



# SUMMER SPIRITUALITY SERIES



JULY 10 – A DECADE OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton -

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



Resolution Number: 1976-A069

Title: Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved,

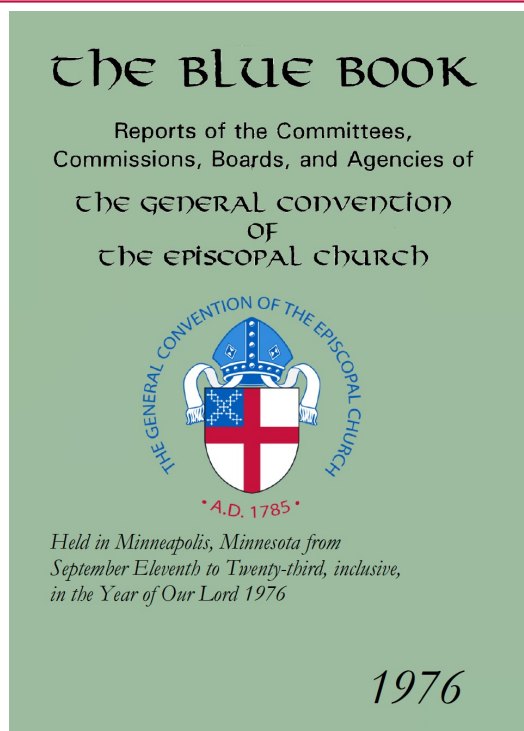
That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.

Citation:

General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976 (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.


Legislative History:

<https://bit.ly/1976-A069history>



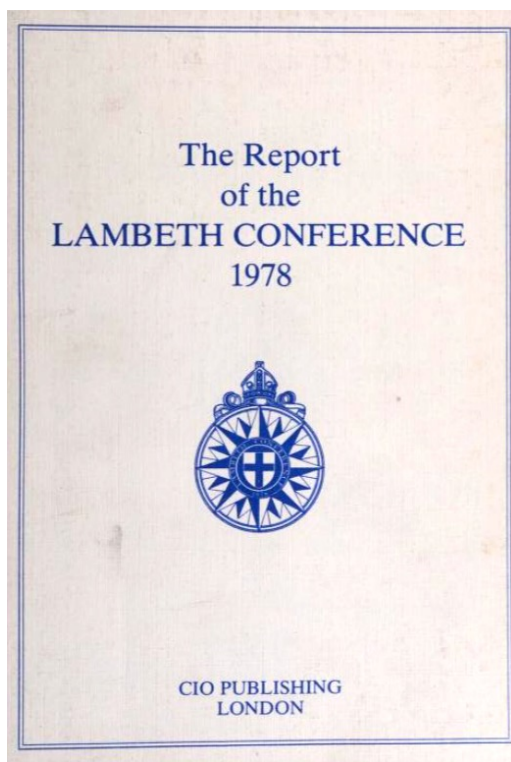
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



	<p><b>THE BLUE BOOK</b></p> <p>Reports of the Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Agencies of THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH</p>  <p><i>Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from September Eleventh to Twenty-third, inclusive, in the Year of Our Lord 1976</i></p> <p>1976</p>	<p><b>Resolution Number:</b> 1976-A071</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law</p> <p><b>Legislative Action Taken:</b> Concurred</p> <p><b>Final Text:</b> Resolved, That this General Convention expresses its conviction that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens, and calls upon our society to see that such protection is provided in actuality.</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976 (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.</p> <p><b>Legislative History:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/1976-A071history">https://bit.ly/1976-A071history</a></p>
--	--	---

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Title:** Resolution 10:  
Human Relationships and Sexuality

**Text:**

The Conference gladly affirms the Christian ideals of faithfulness and chastity both within and outside marriage, and calls Christians everywhere to seek the grace of Christ to live lives of holiness, discipline, and service in the world, and commends to the Church:

1. The need for theological study of sexuality in such a way as to relate sexual relationships to that wholeness of human life which itself derives from God, who is the source of masculinity and femininity.
2. The need for programmes at diocesan level, involving both men and women,
  - (a) to promote the study and foster the ideals of Christian marriage and family life, and to examine the ways in which those who are unmarried may discover the fullness which God intends for all his children;
  - (b) to provide ministries of compassionate support to those suffering from brokenness within marriage and family relationships;

(c) to emphasise the sacredness of all human life, the moral issues inherent in clinical abortion, and the possible implications of genetic engineering.

3. While we reaffirm heterosexuality as the scriptural norm, we recognise the need for deep and dispassionate study of the question of homosexuality, which would take seriously both the teaching of Scripture and the results of scientific and medical research. The Church, recognising the need for pastoral concern for those who are homosexual, encourages dialogue with them.

(We note with satisfaction that such studies are now proceeding in some member Churches of the Anglican Communion.).

**Legislative History:**

<https://bit.ly/1978-Resolution10>

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

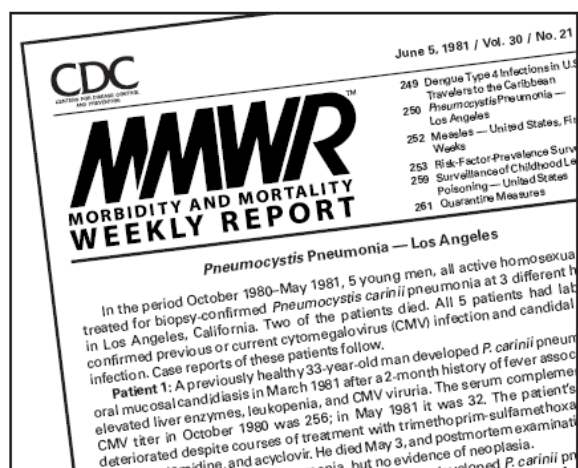
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015





## AIDS Pandemic Begins

FIGURE. *MMWR* report on *Pneumocystis pneumonia* in five previously healthy young men in Los Angeles — June 5, 1981



Nobel Peace Laureate the Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu, bishop of Johannesburg, South Africa, and newly installed Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning.

“I want to be very clear:  
This church of ours is open to all —

*there will be no outcasts —*

the convictions and hopes of all will  
be honored.”

Goodstein, Laurie. “Edmond L. Browning,  
Episcopal Church Leader, Dies at 87.”  
The New York Times, 14 July 2016.

Gift article: <https://bit.ly/4IFTJH2>



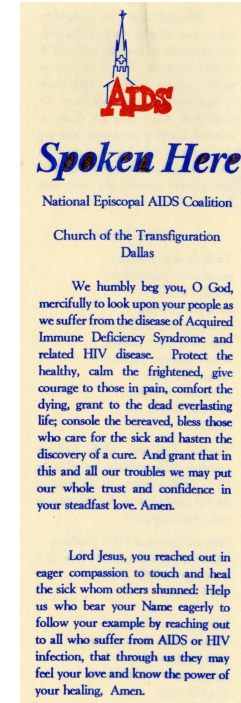
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



In 1986, the Episcopal Church held its first conference on AIDS at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

Around that time, the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition was formed and created an educational campaign:

“Our Church has AIDS”.



Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



## TYPIST'S NOTE:

I also have

Bishop Walker's letter from April of '86 - <https://cathedral.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/1986-Walker-Pastoral-Letter.pdf>

When the Cathedral sponsored "AIDS, A Caring Response," a conference for clergy and caregivers.

That summer, Bishop Walker established the Bishop's Committee on AIDS.

In October, he issued a pastoral letter to the diocese urging care and compassion for people living with AIDS and HIV education in churches and noting his comfort sharing the Communion Cup with those living with AIDS.

In November 1986, the Cathedral issued a policy at odds with the bishop's letter and the advice it was receiving from leading public health officials, requiring those in the Cathedral community with HIV or AIDS to report their condition to Cathedral leadership.

In October 1987, in response to fears about AIDS, the Cathedral changed its Communion policy and instructions to permit dipping Communion wafers into the common cup.

Then I have [https://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/gc\\_reports/reports/1991/bb\\_1991-R001.pdf](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/gc_reports/reports/1991/bb_1991-R001.pdf)

Which is the 1988 Blue Book that quotes "Our Church Has AIDS," but not before '88

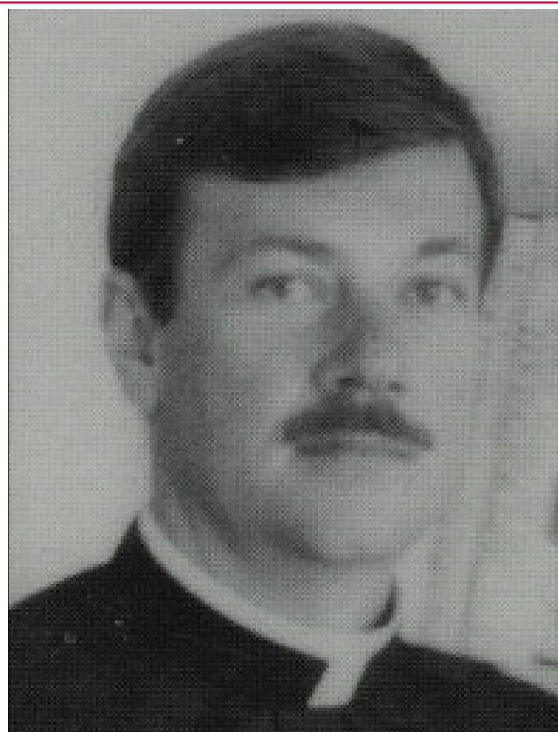
I have this from '89 [https://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/the\\_witness/pdf/1989\\_Watermarked/Witness\\_19891201.pdf](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/the_witness/pdf/1989_Watermarked/Witness_19891201.pdf)

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



Ellen Barrett, openly lesbian, had been ordained a priest by Paul Moore, Bishop of New York, in January 1977 and this was reported in The New York Times. There had been numerous ordinations of men and, after 1976, women whose homosexuality was known to their bishops and Commissions on Ministry but which were not publicly acknowledged.



Robert Williams was the first openly gay male priest whose ordination in the Episcopal Church was acknowledged beforehand by the ordaining diocese and was consequently the subject of considerable publicity. He was ordained on December 16, 1989, by John Shelby Spong, Bishop of Newark, having publicly stated that he was in a sexual homosexual relationship with James Skelley, a divorced father of two.

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015





Rev. Barry Stopfel was ordained a Deacon by The Rt. Rev. Walter Cameron Righter, and ordained to the priesthood by The Rt. Rev. John S. Spong.

*"This congregation was ready to accept his sexuality because it has already accepted Barry," the Rev. Jack Croneberger, rector of the parish, said in an interview after the two-hour service. While he admitted that some members of the parish are "disappointed and unhappy" with the ordination, Croneberger said most members had accepted the "slowly developing relationship" and showed up on the sultry Saturday to give Barry and his companion, the Rev. Will Leckie, a boisterous welcome.*



*A disgruntled former member of the parish, Austin Menzies, stepped forward to protest the ordination, calling attention to the biblical condemnation of homosexuality. Since priests are "role models for all Christians," Menzies said, Stopfel's ordination "will encourage children to believe that there is nothing perverse or immoral about homosexuality." Some members of the congregation quietly began to sing a hymn until Menzies finished his statement and left the church."*

*Episcopal News Service. September 17, 1991*

As an out gay, noncelibate man, his ordination would ultimately lead to a heresy trial of Righter.



Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



Resolution Number: 1994-C020

Title: Amend Canon I.17.5  
[Of Regulations Respecting the Laity]

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred  
As Substituted  
and Amended

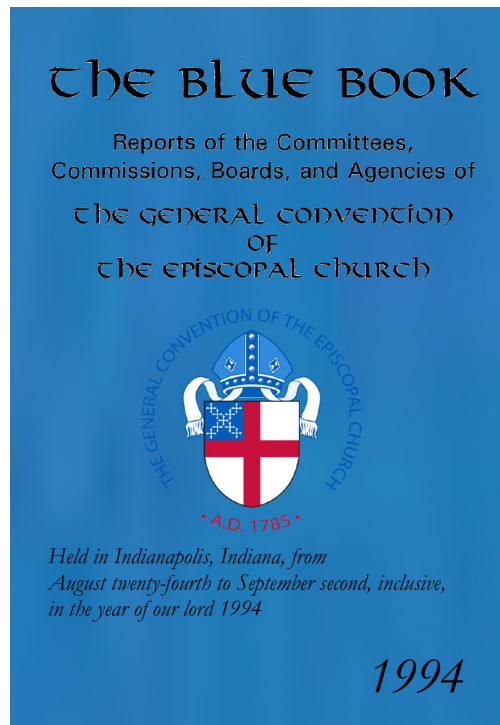
Final Text:

Resolved,  
That Title I, Canon 17, Section 5 be amended as  
follows:

*No person shall be denied rights, status [in], or [access  
to] an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of  
this Church because of race, color, [or] ethnic origin,  
national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation,  
disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by [this]  
Canon.*

Citation:

General Convention, Journal of the General  
Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis,  
1994 (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 356.



Original text:

*No one shall be denied rights or  
status in this Church because of  
race, color, or ethnic origin.*

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

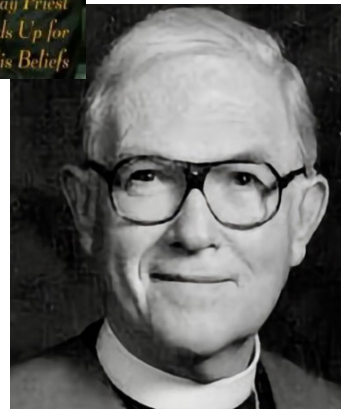
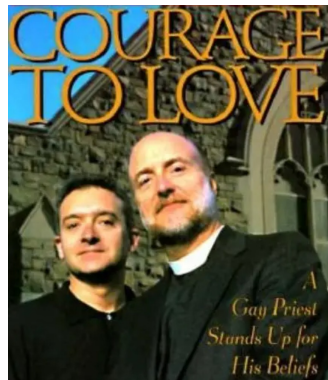
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



Rev. Stopfel was ordained a Deacon by The Rt. Rev. Walter Cameron Righter in 1991 in the Diocese of Newark, N.J., where Righter was an assisting bishop. (The Rt. Rev. John S. Spong ordained Stopfel to the priesthood in 1991.).

As an out gay, noncelibate man his ordination would ultimately lead to a heresy trial of Righter.

Ten bishops brought a presentment against Righter. A majority of bishops approved sending the charges to the court. After two hearings, the ecclesial court reached a verdict of not guilty with the majority opinion affirming that there is no core doctrine in the Episcopal Church that prevents a Bishop from ordaining a qualified gay or lesbian candidate to the priesthood.



Righter offered his perspective on the case in *A Pilgrim's Way* (Alfred Knopf, 1998).

Stopfel, and his partner at the time, the Rev. Will Leckie of the United Church of Christ, wrote about the case, and their lives, in *Courage to Love* (Doubleday, 1997).

The decision opened the path for the consecration of the first openly gay Episcopal Bishop.

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

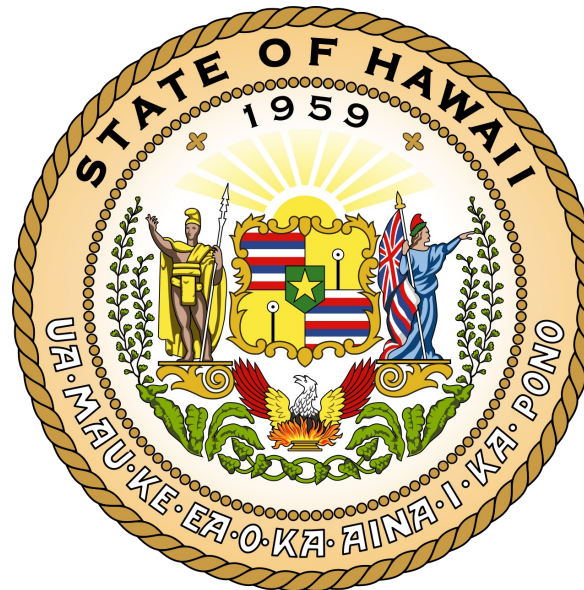
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



The 1997 creation of reciprocal beneficiary relationships in Hawaii was a landmark move that provided legal recognition and limited rights to same-sex couples at a time when marriage equality was not yet available.

Gave access to key legal benefits similar to those of married couples, including:

- Inheritance rights
- Hospital and jail visitation
- Healthcare decision-making
- Workers' compensation
- Right to sue for wrongful death
- Health and pension benefits for state employees
- Joint property ownership as "Tenants by the Entirety"



Hawaii created a dedicated legal category that explicitly acknowledged couples prohibited from marrying, including same-sex partners. It wasn't marriage, but it was a major concession.

The law was directly inspired by the *Baehr v. Lewin* case in Hawaii (1993), which argued that denying same-sex couples the right to marry was unconstitutional. The reciprocal law was a compromise to offer some rights without redefining marriage.

Symbolic shift: Even though limited in scope, it showed that a state government was willing to codify same-sex relationships — something many LGBTQ+ Americans had never experienced before.



Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015





**Title:** Resolution I.10:  
Human Sexuality

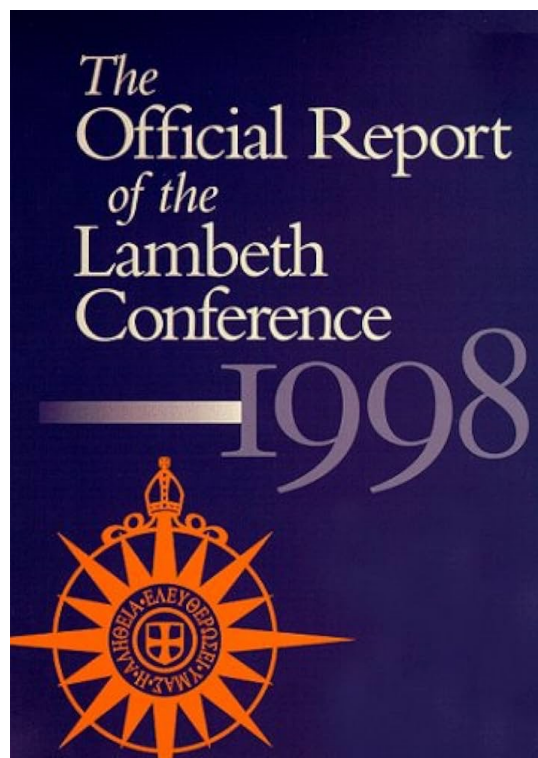
**Text:**

*"... upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;"*

*"... rejects homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture,"*

and

*"... cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions;"*



"... We also recognise that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We wish to assure them that they are loved by God, and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ. We call upon the Church and all its members to work to end any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and to oppose homophobia.

... We must confess that we are not of one mind about homosexuality. Our variety of understanding encompasses:

... It appears that the opinion of the majority of bishops is not prepared to bless same sex unions or to ordain active homosexuals. Furthermore many believe that there should be a moratorium on such practices."

Full text: <https://tinyurl.com/2xhdtuja>

1976

1978

1985

1986

1989

1991

1994

1996

1997

1998

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



On the night of October 6, 1998, at 21 year old man, Matthew Shepard, was approached by two men at the Fireside Lounge in Laramie, Wyoming; all three men were in their early 20s.

McKinney and Henderson offered to give Shepard a ride home. They subsequently drove to a remote rural area and proceeded to rob, pistol-whip, and torture Shepard, tying him to a split-rail fence and leaving him to die.

Still tied to the fence, Shepard was in a coma eighteen hours after the attack when he was discovered by a cyclist who initially mistook him for a scarecrow.

Shepard was pronounced dead six days after the attack.



The Matthew Shepard Foundation runs education, outreach, and advocacy programs.

Matthew's Place is an online community designed to provide support to teenagers and young adults within sexual orientation and gender identity minorities as well as their allies.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation's Speakers Bureau programs sends anti-violence awareness speakers like journalists, authors, activists, and public safety officials to visit schools, universities, colleges, companies, and community groups to talk about the impact hate has on communities.

1976	1978	1985	1986	1989	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



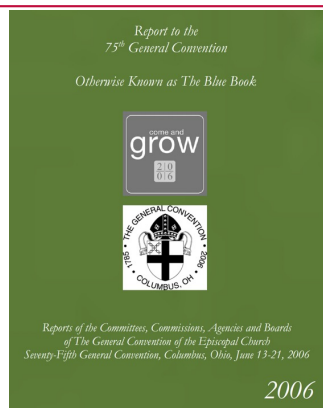
Reverend Gene Robinson was elected the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop in 2003. After serving 28 years in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, he was elected bishop on June 7th and served as the ninth Episcopal Bishop until 2013. Before this historical moment, Robinson participated in a lengthy career of spiritual work, AIDS activism and creating inclusive spaces for religious LGBTQ+ folk.

2003



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	<i>Unregistered cohabitation</i>
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	<i>Family recognition</i>
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	<i>Unregistered cohabitation</i>
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	<i>Reciprocal beneficiaries</i>
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	<i>Civil union</i>
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	<i>Civil union</i>
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	<i>Marriage</i>
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	<i>Marriage</i>
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A161

**Title:** On the Topic of  
Contributing to Strains on the Communion

**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected

**Final Text:**

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church regret the extent to which we have, by action and inaction, contributed to strains on communion and caused deep offense to many faithful Anglican Christians as we consented to the consecration of a bishop living openly in a same-gender union. Accordingly, we urge nominating committees, electing conventions, Standing Committees, and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise very considerable caution in the nomination, election, consent to, and consecration of bishops whose manner of life present a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.

**History:**

<https://tinyurl.com/mpb2vsm>

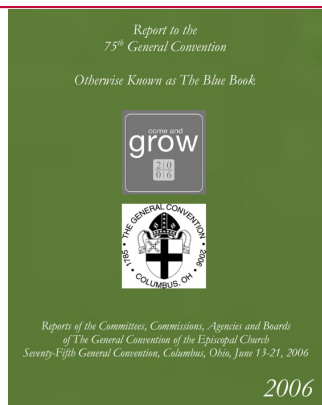
2006



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015





**Resolution Number:** 2006-B033

**Title:** Exercise Restraint in Consecrating Candidate

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred

**Final Text:**

**Resolved, That the 75th General Convention receive and embrace The Windsor Report's invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation; and be it further**

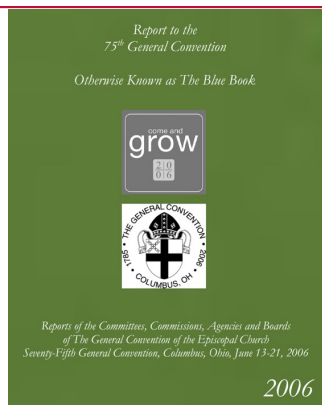
**Resolved, That this Convention therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.**

2006



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A133

**Title:** Raise Awareness  
of the Continuing HIV Pandemic

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
as Substituted

**Final Text:**

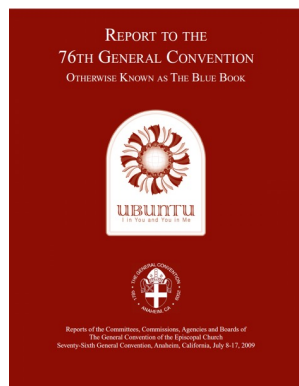
**Resolved,**  
That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church authorize the Communication Office to collaborate with the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC) in calling together and coordinating a working group of interested parties for the purpose of designing, funding and implementing a campaign which raises awareness throughout The Episcopal Church about the continuing HIV pandemic.

2006



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2009-D025

**Title:** Reaffirm Participation in the Anglican Communion and Acknowledge Differences

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted

Reaffirmed that the ordination process is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church but did not overturn the previous call for "restraint; recognized that baptized members of the church include same-sex couples in lifelong, committed relationships.

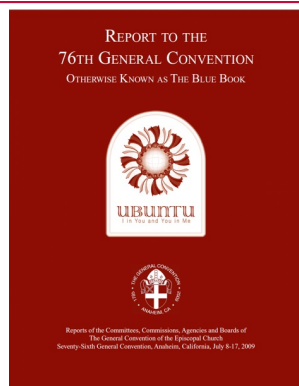
It also acknowledged that LGBTQ+ individuals participate in lay and ordained ministry within the church. The resolution also included an apology for past rejection and maltreatment of LGBTQ+ members and a commitment to seek amendment of church life

2009



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage 1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2009-C056

**Title:** Develop Liturgies for Blessings Unions and Provide Generous Pastoral Response

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted & Amended

The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in consultation with the House of Bishops, collect and develop theological and liturgical resources and report to the 77th General Convention,

*"That this Convention honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality."*

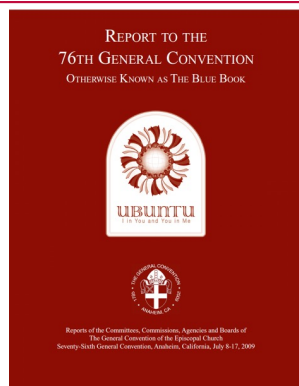
2009



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage 1974-2015





**Resolution Number:** 2009-D-012

**Title:** Support Laws that Prohibit Discrimination Based on Gender Identity

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended

**Final Text:**

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church supports the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal level that a) prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one's gender identity, and b) treat physical violence inflicted on the basis of a victim's gender identity or expression as a hate crime; and be it further

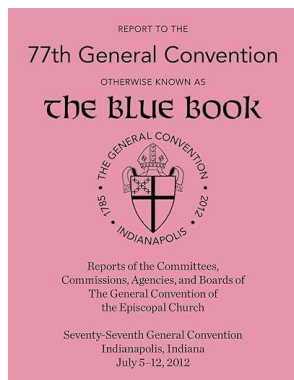
Resolved, That the Secretary of Convention convey this resolution to appropriate congressional leadership, to the Chair of the National Governors Association, the President of the National Conference of State Legislatures and to the President of the U. S. Conference of Mayors.

2009



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

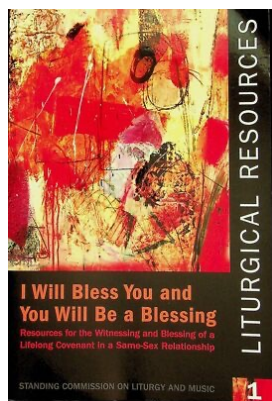
Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A-049

**Title:** Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended



2012



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



*Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), a landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court which ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

The 5–4 ruling required all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas under U.S. sovereignty to perform and recognize the marriages of same-sex couples on the same terms and conditions as the marriages of opposite-sex couples, with equal rights and responsibilities.

Prior to *Obergefell*, same-sex marriage had already been established by statute, court ruling, or voter initiative in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

2015



Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	<i>Unregistered cohabitation</i>
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	<i>Family recognition</i>
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	<i>Unregistered cohabitation</i>
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	<i>Reciprocal beneficiaries</i>
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	<i>Registered partnership</i>
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	<i>Civil union</i>
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	<i>Domestic partnership</i>
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	<i>Civil union</i>
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	<i>Marriage</i>
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	<i>Marriage</i>
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	<i>Marriage</i>

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015



**Resolution Number:** 2019-A-036

**Title:** Amend Canon I.18  
[Of the Solemnization  
of Holy Matrimony]

**Legislative Action Taken:**  
Concurred as Amended

Permitting any couple the rite of Holy  
Matrimony

2019

Year	Country/Region	Milestone	Type of Recognition
1979	Netherlands	First legal recognition via rent law	Unregistered cohabitation
1984	Berkeley, USA	First city to offer benefits to same-sex partners	Domestic partnership
1985	West Hollywood, USA	First domestic partner registry	Domestic partnership
1989	Denmark	First country to legally recognize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1993	Norway	Second country to legalize same-sex unions	Registered partnership
1995	British Columbia, Canada	First province to allow same-sex adoption	Family recognition
1996	Hungary	First Eastern European country to recognize cohabitation	Unregistered cohabitation
1997	Hawaii, USA	First U.S. state to offer statewide benefits	Reciprocal beneficiaries
1998	Netherlands	Introduced registered partnerships	Registered partnership
1999	France	Passed <i>Pacte Civil de Solidarité</i> (PACS)	Civil union
1999	California, USA	Passed domestic partnership statute	Domestic partnership
2000	Vermont, USA	First U.S. state to legalize civil unions	Civil union
2001	Netherlands	First country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2003	Canada	Court ruling led to national marriage law in 2005	Marriage
2004	Massachusetts, USA	First U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2006	South Africa	First African country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2010	Argentina	First Latin American country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2013	New Zealand	First Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage	Marriage
2015	USA	Nationwide legalization via <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>	Marriage
2019	Taiwan	First Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage	Marriage
2022	Cuba & Slovenia	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2024	Estonia & Greece	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage
2025	Thailand & Liechtenstein	Legalized same-sex marriage	Marriage

Timeline Of General Convention Resolutions and Events Leading to Sacramental Marriage  
1974-2015