
2020 PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions received two proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2020 deadline for submissions and one following that deadline. 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 preconvention meetings and at the formal hearing of the Committee to be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2020, in the Small Conference 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. Susanna Paige Cates, Chair
Committee on Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2020-1:

Subject: Recommendation re Proposed Resolution 2019-2

Be it resolved, That Resolution 2019-2 proposed to the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey be rejected.

SUBMITTED BY: The Special Committee of Reference on Resolution 2019-2: Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Donna Freidel, Esq., Dara Govan, Esq., The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Dcn., The Rev. Canon Lee Powers, The Rev. Dr. John P. Mitchell, Chair

Statement in Support of Resolution 2020-1 by Proposers:

Resolution 2019-2 (reprinted below) was proposed to the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey calling for a general review and revision of the Canons of the Diocese. The resolution was

referred to a Special Committee appointed by the Bishop of New Jersey for review. After consideration and consultation across the Diocese, the Special Committee has determined that there was no need at this time for a general review and revision of the Canons of the Diocese.

RESOLUTION 2019-2:

Subject: To Authorize a Process to Revise Our Diocesan Canons

Be it resolved, That the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey authorize the appointment of a Task Force to simplify, revise, and update our Diocesan Canons; and be it

Further resolved, That the Task Force shall consist of 15 members: five members appointed by the Bishop (one of whom shall be chair), five by the Standing Committee, and five by the Diocesan Council; and be it

Further resolved, That the Task Force make progress reports to the 2020 and 2021 Diocesan Conventions, with action to be taken at a Convention to be held no later than March 2022.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Canon Valerie Balling, the Rev. Ophelia G. Laughlin, the Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Dcn., the Rev. John P. Mitchell, the Rev. Canon Karin R. Mitchell, the Rev. Ronald N. Pollock, the Rev. Canon Lee Powers, and the Rev. John V. Zamboni

Statement in Support of Resolution 2019-2 by Proposers:

The Diocese of New Jersey was formed in 1785. Over the 234 years of its existence, a Constitution and Canons have been developed and amended as circumstances necessitated. Our current Canons have become too layered, too burdened by historical arguments, and are not the most suitable, in their present state, to meet the needs of our Diocese in the 21st century and beyond. Some items that are in our Canons might better be addressed by Policies that can be adopted and changed by the Ecclesiastical Authority over time. The purpose of this Resolution is to authorize a Task Force to examine Canons and Policies in other Dioceses, and to prepare a fresh draft of Canons for the Diocese of New Jersey. It is hoped this process will greatly reduce the work of future Conventions in trying to continually make changes to Canons that aren't working well. It is envisioned that after a proposed draft is developed by the Task Force, that hearings will be held throughout our Diocese for broad-based input before a final draft is developed and presented to a Convention for adoption, no later than March of 2022.

RESOLUTION 2020-2:

Subject: A Statement of Common Expectations for Mission

Note from the Committee on Resolutions: The proposers of Resolution 2020-2 have also proposed an amendment to the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey to add a new Canon 47 – "Congregational Common Call, Mission, and Standards", which is addressed in the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons, Part VI, Document #3. Canon 47, if approved, provides for the Diocesan Convention "to adopt statements setting forth common expectations for congregational behavior and work in support of the shared call and mission of all Congregations".

This proposal is intended to be such a statement.

Be it resolved, That the 236th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey adopt, pursuant to Canon 47, the following as a statement of Common Expectations for Mission, directing that the same be published with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese:

WALKING WITH JESUS
A STATEMENT OF OUR COMMON EXPECTATIONS FOR MISSION
(adopted by the 236th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey
as a standard under Diocesan Canon 47, Section 1(b))

We the congregations of the Diocese of New Jersey share a common call to form people as disciples of Jesus Christ to carry out Christ's mission of reconciliation (BCP p. 855). The ways in which we experience and undertake this call and mission vary widely, but there is much that is common. The purpose of this statement is to affirm both our difference and what we share.

- First, we share the Gospel. We are all called to the love of God and each other. We welcome the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God. Our communities are defined by that love. We learn to care for one another and for those who surround us. We learn to tear down the walls of separation, to seek and serve the face of Christ in all persons, to respect the dignity of every human being.
- We are responsible for each other. By sharing gifts of time and personal resources we make it possible not just for ourselves to live and thrive in our common call but for other to do the same. To the extent possible those of us who are with greater resources, financial or of people, have a responsibility to share and so to enable all of us to live out the call and mission of love.
- We are a part of a single interdependent community. We are the Diocese of New Jersey. Our participation, our common life together, is not a choice. It is a part of who we are. We are all members of the one Body of Christ. So we expect ourselves and each other to support the common life we share as a diocese, locally, in convocation, in Convention. We do this with our gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- We are very different and celebrate that difference. The richness of difference is a matter of celebration, our heritage, language, ethnicity, location, history. Some of us are small. Some are large. Some are in cities. Some are in the country. We are different. Our celebrations and proclamations are different. The variety of our liturgies reflect the historic diversity of our community. This reflects the diversity of God's reign.
- We share our prayers. We share the Gospel. Above all we share the love of God, the love of Jesus, a love for each other and a yearning to share this all with the world.

SUBMITTED BY: The Task Force on Vulnerable Congregations: The Rev. Canon Dr. Brian Jemmott, The Rev. Joanna Hollis, The Rev. Canon Karin R. Mitchell, The Rev. Dr. John P. Mitchell, The Rev. Mark Van Sant, The Rev. Canon Dr. Francisco Pozo, and The Rev. Canon Lee Powers

Statement in Support of Resolution 2020-2 by Proposers:

This resolution is submitted by the Task Force on Vulnerable Congregations. Background and supporting information is contained in the report of that Task Force, Document 6.

Note from the Committee on Resolutions: The following proposal 2020-3 was submitted to the Committee after the January 15, 2020 deadline set by Rule VIII of the Rules of Order. It may come before Convention only upon a two-thirds prior consent for consideration. For that reason, it is not included in the Consent Calendar.

RESOLUTION 2020-3:

Subject: To reaffirm and to act on The Episcopal Church priority of racial reconciliation to repair the breach of the continuing legacy of injustices

Be it resolved, That the 236th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm the will of The Episcopal Church General Convention to take action toward racial justice, healing, and reconciliation; and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey establish a Task Force to initiate and oversee a multi-year process to examine our sins, complicity, and financial benefits through the history of slavery and its legacy continuing to contemporary practices, and to recommend appropriate actions for the Diocese.

SUBMITTED BY: Canon Barbara O. Bach, member, Anti-Racism Commission, and Canon Annette Buchanan, Chair, Commission on Black Ministry

Statement in Support of Resolution 2020-3 by Proposers:

“Justice too long delayed is justice denied.” (The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) The Episcopal Church acknowledges that intentional action to address racial injustice is overdue. Racial justice and reconciliation are named a priority pillar of The Episcopal Church, and several dioceses are initiating processes toward righting the wrongs suffered and endured for too long. The breach continues to widen on a playing field that is not equal when the legacy of centuries of slavery, segregation, mass incarceration, and unequal opportunity has not been confronted. A Repairing the Breach Task Force can lead the Diocese to identify our sins, to repent, and to prayerfully examine actions toward reconciliation.

The Task Force would be called together by the Bishop, who could appoint clergy and lay persons, and also constituted by other interested persons.

Note from the Committee on Resolutions: The following proposal 2020-4 was timely submitted but omitted in error from the previous version of the Preliminary Report.

RESOLUTION 2020-4:

Subject: Memorializing the 50th Anniversary of Women in the Diaconate

Be it resolved, That the 236th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey propose the following resolution to the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in 2021:

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the diaconate to women by the adoption of Resolution 1970-B080; and be it further

Resolved, That we honor and celebrate all ordained women who have followed in the footsteps of those first deacons, memorializing the occasion with suitable prayers and other celebratory actions during this Convention and the ensuing triennium.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Canon Valerie Balling, Priest-in-Charge, St. Peter's, Medford; and The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Deacon, St. John's Somerville.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2020-4 by Proposers:

While deacons are an ancient ordained order within the church, the more recent history has had its greatest impact on our corporate life as servant ministers and agents of change. The first deaconesses were ordered or ordained as early as 1857, but that order was not officially recognized until the 36th General Convention in 1889. Over 500 deaconesses were "set apart" within The Episcopal Church from that point forward. Many of them had health or education related ministries, and many others were sent out as missionaries. Dss. Anna Alexander, Harriet Bedell, and Emily Cooper have been or are being added to the Church's calendar for their significant servant ministries.

After several years of discussion, the 63rd General Convention in 1970 repealed the deaconess canon and opened the diaconate to women and men. The first women were ordained to the diaconate in 1971, or had their ordering as deaconesses converted to the diaconate. This also opened the way for women to participate in the Church Pension Fund as ordained clergy for the first time.

The action of General Convention 50 years ago paved the way for women to be ordained as priests and bishops. The ministry of deacons in The Episcopal Church has grown to over 3100 persons today.