

Diocese of New Jersey

Report of the 2012 General Convention Deputation

The 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church ("TEC") was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 5 through July 12, 2012. Actions taken by General Convention are in the form of Resolutions, which are only effective if they are passed by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. This General Convention received 411 pieces of legislation: 167 came from TEC Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards (A Resolutions), 29 Resolutions from Bishops (B Resolutions), 120 from Dioceses and Provinces (C Resolutions), and 95 Resolutions from Deputies (D Resolutions). In addition, there were generated within the Convention 18 Election resolutions (E Resolutions) and 31 courtesy, special order, or other procedural resolutions (X Resolutions).

One of those proposed C Resolutions was from the Diocese of New Jersey, as approved by last year's Diocesan Convention Resolution 2012-8 "General Convention Resolution: New Ministries to Community Colleges", which was presented to General Convention as [C050](#). A very similar proposal for funding community-college ministries was later enacted as [C069](#).

Another C Resolution was from Province II, initially drafted by the Rev'd Joseph R. Parrish, Jr., an Alternate Deputy this year, which resolution was adopted by the House of Bishops as amended by committee, [C079](#) (Oppose Dangerous Fracking), but not concurred in by the House of Deputies.

Several D Resolutions were proposed by members of our Diocese's Deputation. Deputies may each submit up to three proposed resolutions.

Paul Ambos, Esq., submitted a resolution to remove the canonical restriction (Canon III.11.10(b)) on a Bishop Suffragan's serving also as a priest in charge of a parish, which was enacted as amended as [D001](#). A second canonical proposal to correct an ambiguity on the voting by bishops when a bishop is deposed, [D009](#), was discharged without action because a different resolution, [C049](#), was passed earlier in the Convention referring this and other Title IV (ecclesiastical discipline) issues to the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons ("SCCC") to report back to the 78th General Convention. Finally, a resolution condemning threats against sexual minorities was passed as amended as [D061](#).

Canon Charles Perfater submitted a resolution, [D010](#), to ensure representation by representatives of TEC Provinces on a contemplated commission to consider changes to the political structure of The Episcopal Church. This was discharged due to prior action having been taken by Resolution [C095](#) to establish a Task Force for this function that would have membership to "reflect the diversity of the Church" but without specifying members from provincial leadership. Canon Perfater submitted a second resolution, [D029](#), to make several changes to the Title IV procedures that were adopted by the 2009 General Convention, as drafted by Michael Rehill, Esq., former Chancellor of the Diocese of Newark. This proposal was likewise discharged in light of the referral by [C049](#) of Title IV matters to the SCCC.

The Rev'd Sunil Chandy submitted [Resolution D040](#), to establish a declining percentage of diocesan askings (18%, 17%, 16%) over the next three-year Episcopal Church budget. The Triennial Budget (with a constant 19% asking) was adopted before this could come to the floor, and so the proposed resolution was discharged. (The Triennial Budget is discussed in more detail near the end of this Report.)

Finally, the Rev'd Joan Mason submitted on behalf of the Rev'd Frank Hubbard (who as Alternate was not eligible to submit resolutions) a resolution to establish a pilot student loan program for seminary students "who will commit to spending their first three years after ordination in an underserved area of the Church," enacted as amended as [D049](#). The program is designed to offer the possibility of forgiveness of the loans in whole or in part following the completion of such supervised service.

The texts of all resolutions (original text and the most-current enacted or unenacted version) are available through the [General Convention website](#) on the [View All Resolutions](#) page (subject to correction as to final text) and will be published in the Journal of the 77th General Convention, and subsequently in the digital archives of the Archives of the Episcopal Church. A [Summary of Actions of the 77th General Convention](#) is also available, which lists the status of all enacted Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article XII of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church requires that proposed amendments to the Constitution be passed at one General Convention, read at each Diocesan Convention, and then be passed at the succeeding General Convention, in order to be effective. The following proposed Constitutional amendments that were passed on first reading by the 76th General Convention were enacted upon second reading by the 77th:

A156 - Amend Constitution Article I.4

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That lines 3 and 4 and 11 of Article I.4 of the Constitution (page 2) be amended to change the name of the "Convocation of the American Churches in Europe" to "Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe" as follows:

Sec. 4. The Church in each Diocese which has been admitted to union with the General Convention, each area Mission established as provided by Article VI, and the Convocation of ~~the American Episcopal~~ Churches in Europe, shall be entitled to representation in the House of Deputies by not more than four ordained persons, Presbyters or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese and not more than four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese; but the General Convention by Canon may reduce the representation to not fewer than two Deputies in each order. Each Diocese, and the Convocation of ~~the American Episcopal~~ Churches in Europe, shall prescribe the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen.

The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe is a collection of nine churches, mission congregations, and specialized ministries spread geographically over several countries in continental Europe. This constitutional amendment changes the name of the Convocation (which voted in 2008 to change its name) in TEC's Constitution. As noted in the 2009 first-reading resolution, "The references to the Convocation in the Constitution are merely descriptive of the name; the General Convention did not create or name the Convocation."

A157 - Amend Constitution Article II.2

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church be amended as follows:

Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. ~~But if the election shall have taken place within one hundred twenty days before the meeting of General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.~~ No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.

From the founding of The Episcopal Church, the consecration of bishops could only be authorized by the Bishops and Deputies sitting in General Convention. In 1799, to avoid a possible three-year wait for authorization, votes by Bishops and Standing Committees were authorized as an alternative if the episcopal election were not held within three months before the Convention's opening. This amendment now relieves the House of Deputies from the business of considering consents to episcopal consecrations, leaving this to the Standing Committees.

A158 - Amend Article VIII of the Constitution

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution is amended by the addition of a final sentence as follows:

No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.

The paragraph amended by this addition deals with enabling Episcopal Church bishops to allow priests ordained in churches in Communion with TEC to minister within TEC on a temporary basis. Since it appears

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that some ministers within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may have under its polity been ordained by other Lutheran ministers instead of by a bishop of that church, this amendment is to limit the permission only to the latter category of priests.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO ALL DIOCESES

The following Acts of Convention have been referred by the Secretary of Convention to dioceses for action, consideration, or information pursuant to Episcopal Church Canon 1.6.4, which requires Dioceses to report annually to the Executive Council of the Church, including "information concerning implementation by the Diocese of resolutions of the previous General Convention which have been specifically identified by the Secretary of General Convention." They are presented here for the information of the clergy and laity of the Diocese.

Resolution Regarding a Proposed Amendment to the Standard Book of Common Prayer:

A059 [Revise Book of Common Prayer for Revised Common Lectionary](#)

Resolutions Referred to Dioceses for Action:

A025 [Challenge Congregations to Develop Websites](#)
A035 [Commit to Continued Interreligious Engagement](#)
A037 [Approve and Commend Guidelines for Ecumenical Shared Ministries](#)
A049 [Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships](#)
A059 [Revise Book of Common Prayer for Revised Common Lectionary](#)
A073 [Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones](#)
A096 [Reduce Barriers to participation in Church Leadership and Governance](#)
A125 [Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism](#)
A127 [Recommit to Being Anti-Racists for the Next Three Triennia \(Until 2018\)](#)
A128 [Direct Dioceses to Examine Impact of Doctrine of Discovery](#)
A131 [Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples](#)
A139 [Gender Violence](#)
A140 [Advocate for Maternal and Infant Health](#)
A161 [Amend mandate and membership of EC Committee on Anti-Racism](#)
B017 [Support for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza](#)
D022 [Churchwide Response to Bullying](#)
D050 [Clergy Call to Action on Economic and Racial Justice](#)
D067 [DREAM Act](#)
D069 [Social Media Challenge](#)

Resolutions Referred to Dioceses for Consideration or Information:

A012 [Advocate for a Just Global Economy for International Trade](#)
A019 [Continue Advocacy for Peace in Sudan](#)
A046 [Commend Continued Development of Lifelong Christian Formation](#)
A051 [Continue Trial Use of Holy Women, Holy Men](#)
A054 [Authorize Rites and Prayers for the Care of Beloved Animals](#)
A057 [Authorize Enriching Our Worship 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5](#)
A079 [American Civil Liberties](#)
A088 [Set Expectations for Steward Leaders](#)
A113 [Commend Work of Missionaries](#)
A132 [Dismantling of the Effects of the Doctrine of Discovery](#)
A136 [Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith](#)
A165 [HIV/AIDS Health Ministry Education](#)
A166 [Week of Prayer for Healing of AIDS](#)
B009 [Authorize Use of 1979 Lectionary](#)
B019 [Israeli-Palestinian Peace and Support for the Diocese of Jerusalem](#)
B023 [Environmental Justice](#)
C033 [Endorsing Statehood for the District of Columbia](#)
C075 [Sudanese Community](#)
C077 [Condemning the Practice of Wage Theft](#)

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- C083 [The Bible Challenge](#)
- C119 [Clean Air Ports Act 2012](#)
- D003 [Gun Free Zones](#)
- D008 [Affirm Anglican Communion Participation](#)
- D011 [Reform Unequal Immigration Law](#)
- D028 [The Labor Movement](#)
- D055 [Advocate for Public Policy to Reduce Climate Changing Emissions](#)

Since the Diocesan Office will be required to report annually to the General Convention Office as to the diocesan responses to these resolutions, those persons and groups within the diocese working on these issues should keep Diocesan House advised as to progress so that thorough reports may be made.

PARTICULAR RESOLUTIONS OF NOTE

Beyond the resolutions listed above, the following General Convention resolutions are also of particular note as affecting Episcopal congregations and individuals, or are of general interest:

There was particular interest during Convention in a couple of liturgical issues. Since 1982, Canon I.17.7 has provided that "No unbaptized person shall be eligible to receive Holy Communion in this Church." Nevertheless, some members of the clergy have taken the position that offering the Eucharist regardless of lack of baptism is a way to draw new members into the church. Several resolutions have been introduced over the years requesting a theological study of this issue, but none have been passed. [Resolution C029, as proposed](#), called for a further study and possible amendment of Canon I.17.7; as amended and passed, however, [Resolution C029](#) takes a firm position: "The Episcopal Church reaffirms that baptism is the ancient and normative entry point to receiving Holy Communion and that our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to go into the world and baptize all peoples."

A second pair of resolutions added transgendered persons to the list of categories for which The Episcopal Church forbids discrimination. [Resolution D002](#) amends Canon III.1.2 to add "gender identity or expression" to the listing of nondisqualifying conditions for access to possible ordination, so that the relevant sentence now reads: "No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons." Similarly, [Resolution D019](#) adds the same category to the canon respecting the laity, so that Canon I.17.5 now provides: "No one shall be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons."

The 2009 General Convention had by [Resolution 2009-A138](#), extended mandatory Church Pension Fund pension coverage for lay employees of dioceses, missions, parishes, or any "other ecclesiastical organization or body subject to the authority of the Church" who are scheduled to work 1,000 hours a year or more. The 2012 General Convention received several resolution proposals to delay implementation of this requirement beyond the January 2102 deadline, but only one received approval: [Resolution C042 - Extend implementation period for Lay Employee Pension Plan \(LEPP\)](#) adopted a phase-in schedule for employees of church-operated schools.

Proposals were also made to defer implementation of the Denominational Health Plan mandated by [Resolution 2009-A177](#), to cover by December 2012 all domestic clergy and lay employees of dioceses, parishes, missions, and other church organizations that are scheduled to work 1,500 hours a year or more. This year, [Resolution B026 - Implementation of the Denominational Health Plan](#) reaffirmed this deadline but extended to December 2015 the goal of parity in cost-sharing between clergy and lay employees.

News coverage and commentary were given to the adoption of [A049 - Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships](#), which commended for study by dioceses and congregations, and for provisional use under the direction of and with permission by diocesan bishops, of the theological study and proposed liturgy, as amended, of [I Will Bless You, and You Will Be a Blessing](#) (Resources for The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant in a Same-Sex Relationship)*.

* The link above is to order the official paper copy from Church Publishing. An unofficial temporary online version from the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut can be downloaded [here \(pdf file\)](#) as explained [here](#).

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In the years leading up to the 2012 General Convention there was much discussion and speculation as to The Episcopal Church's to the proposed [Anglican Communion Covenant](#). Out of several proposals, the Convention enacted two. [Resolution B005 - Ongoing Commitment to the Anglican Covenant Process](#) expressed gratitude for those who worked on the proposed covenant and who responded to it, and recognized that "there remain a wide variety of opinions and ecclesiological positions in The Episcopal Church." Accordingly, it concluded "that as a pastoral response to The Episcopal Church, the General Convention decline to take a position on the Anglican Covenant at this Convention" but that the Executive Council should establish a task force to monitor future developments and report to the 2015 General Convention. In addition, [Resolution D008 - Affirm Anglican Communion Participation](#) reaffirmed TEC's "historic commitment to and constituent membership in the Anglican Communion," firmly "committing itself to continued participation in the wider councils of the Anglican Communion" and in particular to [the Continuing Indaba process](#) within the Communion.

In the months leading up to the Convention there were various proposals filed to change the political structure of The Episcopal Church, stemming from a [presentation](#) made to the House of Bishops by TEC Chief Operating Officer Bishop Stacy Sauls in September 2011. In response Convention passed [Resolution C095](#) established a Task Force to present to the next General Convention "a plan for reforming the Church's structures, governance, and administration," to be presented along with proposed implementing resolutions for any necessary canonical and constitutional amendments, by November 2014. Prior to that time it is to seek input "from congregations, dioceses and provinces, and other interested individuals and organizations, including those not often heard from" and it is to present its proposals at a "special gathering" inviting to this gathering "from each diocese at least a bishop, a lay deputy, a clerical deputy, and one person under the age of 35."

The guiding principle for the Task Force on Structure, as well as other agenda items including budget issues, is the declaration of the Five Marks of Mission for The Episcopal Church:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

It has been recommended that these mission principles be considered on the diocesan and congregational levels in determining budget and other mission priorities. In particular, [Resolution D023](#) invokes the Five Marks of Mission in calling all Episcopalians "to be evangelists who help grow the church and the Kingdom of God," and thus to help to reverse the decline of membership suffered by TEC along with all other Christian denominations over the last half-century.

On the institutional level, [Resolution D016](#) called for the church's administrative offices to be moved out of its current quarters in a church-owned office building at 815 Second Avenue, New York City. Depending on the real estate market, the long-term intention is to sell or lease the building and use more economical space. [Resolution D025](#) authorized the establishment of a Development Office within TEC staff to solicit major gifts and other donations and grants to support the mission and ministries of the church "at all levels." [Resolution A162](#) authorized the TEC Board of Archives to raise funding to construct an archives building to hold the church's archive collection, either on vacant land currently owned in Austin, Texas or elsewhere.

One of the principal items of business for each General Convention is the adoption of a budget for the ensuing three years. The Executive Council is tasked with presenting a draft budget, but this is subject to extensive revision by the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance legislative committee before its presentation to the Convention for approval. This year, the Presiding Bishop also prepared and presented, less than a month before the opening of Convention, her own version of a proposed budget. The [Triennial Budget](#) for The Episcopal Church for calendar years 2013–2015 was adopted by [Resolution A005](#). Budget discussions were complicated by the ongoing discussion of issues surrounding possible restructure of the church administration. The budget as passed calls for expenditures of \$111 million over the next three years, funded — hopefully and primarily — by diocesan payments based on an asking of 19% of diocesan income. The Program, Budget and Finance Committee labored diligently to consolidate the budget prepared by the Executive Council with one proposed by the Presiding Bishop. The budget as presented and approved is very tight, resulting in far less than asked by many competing interests in the church, as presented in lengthy hearings. Nonetheless, it should be sufficient enough to permit sound basic operations. It is based on the Five Marks of Mission and includes block grants to support these initiatives.

Finally, General Convention is responsible for electing many of the officers who serve executive and legislative functions within The Episcopal Church. At this Convention, no members of the Diocese of New Jersey Deputation

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were running for any of these offices. Notably, however, Canon Bonnie Anderson, D.D., 32nd President of the House of Deputies, announced prior to the Convention her intention not to run for re-election. The House of Deputies elected as her successor the Rev'd Gay Clark Jennings, a Deputy to Convention since 1991 who had most recently served under President Anderson as Parliamentarian for the Convention. The House of Deputies elected the Hon. Byron Rushing, a Massachusetts state legislator and a Deputy to Convention since 1973, as Vice-President. The term of office of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori is to conclude at the 2015 General Convention, at which her successor is to be elected.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Deputation thank the Diocese for its financial and theological and moral support. We thank our counterpart in the House of Bishops, the Right Reverend George E. Councell, XI Bishop of New Jersey, for his fellowship and assistance.

We acknowledge the many years of service to the New Jersey Deputation of the late Canon John Wood Goldsack, who had been elected as Lay Deputy but who resigned his position this last spring for personal reasons. He was a great servant of The Episcopal Church and an inspiration for all of us who had the privilege of working with him. His presence on the Deputation — and in the Diocese generally — will be greatly missed.

We acknowledge the participation of Deputation members representatives in the committee structures that were essential to the workings of the Convention: Bishop Councell and Charles Perfater served on the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance. Valerie Balling served on the Legislative Committee on Canons. Noreen Duncan served on the Legislative Committee on World Mission. Joan Mason served on the Legislative Committee on Evangelism. Jack Zamboni served on the Legislative Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music.

We encourage others to seek election as Deputies or Alternates. The next General Convention is scheduled to take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, for a session of ten days in July 2015 to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd John V. Zamboni, Deputation Vice-Chair
The Rev'd Valerie Balling, Deputation Chaplain
The Rev'd Kuruvilla ("Sunil") Chandy
The Rev'd Joan M.P. Mason
The Rev'd Gail L. Bennett, Dcn., Clergy Alternate
The Rev'd Mark H. Chattin, Clergy Alternate
The Rev'd Dr. Francis A. Hubbard, Clergy Alternate
The Rev'd Joseph Parrish, Clergy Alternate

Ms. Noreen Duncan, Deputation Chair
Paul Ambos, Esq.
Mr. Charles Perfater, Deputation Secretary
and Diocesan Administrator
Ms. Alexis Longo
Dr. Karen Bemis, Lay Alternate
Mr. Marcus Gales, Lay Alternate
Mr. Paul Murphy, Lay Alternate