



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

Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7 PM

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, DE

The Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton

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

1974: Summer, Louie Crew Clay founded **Integrity** for LGBTQ Episcopalians

July 29: Philadelphia Eleven “irregularly” ordained (First Women’s Ordination in the Episcopal Church)

1976: General Convention **Resolution A-069:** Recognizes the Equal Claims of Homosexuals

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.

General Convention **Resolution A-071:** Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law

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.

1977 January, Ellen Barrett is ordained by Bishop Paul Moore in NYC

Barrett was the first woman to be “regularly” ordained in the Diocese. She was, at the time, co-President of Integrity. She never hid the nature of her sexual orientation. News of her ordination made the front page of the NY Times that morning.

1978 Lambeth Conference Resolution 10: Human Relationships and Sexuality

laid the groundwork for future discussions on this issue within the Anglican Communion, acknowledging the complexity and need for careful consideration.

1981 June 5th: AIDS Pandemic begins.

1985 September 19th : Edmund L Browning elected Presiding Bishop: “In this church of ours, there will be no outcasts.”

1986 NEAC (National Episcopal AIDS Coalition) established “Our Church Has AIDS.”

1988 Ordination of Robert Williams, “First” Ordained Gay Man in TEC

1991 Ordination of Barry Stopfel “Second” Ordained Gay man in TEC (Righter Heresy Trial)

1994 February 28 – Department of Defense Directive 1304.26 enacted. “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”

August: Resolution C-020: Amend Canon I.17.5 [Of Regulations Respecting the Laity] 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.

1996 May 15 – Walter Righter Heresy Trial. In a 7–1 decision, the court dismissed the charges against Bishop Righter, stating that the Episcopal Church "has no doctrine prohibiting the ordination of homosexuals," and that Bishop Righter did not contradict the "core doctrine" of the church.

September 21, President Clinton signs DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act)

1997 Hawai'i was the first in the nation to establish "reciprocal beneficiary relationships."

1998 August 5: Lambeth Resolution 1.10

"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;"

October 12: Death of Matthew Shepherd, a 21-year-old gay student who had been beaten and tortured, tied to a fence, and abandoned.

1999 California establishes Domestic Partnership

Vermont establishes Civil Unions

2001 Netherlands establishes The Civil Marriage Act

2003 Belgium establishes Civil Marriage

Gene Robinson elected Bishop of New Hampshire

2004 **July 7: S.J.Res.40, and in the House as H.J.Res. 106. A constitutional amendment to prohibit gay marriage was proposed in the United States.**

July 30 Maine establishes Domestic Partnership

October 18: The Archbishop of Canterbury presents **the Windsor Report**, a response to divisions within the Anglican Communion regarding the ordination of openly gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions.

2005 Canada establishes Civil Marriage

Spain establishes Civil Marriage

2006 South Africa establishes Civil Marriage

General Convention Resolution A-161 Response to Windsor Report: rejected a proposed moratorium on the election and consent to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate who is living in a same-gender union

Resolution B-033 Response to Windsor Report: urged dioceses and bishops to exercise restraint in consenting to the consecration of candidates whose "manner of life" would strain relations with the wider Anglican Communion. This was widely interpreted as referring to openly gay and lesbian priests.

Resolution A-133 Raise Awareness of the Continuing HIV Pandemic

2007 Oregon establishes Domestic Partnership

2009 Anglican Covenant presented to General Convention to be signed into agreement.

Resolution D-025 Reaffirm Participation in the Anglican Communion and Acknowledge Differences 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

Resolution C-056 Develop Liturgies for Blessings Unions and Provide Generous Pastoral Response 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;

Resolution D-012 Support Laws that Prohibit Discrimination Based on Gender Identity 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

2012 **Resolution A-049: Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships** commend "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" for study and use in congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church

2013 **July 1** Gov Jack Markell signs Marriage Equality into Law in Delaware.

2015 **June 26**: SCOTUS 5-4 decision Obergefell v. Hodges which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide in the United States.

July 1: **A-036 Amend Canon I.18 [Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony]**, permitting any couple the rite of Holy Matrimony.