

**"Mutual Responsibility and Collegiality"**

Bishop Ilhoff of Maryland presented a resolution drafted from the reports from the reflection groups of the House that addressed the issues of respect, accountability, mutuality, and collegiality.

After lengthy discussion, including the adoption and defeat of several amendments, the amended resolution was adopted by the House of Bishops.

**Mind of the House Resolution**

Jesus prayed that we be one even as he and the Father are one. By God's grace, we continue to grow in community characterized by Christian reconciliation, peace, and collegiality. That growth, and our Episcopal vows, require that we confront instances of inappropriate behavior even as we strive to maintain our unity and our focus and energy on the mission of the Church.

We express our disappointment that the Bishop of Pennsylvania, clergy and lay leaders of Good Shepherd parish, various diocesan leaders, and others were unable to find a way to resolve the issues within the parish short of the difficulties in which we currently find ourselves.

We are also concerned that theological disputes not become the occasion for canonical violations or unilateral actions such as those taken by the Bishop of Pittsburgh; and furthermore, we deplore the extra-canonical action which he has taken.

Used properly, we believe the canons can be an instrument of grace and unifying factor in the life of the Church. We support the right of a bishop under the canons to depose a priest for the health and welfare of the diocese.

Furthermore, we expect that such depositions or other disciplinary actions be recognized by all bishops of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

We lament the decisions on the part of the bishops of Kansas and Delaware which went beyond the consensus achieved by General Convention Resolution D039 when they formally authorized the blessing of same sex unions.

In order to support one another in waging reconciliation within the Body of Christ, and to enhance wider consultation and our role as guardians of the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church, we request that the Committee on Pastoral Care develop a mechanism for:

1. dealing with breaches of collegiality; and
2. providing assistance to bishops with diocesan situations which impact the larger church.

And that the report thereon be prepared and distributed to the members of the House of Bishops prior to the Spring meeting of 2003 and be considered at that meeting.

**Motion carried  
Resolution adopted**