

A draft of the Report of the Committee on

Resolutions

Under Diocesan Canons, the Committee on Resolutions has the duty to consider all resolutions submitted to the Secretary of Convention as specified in the Rules of Order and to report on each resolution so submitted. The Committee is enjoined from including in its report any judgment on the merits of the substance of any resolution's passage or defeat. However, the Committee may finalize the form of the resolutions, which has been done to the extent possible with the proponents of the resolutions.

The Reverend Canon John H. Taylor, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions

FROM 2015 DIOCESAN CONVENTION—POSTPONED BY MOTION

I move to postpone: (1) consideration of the instant resolution; and (2) to have the past presidents of the Standing Committee to appoint a committee to study the issues and to present a report at the 2016 Diocesan Convention on the merits.

Resolution regarding Property to be Transferred from Corporation Sole to the Corporation of the Diocese

Resolved, that the One Hundred Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles instruct Corporation Sole to transfer all active congregations and functioning schools and Diocesan Institutions currently the property of “The Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Los Angeles (a corporation sole)” to “The Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles” no later than February 1, 2016.

Explanation:

“Corp Sole” is a fund established to hold gifts, bequests, etc. given to the occupant of the office of Bishop as the chief pastoral and liturgical officer of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Historically, functioning mission congregations, schools and institutions have not been part of Corp. Sole, but rather as entities which are part of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Mission Congregations, Episcopal Schools and Institutions as well as Parishes function under the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. The Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles include certain rights, duties and procedures which are to be followed when Episcopal congregations, schools and institutions are either encumbered or sold, including the involvement of Diocesan committees and the clergy and lay members of congregations. Recent actions involving mission congregations owned by Corp. Sole have shown that those congregations and the members of those congregations do not have the same rights, duties and procedures as other congregations. When owned by Corp. Sole, those congregations, institutions and schools become the sole property of the Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and may be disposed of at the Bishop's will alone, without any involvement of Diocesan committees, or the clergy of lay members of the congregation.

All functioning congregations, schools and institutions within the Diocese should operate under the same set of rules and regulations in which Diocesan committees and clergy and lay members of the congregations are involved. All congregants of Episcopal Parishes and Missions should have equal access to the rights, privileges, and duties under the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Submitted by:

The Very Reverend Canon James Newman
Rector, St. Bede's, Los Angeles

On behalf of

The Reverend Canon Lynn Jay, retired
The Reverend Susan Klein, St. Alban's, Los Angeles
The Reverend Canon Warner Traynham, retired
The Reverend Steve Huber, All Saints', Beverly Hills
The Reverend Randall Day, St. Mark's, Los Olivos
The Reverend Canon David Miller, retired
The Reverend J. Lee Walker, retired
The Reverend Betsy Anderson, retired
Ms Marilyn Pisa, St. Stephen's, Santa Clarita
The Reverend Ellen Hill, retired

The Reverend Neil Tadken, St. Luke's, Monrovia
Mr. Joel Bernard, St. James, Newport Beach
Mr. Michael F. Brown, St. Mark's, Los Olivos
The Reverend Carolyn Estrada, retired
The Reverend Conrad Nordquist, retired
Mr. Jay Means, St. Mark's, Los Olivos
The Reverend Canon H. Dean Farrar, Retired
The Reverend Canon Gary Commins, St. Luke's, Long Beach
The Reverend Canon Gene Wallace, retired

four lay members who are not delegates to this Convention and one non-voting member of the clergy

Resolution regarding Becoming an Abolitionist Diocese

Resolved, that the One Hundred Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles declares the Diocese of Los Angeles an Abolitionist Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Los Angeles supports the struggle against human trafficking through education of its members, the use of its treasure, consumer choices, and leadership within the broader Church and local community; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations and institutions of the Diocese of Los Angeles be asked to consider becoming Abolitionist Congregations and Abolitionist Institutions, make appointments, and direct action in furtherance of this resolution as is deemed appropriate to the mission of each congregation and institution.

Explanation:

Human trafficking is a scourge to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who calls on us to love our neighbor and welcome the foreigner in our midst. The United Nations estimates that more than 42,000,000 persons are enslaved globally. The U.S. State Department estimates more than 40,000 in the State of California (including our local communities). The Diocese of Los Angeles is called to be a light on the hill, bringing hope to victims of injustice. Many congregations in the worldwide Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church are responding to the call on their members to combat modern slavery. America continues to suffer from the effect of two centuries of legal slavery of Africans.

In January 2016 St. Paul's Parish, Ventura, declared itself an Abolitionist Congregation. For nearly ten years, parish clergy, leaders, and members (adult and youth group) have travelled to Ghana to learn, engage in mission work, and be transformed through interaction with the Anglican Church and remote villages. On the June 2014 Youth Pilgrimage, the ancient evil of slavery was experienced as a living reality. The Holy Spirit touched the pilgrims and their families to organize, learn about, and combat modern slavery. St. Paul's Parish, Ventura, has declared itself An Abolitionist Congregation. A group of committed parishioners established a charity, Abolish Slavery Now. We are asking the Diocese of Los Angeles to join this effort by declaring itself an Abolitionist Diocese that hope might overcome despair.

Submitted by

The Venerable Douglas B. Edwards, St. Paul's Parish, Ventura
The Reverend Ed Steever, St. Paul's Parish, Ventura
The Reverend Dr. Randall Day, St. Mark's in-the-Valley, Los Olivos
The Reverend Canon Anthony Guillen, All Saints, Oxnard
The Reverend Canon Judith Heffron, St. Edmund's, San Marino
The Reverend Canon George Woodward, St. Edmund's, San Marino

Resolution regarding Appreciation for the Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno

Resolved, that the One Hundred Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles expresses grateful appreciation to the Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno for all of the ways in which our Diocese has been enriched by his anointed leadership.

Explanation:

For more than 17 years, The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno has, with distinction, served the Diocese of Los Angeles as Bishop Diocesan, leading the Diocese to the forefront of issues of justice and equality in such arenas as Marriage Equality, Interfaith dialogue, sensible gun control, prison reform, economic and environmental sustainability, and addressing with compassion and dignity the plight of the homeless and underserved in and around the greater Los Angeles area. His encouragement of creativity in ministry has breathed new life into congregations and compassionate ministries across the Diocese of Los Angeles.

Bishop Bruno has been a tireless advocate for his clergy and clergy families, frequently putting himself on the line to provide whatever assistance is necessary to ensure the health and vitality of those under his care. He has modeled persistence and faith, inspiring people around the world as he faced physical challenges that threatened his very life, all the while maintaining a grace and quiet confidence indicative of his deep faith.

Beyond the Diocese of Los Angeles, Bishop Bruno has been a consistent voice moving the church through division and threatened schism, serving as the primary force behind court cases that upheld the rights of the Church to retain properties when congregations and dioceses withdrew from The Episcopal Church. In so doing, precedent has been established that benefits The Episcopal Church across the country.

As the Diocese of Los Angeles gathers to elect a Bishop Coadjutor, we mark the beginning of a transition in leadership. It is always in order to honor one another, as Jesus taught. The Episcopacy of Bishop J. Jon Bruno has been one of the most consequential in our history as a Diocese, and has left an indelible mark on the history of the church beyond the Diocese of Los Angeles. We wish to begin acknowledging here the debt of gratitude a proper understanding of our history owes Bishop Bruno.

Submitted by:

The Reverend T. Mark Hallahan, Rector, St. Paul's, Pomona
The Very Reverend Canon Kelli Grace Kurtz, Vicar, St. John's, La Verne
The Reverend Mary Trainor, Rector, St. Joseph's, Buena Park

Resolution regarding Healing in the Diocese of Los Angeles

Resolved, that the One Hundred Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles acknowledges the damage our dishonoring of the Title IV process has done to our common life, calls us to recommit ourselves to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant, and invites Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to work with appropriate Diocesan leadership in seeking ways to facilitate healing in our Diocese.

Explanation:

Strong leadership at times requires exertion of the authority of the episcopacy in ways that are not universally popular. This authority is provided by the canons of The Episcopal Church precisely because the health of a diocese requires decisive action from one who sees the diocese as a whole, as well as its diverse components individually. The presentment under Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church against Bishop Bruno, questioning his conduct in the exercise of this episcopal authority, has been litigated in the court of public opinion in ways that have dishonored our shared Baptismal Covenant vow to respect the dignity of every human being, disregarded the confidentiality imperatives of the Canons, and sown seeds of bitter division among us.

Just as we begin the process of acknowledging the ways in which the Episcopacy of Bishop J. Jon Bruno has blessed and united the Diocese of Los Angeles, we must also begin to acknowledge the ways in which the events of the past eighteen months, particularly the very high profile Title IV Presentment process, strains relationships that are crucial to our Christian witness to the world, and distracts us from ministry that can only be accomplished together.

The Title IV Disciplinary Canons of The Episcopal Church are designed to honor our Baptismal Covenant vow to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” Among the ways in which the Canons guide us to respect the dignity of all parties involved in any presentment, the presumption of innocence (Canon IV.19.16), and protected confidentiality (Canon IV.19.26-28) are crucial. Our failure as a Diocesan family in these crucial tenets of the Title IV process, and

the resulting division that has deepened with each passing month, must be acknowledged in order for healing to begin.

This resolution is an attempt to begin the challenging work of healing, while recommitting to our shared Baptismal Covenant and the integrity of the Title IV Canons.

Submitted by:

The Reverend T. Mark Hallahan, Rector, St. Paul's, Pomona

The Very Reverend Canon Kelli Grace Kurtz, Vicar, St. John's, La Verne

The Reverend Mary Trainor, Rector, St. Joseph's, Buena Park

This report is respectfully submitted by:

THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Reverend Canon John H. Taylor, Chair

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger
Mr. Richard Henderson

The Very Reverend Canon Judith Heffron

The Reverend Canon Norman Hull

Ms Julie Dean Larsen

The Reverend Margaret McCauley
Ms Ann Seitz

The Reverend Keith Yamamoto

Canon M. Janet Wylie, Consultant