

Summary of Actions of the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (July 2012, Indianapolis)

Anglican Communion

Resolutions **B005** & **D008** reaffirm our commitment to the Anglican Communion, but took no position on the Anglican Covenant.

Budget

A budget for 2013-2015 of \$111,546,000 was adopted which includes the following:

- Maintains the current 19% assessment of each diocese.
- Establishes block grants for new work in the areas of the 5 Anglican Marks of Mission.
- Establishes a professional Development Office for the Episcopal Church.
- Funds a major conversation on re-structuring the Church.
- Allocates .7% for Episcopal Relief & Development, fulfilling our continuing Millennium Development Goal contribution.
- Cuts 12 staff positions at the Church Center.

Church Governance & Structure

Resolution **C095** authorizes the creation of a task force to gather information and ideas and convene a special gathering for receiving recommendations of reform, and report to the Church by November 2014 for actions necessary to implement reform.

Resolutions **D002** and **D019** added “gender Identity and expression” to the non-discrimination canons.

Resolution **D016** expresses our intention to move the Church Center away from New York City to a more central location.

Resolution **A031** discontinues the practice of General Convention consenting to the election of bishops which occur within 120 days of the Convention.

Resolution **B013** discontinues the requirement that the bishop elected Presiding Bishop resign her or his current office (although he or she may still do so).

Resolution **B021** establishes a canonical process to reconcile or dissolve the pastoral relationship between a bishop and diocese.



Congregations

Resolution **A073** establishes a program of Mission Enterprise Zones, areas designated by dioceses to engage under-represented groups in the life of the church; Executive Council to establish a process.

Resolution **D023** affirms that all Episcopalians are called to be evangelists and help grow the church.

Resolution **A046** commends the use of on-line Christian formation and leadership development.

Resolution **C042** extends the deadline for meeting the requirements for lay pensions.

Resolution **A070** directs Church Center staff to develop a multimedia evangelism training program for use in congregations.

Resolution **D069** calls on all congregations to engage social media.

Resolution **D022** calls on the church to address and respond to bullying.

Justice, Peace & Other Social Concerns

Resolutions **A081** & **A082** call for reform in fair lending and mortgage lending practices.

Resolution **C119** supports the Clean Air Ports Act 2012 reducing air pollution and promoting a living wage among port workers.

Resolution **A125** recommit us to anti-racism efforts, including provincial and diocesan training programs.

Resolution **B028** urges modernization and reform of the Refugee Act of 1980.

Resolution **D003** requests that all churches declare themselves to be Gun Free Zones.

Resolution **D067** supports pathways of citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults (the Dream Act). **D011** urges the passage of legislation to permit same-sex legal partners to seek permanent residency. **D059** denounces the use of racial profiling in prompting questioning of a person's immigration status, and calls for an end to the Secure Communities program.

Resolution **A079** Commends interfaith bridge building, encourages members of the Church to commit to nonviolent behavior in relationships, and expresses concern with attacks on the right to dissent from policies of the government of the United States.

Resolution **B023** calls on the Church to support "frontline" communities experiencing climate change, to resist the expansion of fossil fuel use, and support transitions to a post-carbon society.

Resolution **C077** condemns the practice of wage theft; **D078** condemns the practice of blacklisting; and **D028** opposes efforts to reduce collective bargaining rights.

Liturgy

Resolution **A049** authorizes a provisional rite and other resources for the Blessing of Same-sex Unions. Use must be with the permission of the bishop diocesan.

Resolution **A051** continued trial use of *Holy Women/Holy Men*. **A052** added 7 more commemorations for trial use:

- March 28: James Solomon Russell, Priest
- April 17: Emily Cooper, Deaconess
- May 15: Junia and Andronicus, Apostles
- July 1: Pauli Murray, Priest
- July 29: 1st Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church
- August 17: The Baptisms of Manteo, and Virginia Dare
- September 23: Thecla, Apostle

Resolution **A054** makes available liturgies and prayers for the pastoral care of those caring for animals

Resolution **A055** authorizes "Daily Prayer for All Seasons," a resource for daily prayer keyed to the seasons of the church year.

Resolution **A050** establishes a task force on the study of marriage.

Resolution **C029** re-affirms Baptism as the normative entry point to the reception of Communion.

International Concerns

Resolution **A107** urges monitoring of the continued use of remotely-controlled aircraft (drones) and their ethical implications.

Resolution **B019** encourages advocacy, education, and prayer for peace, including engagement between local communities of faith, in response to the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Resolution **A019** calls for continued advocacy for peace in Sudan and South Sudan.

For a complete summary, go to:

<http://www.generalconvention.org/gc/gc2012-legislation>

Diocese of Rochester 2012 Deputation

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh, Bishop

The Rev. Dahn Gandell, Deputation Chairperson

The Very Rev. Brad Benson

Canon Karen Hanson

The Very Rev. Michael W. Hopkins

Mr. Neil Houghton

Dr. Carl Johengen

Ms. Susan Woodhouse

The Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough

Alternates present at Convention:

The Rev. Michael Hartney

Ms. Susan Hartney

The Rev. Kit Tobin

Compiled by The Very Rev. Michael W. Hopkins from a variety of sources, August 2012.

