The Committee on Resolutions received five proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2017 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Diocesan House, following which the Committee met and decided on recommendations. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report.

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'd Dr. John P. Mitchell
The Rev'd Megan Evans Thomas
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq.
Mr. Charles Lezenby
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison
The Rev. Terry Martin, Chair
Committee on Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2017-1:

Subject: 250th Anniversary of The Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergy in the Communion of the Church of England in America

Be it resolved, That the 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey salute, commend, and rejoice in the extraordinary ministry of The Widows Corporations throughout the dioceses of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania as they prepare to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of their founding in 1769; and be it

Further resolved, That this Convention submit the following Resolution to the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2018:

Resolved, the House of _____________ concurring, that this 79th General Convention extend its warmest congratulations to The Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergy in the Communion of the Church of England in America and its successors, commonly known as The Widows Corporations of New Jersey, New York,
and Pennsylvania, upon the 250th Anniversary of its founding in 1769, as well as to those similar Corporations that were established subsequently; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention recognize the extraordinary ministry not only to the widows, but also to the families of clergy carried out by The Widows Corporations for these two and one-half centuries of service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention declare the months from October 2018 through October 2019 as a period of special focus on the needs of families of clergy throughout The Episcopal Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention encourage every diocese of The Episcopal Church to seek to define the particular needs of the families of their clergy and to develop ways to address those needs, looking to the models developed by the various iterations of The Widows Corporation where they already exist for ideas and assistance in implementing such programs as may be helpful in addressing those needs.

**EXPLANATION**

The Widows Corporation was founded in 1769 to respond to the needs of widows and children of Anglican clergy who sometimes found themselves destitute in an age before the Church Pension Fund, Social Security, Medicare, and social service agencies. The agency took various forms in the colonies. In Pennsylvania an extensive life insurance program evolved, with wide participation now in all dioceses of the Commonwealth. A grant program for widows followed, and in recent years a Wellness program of grants to the dioceses to meet health-related needs. In New York and New Jersey the focus has been on annuities.

Although the Church Pension Fund and social welfare agencies now provide the fundamental support, clergy families today do experience difficulties not addressed by such agencies. The several Widows Corporations now serve an estimated 1,900 Episcopal clergy and their families in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Similar organizations are found in a few other parts of the Church as well. This resolution seeks to recognize the good work that has been done so far, and, building on this base, to encourage a Church-wide effort to explore the particular needs of clergy families, and to respond with effective help in new ways.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Canon Constance White, Widows Corporation Coordinator, Diocese of New Jersey

**Statement in Support of Resolution 2017-1 by Proposer:**

The Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergy in the Communion of the Church of England in America was chartered by King George III of Britain in 1769 upon the petition of clergy of the Church of England in the American colonies of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, primarily Missionaries in the service of the Society for the
Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, who were unable to provide financially for their families upon their death. Among the original clergy Corporators from New Jersey were the Rev. Thomas Bradbury Chandler of St. John's, Elizabethtown, the Rev. Samuel Cooke of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, the Rev. (later bishop) Samuel Seabury, formerly of Christ Church, New Brunswick, the Rev. Jonathan Odell of St. Mary's, Burlington, the Rev. William Ayers of St. Peter's, Spotswood, the Rev. William Frazer of St. Michael's, Trenton and St. Andrew's, Amwell, and the Rev. Abraham Beach of Christ Church, New Brunswick.

It was from a meeting of this Corporation that the call came for the first General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Following American independence, the Corporation split its assets among the three states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York and filed separate corporations under the laws of each state. The New Jersey corporation was formed by act of the state legislature in 1807 under the name "The Corporation for the relief of Widows and Children of Clergy-men of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New Jersey". The first president of the corporation was the Rev. Henry Waddell, formerly of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, and the secretary the Rev. John Croes of Christ Church, New Brunswick.

In 1978 the name of the corporation was changed to "The Corporation for the Relief of Widows, Widowers and Children of Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New Jersey".

**Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:**

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

**RESOLUTION 2017-2:**

**Subject:** Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese

*Be it resolved,* That, in obedience to the many biblical injunctions imploring us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst and Jesus' own mandate to extend care for the stranger, and in faithfulness to the sacred promises of Holy Baptism, the 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey declares the Diocese of New Jersey to be a Sanctuary Diocese; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Diocese of New Jersey, as people of faith and people of conscience, pledge to challenge and question any unjust immigration law, policy, or practice that is inconsistent with our biblical mandate to "not wrong or oppress a resident alien" (Exodus 22:21); and be it
Further resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey connect with The Episcopal Church, sister dioceses, and local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights groups and coalitions, and engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, and direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community; and be it

Further resolved, That this Convention urge congregations of the Diocese of New Jersey to become Sanctuary Congregations, serving as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and that we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it

Further resolved, That this Diocese assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

SUBMITTED BY: The Anti-Racism Commission (The Rev. Theodore Moore, Deacon and The Rev. Theodore Foley, Deacon, co-chairs), The Immigration Task Force (Mrs. Angelin Pozo and Daniel E. Somers, Esq., co-chairs), The Hispanic Commission (The Rev. Francisco Pozo, chair), and The Black Clergy Caucus (The Rev. Clive Sang, Deacon, Convener)

Statement in Support of Resolution 2017-2 by Proposers:

As a people of faith committed to dismantling oppressive systems and building structures and communities that reflect God’s compassion and justice, we must do nothing less than make straight a highway in the desert for our sisters and brothers. The bible has numerous injunctions that instruct us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst (Exodus 22:21 & 23:9, Leviticus 19:33, 23:22 & 24:22, Numbers 15:16, Deuteronomy 24:20-21 & 27:19, Jeremiah 7:6-7, Zechariah 7:10, and Malachi 3:5). Jesus is clear that the righteous inherit eternal life because "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). He also makes clear that our failure to address his need results in the condemnation of the unrighteous because "I was a stranger and you did not welcome me" (Matthew 25:43). Our baptismal vows require us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (Book of Common Prayer p. 305).

For many years, immigrants and their families have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant sentiment. In the aftermath of statements made during the presidential campaign of 2016, there is heightened concern that rhetoric villainizing immigrants will become policy that targets our siblings in the family of God because of their immigration status, political or religious beliefs.

As a Diocese located in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, it is our Christian duty to welcome those seeking refuge on our shores from war, civil strife, persecution, lawlessness,
famine, or natural disaster, and to live out the promise of her beacon by assisting those in search of safety and a better life.

This resolution puts our faith into action by standing with the growing number of cities, colleges, and communities of faith declaring themselves places of welcome, refuge, and healing, for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference or barred from entry to this country, as we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

REFERENCES

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 1985-B038

Resolved, That this 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church be on record as supporting the ministry of St. Michael’s Episcopal Chapel to the Ramon Flores family, who are in danger of being deported to El Salvador where, they believe, they will face imprisonment, torture and death; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention declare itself in opposition to the deportation of the Flores family; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urge the United States Government to grant political asylum to Salvadorans and Guatemalans who have fled to the United States because of the violence in their countries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States and Senators Bradley and Lautenberg of New Jersey.

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2015-D057:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommit to the spirit of the New Sanctuary Movement by supporting congregations so they can assist immigrant individuals, unaccompanied minors, families, and communities by being centers of information, services and accompaniment, and by supporting families facing separation in the absence of comprehensive, humane immigration reform.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.
RESOLUTION 2017-3:

Subject: Becoming a Sanctuary Church

Be it resolved, That this 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey Convention submit the following Resolution to the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2018:

Resolved, the House of _____________ concurring, that the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in obedience to the many biblical injunctions imploring us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst and Jesus' own mandate to extend care for the stranger, and in accordance with our Baptismal Covenant and in the spirit of being inclusive, reaffirms resolution 2015-D057 supporting the New Sanctuary Movement; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church urge its members, as people of faith and people of conscience, pledge to challenge and question any unjust immigration law, policy, or practice that is inconsistent with our biblical mandate to "not wrong or oppress a resident alien" (Exodus 22:21); and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recommend that its dioceses and congregations become places of sanctuary, serving as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference, and that we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourage its members to connect with local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrant rights groups and coalitions, and engage in educating, organizing, advocacy, and direct action, and other methods as deemed appropriate in each context, to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community, and to assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

EXPLANATION

As a people of faith committed to dismantling oppressive systems and building structures and communities that reflect God’s compassion and justice, we must do nothing less than make straight a highway in the desert for our sisters and brothers. The bible has numerous injunctions that instruct us not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst (Exodus 22:21 & 23:9, Leviticus 19:33, 23:22 & 24:22, Numbers 15:16, Deuteronomy 24:20-21 & 27:19, Jeremiah 7:6-7, Zechariah 7:10, and Malachi 3:5). Jesus is clear that the righteous inherit eternal life because "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). He also makes clear that our failure to address his
need results in the condemnation of the unrighteous because "I was a stranger and you did not welcome me" (Matthew 25:43). Our baptismal vows require us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (Book of Common Prayer p. 305).

For many years, immigrants and their families have suffered on the margins of our society. They have been scapegoated during difficult economic times and victimized by harsh anti-immigrant sentiment.

In the aftermath of statements made during the presidential campaign of 2016, there is heightened concern that rhetoric villainizing immigrants will become policy that targets our siblings in the family of God because of their immigration status, political or religious beliefs.

This resolution puts our faith into action by standing with the growing number of cities, colleges, and communities of faith declaring themselves places of welcome, refuge, and healing, for those targeted for deportation due to immigration status or some perceived status of difference or barred from entry to this country, as we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

SUBMITTED BY: The Anti-Racism Commission (The Rev. Theodore Moore, Deacon and The Rev. Theodore Foley, Deacon, co-chairs), The Immigration Task Force (Mrs. Angelin Pozo and Daniel E. Somers, Esq., co-chairs), The Hispanic Commission (The Rev. Francisco Pozo, chair), and The Black Clergy Caucus (The Rev. Clive Sang, Deacon, Convener)

Statement in Support of Resolution 2017-3 by Proposers:

This resolution mirrors for presentation to The Episcopal Church's 2018 General Convention the principles proposed in Resolution 2017-2 for adoption by our own diocese.

REFERENCE

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2015-D057:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommit to the spirit of the New Sanctuary Movement by supporting congregations so they can assist immigrant individuals, unaccompanied minors, families, and communities by being centers of information, services and accompaniment, and by supporting families facing separation in the absence of comprehensive, humane immigration reform.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.
RESOLUTION 2017-4:

Subject: Supporting the Welfare of Animals

Be it resolved, That this 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey affirms the responsibility of all people to be stewards of God’s creation, and recognizes that a spiritual disconnection with God’s creatures has led to the abuse and exploitation of animals for commercial gain, sport, and as tools for laboratory research; and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese encourage parishes to engage in education and awareness programs on animal welfare concerns, such as those provided by the Animal Welfare Team of the Diocese, and to consider appropriate responses, including animal-friendly lifestyle changes; and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese encourage individuals and parishes to seek opportunities to advocate for the humane treatment of animals, especially in areas of special concern such as factory farms, puppy mills, and animals used for laboratory testing; and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese encourage the use of Authorized Rites and other liturgical materials made available by the Diocese for use in a variety of settings to provide pastorally for people caring for animals, especially at times of loss and bereavement.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Christopher Cox, Deacon, of Trinity Cathedra, the Rev. Linda Moeller of Sts. Stephen and Barnabas, Florence, the Rev. Francis Hubbard (retired), Karla Droste (Diocese of New Jersey), Sharon Patterson of St. Stephen’s, Mullica Hill, Lin Murdoch of St. Stephen’s, Waretown, and Lawrence Gustin of Trinity Cathedral, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Team of the Diocese of New Jersey

Statement in Support of Resolution 2017-4 by Proposers:

This proposed resolution builds on General Convention Resolutions 2003-D016, 2009-D015, 2009-C078, 2012-A054, and Diocesan Resolution 2009-4, with a view to increasing education and awareness of animal welfare concerns, and leading individuals and parishes to consider appropriate responses. The resolution will be implemented through the activities of the Diocesan Animal Welfare Team.

REFERENCES

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2003-D016:
Resolved, That the 74th General Convention recognize that responsible care of animals falls within the stewardship of creation; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourage its members to ensure that husbandry methods for captive and domestic animals would prohibit suffering in such conditions as puppy mills, and factory-farms; and be it further
Resolved, That The Episcopal Church's Peace and Justice Office identify existing guidelines to educate its members to adhere to ethical standards in the care and treatment of animals; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church, through its Office of Government Relations, identify and advocate for legislation protecting animals and effective enforcement measures.

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2009-D015:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention support the humane and merciful treatment of all of God's Creatures; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge Diocesan Environmental Commissions or Committees to provide information to educate our congregations about decisions that would affect the lives and health of endangered species, farmed food animals and domesticated animals; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to refer this resolution to their outreach committee or other such venue in order to ensure the education and dissemination of information to their members about endangered species, farmed food animals and domesticated animals.

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2009-C078:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm that all animals are a part of All Creation, for which we are called to be stewards of God's gifts; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church embrace the opportunity for pastoral care for people who grieve the loss of a companion animal; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop liturgical resources to observe the loss of a companion animal and that it report its work to the 77th General Convention.

Episcopal Church General Convention Resolution 2012-A054:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention make available the following liturgical materials, for use in a variety of settings to provide pastorally for people caring for animals.

Service at the Loss of a Beloved Animal . . . .

Prayers Suitable for Use in Church or for Other Gatherings, at the Adoption, Illness, Loss, or Death of Companion, Service, or Other Beloved Animals . . . .

Diocese of New Jersey Resolution 2009-4:

Be It Resolved, That the 225th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey support the humane and merciful treatment of all of God’s Creatures, with specific concern as to (a) actions that can lead to the extinction of species of animals in the wild and (b) housing and treatment of domestic animals that are grown for our food; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Diocese direct the Environmental Commission to provide information to educate our parishes about decisions that would affect the lives and health of the most vulnerable of animal life; and be it

Further Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to refer this resolution to their outreach committee or other such venue in order to educate and disseminate information to their members and encourage environmentally friendly actions.
**Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:**

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

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**RESOLUTION 2017-5:**

*Subject: Publication of Diocesan Journal*

*Be it resolved,* That the Secretary of Convention be hereby instructed to prepare, compile and publish a Journal of this Diocesan Convention no later than September 1, 2017, and to send two copies of the Journal to the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church as required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church, and to send two copies to the Archives of the Church as required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church, and to distribute one copy to each member of the clergy who is canonically resident in the Diocese and one copy to each church in the Diocese; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Secretary of the Convention be hereby instructed to insert in the Journal the Bishop’s report of the State of the Diocese as required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

*SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Elmer L. Sullivan (retired)*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2017-5 by Proposer:*

It is the duty of the Secretary of Convention to prepare and publish each year a Journal of the Diocesan Convention. This has not been done for the last three years.

This is a violation of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, which specifically require the Secretary of Convention of every jurisdiction to forward copies of the Diocesan Journal to the Secretary of the House of Deputies and to the Archives.

Canonical requirements aside, the absence of Convention Journals is a practical disadvantage for everyone in the Diocese, because there are no official Minutes of the Convention available, nor any official record of actions taken by the Convention or the persons elected by the Convention. Also, there is no easy way to find a list of who serve on the elected and appointed committees of the Diocese.

I urge the Convention to take this action to require timely publication of the Journal.
REFERENCES

Episcopal Church Canon I.1.1(c):
In order to aid the Secretary [of the House of Deputies] in preparing the record [of testimonials of deputies] specified in Clause (a), it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, as soon as may be practicable, a copy of the latest Journal of the Diocesan Convention, together with a certified copy of the testimonials of members aforesaid, and a duplicate copy of such testimonials.

Episcopal Church Canon I.6.5(a):
It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Convention of every jurisdiction to forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, immediately upon publication, two copies of the Journals of the Convention of the jurisdiction, together with episcopal charges, statements, and such other records in paper or electronic format as may show the state of the Church in that jurisdiction, and two copies to the Archives of the Church in a common format as prescribed by the Archivist of the Church.

Episcopal Church Canon III.12.3(d):
At each Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention the Bishop Diocesan shall make a report of the State of the Diocese since the last Annual Meeting of the Convention; including the names of the Congregations visited; the number of persons confirmed and received; the names of those who have been admitted as Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders, of those ordained, and of those suspended or deposed from Holy Orders; the changes by death, removal, or otherwise, which have taken place among the Clergy; and other matters the Bishop desires to present to the Convention; which statement shall be inserted in the Journal.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:
The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.