenous Peoples within their dioceses or Provinces that congregations and dioceses be urged to take tangible steps to help Indigenous Peoples, including:*

- *Action to preserve Indigenous Peoples' language, history and culture, such as by supporting appropriate linguistic, historic, Bible (and authorized liturgical resources) translation work for language groups into which the Bible and authorized liturgical resources have not yet been fully translated,*

- **Action to obtain fairer and better treatment of Indigenous Peoples, such as seeking the repeal of unfair laws and policies,**
- **Formation of partnerships with congregations whose members consist primarily of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and corporate offices of The Episcopal Church to support continued use and development of theological reflections by Indigenous Peoples, with guidance from the Office of Indigenous Ministries, Indigenous Theological Training Institute, local Schools for Ministry and seminaries, which promote Indigenous visions of full, good, and abundant life and which strengthen their own spiritual and theological reflections.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 149-150.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A132  
**Title:** Protect Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Sites  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention out of respect for the unique cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples, and as a step toward repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, calls upon congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of The Episcopal Church, particularly in handling church property, expansion and investment, to help protect the sacred sites of Indigenous Peoples, and to encourage compliance in their communities with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, 25 U.S.C. § 3001; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop be asked to establish a task force, working with volunteers from diocesan chancellors and other attorneys who are Episcopalians, and in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples, to develop practical written guidance for dioceses and churches, particularly for wardens and others responsible for church properties, construction, and investment.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 225-226.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-D035  
**Title:** Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention repudiates and renounces the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God, and that this declaration be proclaimed among our churches and shared with the United Nations and all the nations and peoples located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries. This doctrine, which originated with Henry VII in 1496, held that Christian sovereigns and their representative explorers could assert dominion and title over non-Christian lands with the full blessing and sanction of the Church. It continues to be invoked, in only slightly modified form, in court cases and in the many destructive policies of governments and other institutions of the modern nation-state that lead to the colonizing dispossession of the lands of indigenous peoples and the disruption of their way of life; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church review its policies and programs with a view to exposing the historical reality and impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and eliminating its presence in its contemporary policies, program and structures and, further, that this body directs the appropriate representatives of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, to inform all relevant governmental bodies in the United States of its action and suggest similar and equivalent review of historical and contemporary policies that contribute to the continuing colonization of Indigenous Peoples and, further, to write to Queen Elizabeth II, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, requesting that her Majesty disavow, and repudiate publicly, the claimed validity of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each diocese within The Episcopal Church be encouraged to reflect upon its own history, in light of these actions and encourage all Episcopalians to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States and other nation states located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries, and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for the U.S. government's endorsement of the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," which the United States has refused to endorse (only the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia have failed to sign on).*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 371-372.





**Resolution Number:** 1985-B007  
**Title:** Request Church-wide Advocacy of Indian Rights  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the National Committee on Indian Work be instructed by the 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to request all agencies of the Church to advocate and support the honoring of all Indian treaty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 147.