

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** D090  
**TITLE:** Engaging the Church in Advocacy for Disability Rights  
**PROPOSER:** The Reverend Patrick Miller  
**TOPIC:** Disabled Persons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-D034 Support the Civil Rights of Disabled Persons  
2015-D071 Ratify UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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

2015-D032 Reaffirm Disabled Persons' Rights in the Criminal Justice System  
2015-D043 Ensure Accessibility for Disabled Persons at All Church Events  
2015-D073 Support Home and Community Services for the Disabled  
2003-C027 Make the Church's Audio-visual Materials Accessible to All People  
1985-A087 Encourage Opportunities Within the Church for Persons with Disabilities  
1979-B031 Petition Congress on the Issue of Educating Deaf Children

*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.*

# D090 Engaging the Church in Advocacy for Disability Rights

<b>Proposer</b>	The Rev. Patrick Miller
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Arana, Ms. Clementine; Baker, The Very Rev. Dr. Brian
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That The Episcopal Church reaffirm its commitment to preserve and advance the civil and human rights of all Deaf people and people with disabilities; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention recognize that despite significant progress in this regard over the past several decades, many Deaf persons and people with disabilities still face significant barriers to full integration in community and society, including but not limited to lack of communication access, unnecessary institutionalization, lack of access to appropriate services and supports, barriers to education and gainful, meaningful employment; and widespread discrimination in everyday life; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations and Episcopal Public Policy Network to partner with Deaf- and disability-led organizations to support national and international legislation and advocacy consistent with the Church's commitment, and engage Episcopalians in supporting those efforts.

## EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church strives for inclusion of all God's children and has expressed on numerous occasions a desire for people with disabilities and who are Deaf to be involved in the Church's work and mission.

OGR and EPPN have already been charged with disability advocacy under 2016-D071 Ratify UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This resolution follows in the same vein, but authorizes EPPN and OGR to do work on broader disability rights issues.

There is a significant opportunity for to partner with organizations led by Deaf people and people with disabilities who are providing important leadership on disability and Deaf policy and advocacy. These organizations include the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), ADAPT, the National Council on Disability (NCD), among others.

Partnership with these organizations would result in wider Church awareness of accessibility policy

and legislation on disability and Deaf issues, as well as an opportunity for Church community members to directly advocate issues that affect not only people with disabilities, but also those who are poor, those who are seniors, and those who have illnesses.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D034  
**Title:** Support the Civil Rights of Disabled Persons  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention reaffirm and renew the Church's commitment expressed in the 70th General Convention to the principles of inclusion and the protection of the civil rights of all persons with disabilities on this, the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26th, 1990), in the United States of America; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare its continuing unwavering support, and advocate for total compliance with the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act by all covered entities, including public and government entities and places of public accommodation in the United States of America; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention upon passage of this Resolution issue a press release announcing said Resolution to the national media signed by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses and congregations be urged to seek education from available community deaf/hard of hearing and disability organizations on supporting full inclusion of disabled persons in all aspects of public life.*

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



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D071  
**Title:** Ratify UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention in accordance reaffirm and renew the Church's longtime commitment to the principles of inclusion and the advancement of the human rights of all people with disabilities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recognize and acknowledge that the United States of America is the last developed nation member of the United Nations that has yet to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognize that other countries in which The Episcopal Church exists have ratified the treaty; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention call on the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during the 114th Congress of the United States, and direct the Office of Government Relations to lobby the Senate for the ratification of this treaty and direct the Episcopal Public Policy Network to urge all members of the Church in the United States to contact their Senators and advocate for ratification of the treaty.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 835.