

Resolution to endorse, accept, and authorize Referred Resolutions from 80th General Convention

Submitted by: Arlene Gordanier

Be it resolved that this 127th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan meeting at St Stephen's Church in Escanaba, Michigan on October 20 and 21, 2023, affirm, endorse, accept and authorize the adoption of these referred resolutions from the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Baltimore Maryland, July 8 through 11, 2022. Be it resolved we will support the leadership, Diocesan Council, and this 127th Convention to engage the necessary action required by these Referred Resolutions of the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Be it resolved that of the ninety-three diocesan referred resolutions passed, that those listed below are the resolutions that require each diocese in the Episcopal Church to a specific action and this 127th convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan is charged to authorize and confirm the implementation of the designated action.

Be it resolved that we the delegates to the 127th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan accept the charge of these referred Resolution in total and may it further we resolved to accept and authorize the required action as defined in each resolution.

A021 Support for the United Nations

Resolved, That all Episcopalians seek ways to fulfill our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" by endeavoring in our local parishes and dioceses to inform, educate, raise awareness, and develop programs to contribute to the work of the United Nations; and be it further Resolved, That all Episcopalians observe United Nations Day annually on October 24, and pray for the UN's continued success in building a more peaceful, just, and prosperous world in accord with Jesus' call to us to love our neighbor as ourselves, care for our world, heal the sick, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, serve the poor and proclaim the Good News;

A048 - Amend Canons and Rules of Order to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Budget Process Sec.6

i. Each Diocese Annually report to the Executive Council such financial and other information pertaining to the state of the Church in the Diocese as may be required in a form authorized by Executive Council.

j. Each Diocese shall report annually to the Executive Council the name and address of each new congregation, and of each congregation closed or removed by reason of any of the following:

1. dissolution of the congregation.
2. removal of the congregation to another Diocese due to cession or retrocession of geographic territory in which the congregation is located, pursuant to Articles V.6 or VI.2 of the Constitution.
3. removal of the congregation to a new physical location or address, identifying both the location or address from which the congregation has removed, and the successor location or address; and

4. merger of the congregation into one or more other congregations, in which case, the Diocese shall include in its report the names of all congregations involved in the merger, and the physical location and address at which the merged congregations shall be located. Canon I.5.5

A050 - Support collaborative efforts with Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to place historical marker.

Resolved, That, each province, diocese, parish, and institution conduct research and collaborate with the EJI in these efforts to place Historical Markers. TEC may, as its schedule, programming and budget and human resources permit, initiate its own efforts to place Historical Markers at key sites where People of Color, particularly Indigenous people, and people of the African Diaspora, suffered or were martyred due to the historical effects of White supremacy.

A061 - Amend Canon I.4.6.j to include data regarding gender.

j. Each Diocese shall report annually to the Executive Council such financial data and other information pertaining to the state of the Church in the Diocese as may be required in a form authorized by Executive Council. By gathering data through parochial reports and surveys each Diocesan report will invite the inclusion of voluntary self-identified demographic information such as gender, gender identity and expression, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability status for the following positions in the Diocese including but not limited to: ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability status for the following positions in the Diocese including but not limited to: Diocesan Convention officers, Diocesan Convention Delegates, Standing Committee, Diocesan/Executive Council, Board of Trustees, Bishop Search Committee (if any), Treasurer, Staff of the Office of the Bishop, Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors, Commissions on Ministry, Bishop's Committees, all Wardens and Vestries, and congregational staff.

A062 - Requiring Dioceses to Create a Plan to Narrow Gender Gaps

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention require each Diocese to submit to the 81st General Convention a plan to narrow the gender equity gaps which exist in their Diocese; and be it further Resolved, that this plan shall be created after careful examination into the composition of diocesan bodies, gender pay equity of both clergy and lay, and the demographics of parish leadership, including any search committees.

A068 - Safe Church Training

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend to all members of the Church the course of Safe Church Training provided by the Church and the Church Pension Group so that all members can participate fully in creating and maintaining safe environments for all people throughout the Church.

A078 - Imagining a Church Grounded in Social Justice as Christian Ministry

Resolved, That all dioceses and congregations be called upon to ground every planning or business meeting or convention with prayers inviting an examination of conscience regarding the specific impact of the decisions of such meetings upon those who are poor, dispossessed, disadvantaged, or marginalized, and to provide and model forms for such examination of conscience; and be it further **Resolved**, That all dioceses be called upon to offer, at least once a year, a diocesan-wide event or program and liturgy to engage our congregations and members in listening to and understanding the history and current context of our diverse local communities,

with attention to those who have historically been dispossessed or disadvantaged; and be it further

A095 - Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will be required to contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses engaged in church planting and evangelism to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers. Those dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort.

to identify potential revitalizers, and developing a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church revitalizers.

A103 - Describing a Christian Life of Faith in the Episcopal Tradition

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commend to each diocese A Christian Life of Faith: Signs and Thresholds Along The Way as a discernment tool and formation guide for baptized Episcopalians, directing it particularly to Commissions on Ministry as a resource to fulfill Title III: Canon 1: Of the

Ministry of All Baptized Persons which states, “Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons.”

A107 - Ministry with People with Mental Illness and Their Families

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church now equip all its people, both clergy and laity, to interact in compassionate, competent ways with those experiencing mental health challenges; and be it further.

Resolved, That the provinces and dioceses of The Episcopal Church utilize resources to strengthen care, inclusion, support, and advocacy for all people (both laity and clergy) who struggle with mental health challenges; and be it further.

Resolved, That the provinces and dioceses of The Episcopal Church support the mental health of their clergy by advocating for clergy to be intentional about their self-care, and realizing that clergy, like anyone else, may also struggle with challenges to mental health.

C009 - Mandates Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation Training for the House of Deputies
B. Beloved Community Formational Programs and Reporting

1. Formation for Deputies and Alternate Deputies occurs as follows

i. Racial reconciliation formation programs for Deputies and Alternate Deputies should be taken within three years before the first legislative day of General Convention using faith formation programs sponsored by dioceses, provinces, or The Episcopal Church

I. No later than four months before the first legislative day of General Convention, and using a form provided by the Secretary, Deputation Chairs will file a single submission reporting the completion status of formation programs by members of their Deputation to the Secretary of the House of Deputies. Updated submissions may be filed prior to the start of the General Convention.

III. Deputation Chairs will report in their submissions any circumstances in which Deputies and Alternate Deputies are unable to complete formation programs due to unavailability of language proficient programs, accessibility issues, or other identified barriers.

C063 - Participate in Thursdays in Black

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to work toward increasing awareness, accountability, and action across the church about the alarming degree of gender-based violence in church and society; and be it further Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to work toward education about and elimination of gender-based violence.

D064 - Endorse and Encourage Green Deal Legislation

Resolved, that this Convention charges the dioceses and parishes of The Episcopal Church with advocating for those same policies in their communities and states; and be it further Resolved, that this Convention charge the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church to add a question to the Parochial Report regarding how each parish is reducing their carbon footprint and to share those results with the Episcopal Church.

D066 - Addressing restrictions on access to gender affirming care.

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention calls for the Episcopal Church to advocate for access to gender affirming care in all forms (social, medical, or any other) and at all ages as part of our Baptismal call to “respect the dignity of every human being”.

D070 - Addressing Inequities in the Quality of Life of Native Peoples

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church also seeks to address the issue that American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians also face much higher rates of poverty, incarceration, and unemployment than the total population; and be it further Resolved, that congregations and dioceses educate themselves on the inequities and engage in local and state advocacy,

D072 - Resolution on Gender and Sexuality Training

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention authorize the use of, and adopt as an official training resource, the Safe Zone Project no-cost 2-hour foundational curriculum; and be it further Resolved, That The Episcopal Church will provide virtual training for at least one representative from **each of the Dioceses in the adopted program** to train-the-trainers on a diocesan level; and be it further

Resolved, that each participating Diocese will oversee and document the training of all clergy, Bishops, ordinands, and lay leaders and will issue certificates to participants who successfully complete this training, with training to begin by the 81st General Convention; and be it further Resolved, That the reporting of gender and sexuality training by participating dioceses to The Episcopal Church be included on the Diocesan Parochial Report as is the practice for other trainings such as Safe Church and Anti-Racism.

D090 - The Church’s Teaching on Racism

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirms previous General Convention resolutions on racism and that these shall be considered part of the Church’s teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention thanks the House of Bishops Theology Committee for the teachings on racism and white supremacy and commends them to the church for study and action; and be it further

Resolved, that the Church's Christian principles to guide responses to human migration (2018-D009) and all previous General Convention resolutions concerning migrants and migration shall be part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further Resolved, that racism, racially biased behavior, and teaching contrary to the Church's teaching on racism is an anathema to the Church.

D091 - Defining Equal Place in the Life of the Church

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirms that an "equal place" protects the rights of all in the life, worship, governance, and employment of the church, including the rights of laity to participate fully in church-wide and diocesan bodies as provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of individual dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses are directed to conduct an internal review that they are in full compliance with Canon I.17.5; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses shall ensure that the rights of the laity are affirmed and respected in all diocesan bodies; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to ensure that all lay appointments and assignments (non-elected) to diocesan-wide bodies represent the diocese's racial and ethnic diversity; and be it further Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to promote the participation of underrepresented lay groups in elections to diocesan wide bodies; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to ensure that accommodations are granted on equal terms to lay and clerical members of diocesan-wide bodies; and be it further

Resolved, that church-wide bodies are encouraged to ensure that laity has an equal voice in church-wide leadership, except as otherwise specified by Canons; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to ensure that diocesan-wide bodies ensure that equal voice is given to the laity, except as otherwise specified by Canons; and be it further

Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to proactively address barriers or other inequalities that discourage or prevent lay participation in the diocesan-wide elections; and be it further Resolved, that dioceses are encouraged to ensure that resources are granted on equal terms to lay and clerical members of diocesan-wide bodies.

D093 - Broad Representation in Discernment Processes

Resolved, that in the process of discernment for ordination as Deacon or Priest, dioceses are expected to ensure that persons nominated have access to companions who are competent in the race, ethnicity, culture, and background of the person nominated, and who are knowledgeable concerning the discernment process and the applicable canons regarding formation and ordination; and be it further Resolved, that in the discernment of the vocation of a Bishop through election in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Convention of the Diocese, dioceses are expected to ensure that equal accommodation is made for the participation of all persons entitled to vote in the election.

D094 - Reaffirming the Role of Ethnic Ministries

Resolved, that the General Convention reaffirms all church-wide and diocesan bodies for ethnic congregational development and continues to support empowerment programs for ethnic and racial minorities and underrepresented groups; and be it further

Resolved, that all previous General Convention resolutions supporting ethnic and minority ministries shall be considered part of the Church's anti-racism and evangelistic work; and be it further

Resolved, that the work necessary to include people of color, ethnic minorities, and the underrepresented in the life and leadership of the Church at all levels – church-wide and diocesan – is inalienable from the Baptismal Covenant’s call to respect the dignity of every human being.

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May it be further resolved that we give attention and engagement with the Referred Resolutions which urge, and encourage us to advocate, learn and endorse issues of social justice, creation care, and relationship with our Indigenous siblings and other opportunities in the Diocese of Northern Michigan.