



Title: "Common Beliefs on Relationships and Appropriate Sexual Behavior"
Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jan. 27-30, 1997, Cincinnati, pp. 23-24.
Committee: Program (report 6/7)

Resolved, That Executive Council present the following resolution in its Blue Book Report to the 72nd General Convention:

Resolved, The House of _____ concurring, that we recognize recent discussions in the Church regarding human sexuality have revealed increased ambiguity and tension. We affirm the mysterious nature of human sexuality. These matters are deeply personal, and it is quite difficult to arrive at comprehensive and widely accepted statements; and be it further

Resolved, That in honoring the divine gift of free will to all children of God, we cannot and will not attempt to control the behavior of others. However, we accept the Church's responsibility to offer the values and guidance that enable individuals to avoid or heal relationships which are exploitative and hurtful and to seek and create relationships which are life-giving and grace filled; and be it further

Resolved, That we foster a greater awareness that, even when using protection, sexual activity can result in unwanted pregnancy leading to difficult decisions regarding marriage, adoption or abortion; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continue the discussion of the possible life-determining consequences of irresponsible sexual activity which affect the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the individual; and be it further

Resolved, That we affirm the teaching of the House of Bishops Pastoral Study Document "Continuing the Dialogue," (Guideline #7, page 94): "We view as contrary to the baptismal covenant, and therefore morally unacceptable, sexual behavior which is adulterous, promiscuous, abusive, or exploitative in nature, or which involves children or others incapable of informed, mutual consent and understanding the consequences of such a relationship"; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize that all people are children of God and those who fall short in their attempt to live by these teachings have a full and equal claim upon the love, pastoral care and concern of the Church.



Title: Initiation of Church Wide Conversation on Marriage
Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 11-14, 2004, Burlington, VT, pp. 31-32.
Committee: National Concerns (report 14)

Resolved, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington VT, the 13th day of June, 2004, hereby initiates a process leading to a church wide conversation on the subject of marriage, including

- a. the biblical and theological basis for marriage;
- b. the history of marriage as an institution;
- c. the economics of marriage;
- d. the relationship between the church and the state on the subject of marriage;
- e. the societal purposes served by the institution of marriage;
- f. the characteristics of marriage that promote or undermine such societal purposes;
and
- g. public policy regarding the dissolution of a marriage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on National Concerns identify materials related to the foregoing subjects and prepare and distribute an annotated bibliography to Executive Council and to the Church through the Church Center's website; and be it further

Resolved, That Executive Council asks the Joint Committee on Planning and Arrangements to schedule a Conversation on Marriage during the 75th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses be urged to hold such Conversations on Marriage as well.



Title: Objection to Defense of Marriage Act
Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 11-14, 2004, Burlington, VT, pp. 30-31.
Committee: National Concerns (report 12)

Resolved, That the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church send the attached letter to Governor Bob Taft of Ohio objecting both to Ohio's recently enacted (February 2004) Defense of Marriage Act and the proposed amendment to the Ohio State Constitution, which law and amendment presumptively deny rights and benefits to persons in domestic partnerships; and be it further

Resolved, That this letter be sent to leaders of the Ohio legislature, the mayors and directors of visitor and convention bureaus of Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland, and to the media.



Title: Opposition to the Federal Defense of Marriage Act
Citation: Executive Council Minutes, Jun. 17, 2011, Linthicum Heights, MD, p. 5.
Committee: Advocacy and Networking (report 28)

Resolved, That the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, June 15-17, 2011, reaffirms The Episcopal Church's opposition to the federal Defense of Marriage Act, noting that it is inconsistent with more than three decades of policy resolutions expressing this Church's "historical support for gay and lesbian persons as children of God entitled to full civil rights" and its specific opposition to "any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions" (GC2006-A095); and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council commends the President of the United States for his decision in February to abandon the legal defense of the Act in federal court on the basis of the fact that, in the context of a long history of discrimination against people based on sexual orientation, the law does not withstand minimal constitutional scrutiny; and be it further

Resolved, That, as litigation against the Defense of Marriage Act proceeds in federal court, the Executive Council encourages Episcopalians to communicate this Church's opposition to the Act to courts, policymakers, and others in our communities.