

**Resolution R-2008-5**

*This Resolution was referred by the 171<sup>st</sup> Convention to Committee for review and resubmission to the 172<sup>nd</sup> Convention*

**Moved by: Lauranel Bates, Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church, New Orleans**

**Purpose - *To recognize the Sanctity of Life***

Whereas on the 12th of January 2006, the Executive Committee of The Episcopal Church voted to formalize the relationship between The Episcopal Church and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), a registered political lobby, which advocates for unlimited abortion rights in the political realm; and

Whereas the literature and website of the RCRC reveal that it advocates positions specifically at odds with those of the Episcopal Church as expressed by a resolution of the 1994 General Convention declaring that, "As Christians, we believe strongly that if [the right to abortion] is exercised, it should be used only in extreme situations. We emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience."; and

Whereas the RCRC represents only one faction of this debate and further seeks to divide us; and

Whereas this affiliation represents yet another divergence from the normative moral teaching of Catholic Christianity; therefore be it

Resolved that the 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana affirms that human life is a precious gift from God that is to be protected at every stage, from conception to natural death, and encourages all Anglicans to oppose abortion and euthanasia; and be it further

Resolved that the 171<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana affirms the position of The Episcopal Church as expressed by a resolution of the 1994 General Convention declaring "As Christians we believe strongly that if [the right to abortion] is exercised it should be used only in extreme situations" and disassociates itself from the affiliation of The Episcopal Church (TEC) with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC).