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## 2014 PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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The Committee on Resolutions received two proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2014 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. The proposers may make additional revisions prior to submission to Convention.

Following hearings at the preconvention meetings and at the formal hearing of the Committee to be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2014, in the Matthews Room at Diocesan House, 808 West State Street, Trenton, the Committee will prepare its Final Report with its recommendations, if any, with respect to the proposals. It is the Final Report that will be submitted to Convention for consideration.

As provided by the Rules of Order, proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

*Respectfully submitted,*

The Rev. Terry Martin, Chair  
Committee on Resolutions

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### RESOLUTION 2014-1:

*Subject: Extension of Time for Canon 60(2)(d)(iv)*

*Be it resolved,* That the date for incorporated Missions to comply with the requirement of Canon 60, Section 2, subsection (d)(iv) be extended from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

*SUBMITTED BY: Canon Paul Ambos, Acting Chancellor*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2014-1 by Proposer:*

The 229th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey amended the classification canons of the Diocese. One change was to add Canon 60(2)(d), which sets forth changes that should result from the reclassification of an incorporated parish to a mission, including the following:

- (d) The appropriate corporate officers shall take such steps as required by law to consolidate the Parish corporation into the Trustees of Church Property, so that

title to all real and personal property and endowment funds of the former Parish shall be transferred by operation of law to the Trustees of Church Property of the Diocese of New Jersey, to be held by them in trust for the purposes of the Diocese. The Trustees of Church Property have the discretion not to consent to any such consolidation; if they do not consent, the Parish officers must otherwise transfer such title to the Trustees of Church Property.

Implementing Resolution IV of the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons set a deadline of December 31, 2014 for existing incorporated missions to comply with this requirement.

A former member of the Committee on Constitution and Canons had questioned before the Trustees of Church Property the legality of this provision, prior to its adoption by Convention. Bishop Cuncill in response had requested and received an opinion from outside counsel as to the propriety of the provision. Nevertheless, this former member has re-asserted to the Trustees his objections.

Without going into the details of the legal arguments involved, the result at present is simply that the Trustees have been hesitant to accept any corporate consolidations. Since there is no assurance that all questions will be answered to their satisfaction prior to next year's Annual Convention, the present resolution is solely for the purpose of continuing the status quo by extending the deadline for mission boards to act, for one further year.

The Trustees of Church Property have agreed to this deadline extension for the protection of the interests of everyone involved.

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#### RESOLUTION 2014-2:

*Subject: Establishment of a Diocesan HIV/AIDS Commission*

*Be it resolved,* That the Two Hundred Thirtieth Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey recognize the commitment and work of the Episcopal Church in the fight against HIV/AIDS; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey support this commitment and work through the establishment of a Diocesan HIV/AIDS Commission for the advocacy of these efforts to individual parishes as examples of how congregation, community, and God may be served in the battle against the HIV/AIDS crisis.

*SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Shawn P. Fay; Diocesan Jubilee Ministry Office; Diocesan Jubilee Ministry Advisory Team*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2014-2 by Proposer:*

HIV/AIDS continues to be one of the world's most serious, global public health challenges, with an estimated 36 million people having died since the first cases were reported in 1981. In 2012, the World Health Organization estimated that more than 35 million people were living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, with 2.3 million individuals being newly infected that year. Also in 2012, the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recommitted to the fight against HIV/AIDS through resolutions targeting the four "vision categories" of Advocacy and Communication; Education and Prevention; Spirituality, Hospitality and Engagement; and Fighting Stigma (Resolutions A163, A165, A166 & A167). This action is the continuation of over two decades of work by the Episcopal Church in this area, is founded on 39 previous resolutions, and is guided by The Five Marks of Mission, and the Gospel Imperative to love and serve all through Christ.

## References

## Resolution 2012-A163 Monitoring HIV Guide

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 77th General Convention acknowledge with gratitude the document, HIV, Health, & Holiness: A guide for the Episcopal Church, (found at [www.NEAC.org](http://www.NEAC.org)) and the four vision categories contained therein (Advocacy and Communication; Education and Prevention; Spirituality, Hospitality and Engagement; and Fighting Stigma), prepared by the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition and released in April, 2012; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition be directed to establish baseline data for current practices throughout the Church related to this Guide; and that this matter be further studied by way of a measurement survey of the Church during the 2013-2015 triennium with a summary provided to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church for reporting to the 78th General Convention and be it further;

*Resolved*, that church members use this knowledge and information to advocate for compassionate treatment of persons infected with HIV, helping them achieve greater spiritual, mental, and physical health in their communities.

## Resolution 2012-A165 HIV/AIDS Health Ministry Education

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention affirm the importance of HIV and AIDS ministry in the Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention urge parish health ministry programs to include HIV and AIDS education as a component of their ongoing programming; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC) and National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) be requested to compile appropriate secular and theological resources for this programming, including, but not limited to, reliable, culturally- and age-appropriate HIV and AIDS prevention materials, with an emphasis on the role of behavior in reducing risks for HIV infection; and be it further

*Resolved*, That NEHM and NEAC further be requested to make these materials available to clergy, parishes, parish nurses, Christian educators and Episcopal schools.

Resolution 2012-A166 Week of Prayer for Healing of AIDS

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 77th General Convention urge all parishes and dioceses of The Episcopal Church to participate in the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, observed annually beginning the first Sunday in March.

Resolution 2012-A167 HIV Welcoming Parish Initiative

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention understands the impact stigma has upon persons living with HIV and AIDS and the barriers it creates for appropriate treatment, care, and emotional stability; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the National Episcopal Aids Coalition be encouraged to develop an HIV Welcoming Parish initiative to be utilized as a tool to reduce the stigma associated with HIV and show the love of Christ through active engagement with persons in need of support; and be it further

*Resolved*, That parishes be urged to participate in the process to become certified as an HIV Welcoming Parish and the National Episcopal Aids Coalition be encouraged to achieve commitments from 50 congregations annually through 2015; and be it further

*Resolved*, That NEAC, through Executive Council, report back on the success of this initiative to the 78th General Convention.