

Diocese of New Jersey Report of the 2009 General Convention Deputation

The 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church ("TEC") was held in Anaheim, California, from July 8 through July 17, 2009. Actions taken by General Convention are in the form of Resolutions, which are only effective if they are passed by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. This General Convention received 419 pieces of legislation: 192 came from TEC Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (A Resolutions), 32 Resolutions from Bishops (B Resolutions), 87 from Dioceses and Provinces (C Resolutions), and 108 Resolutions from Deputies (D Resolutions); 330 came to a vote on the floor of Convention.

Three of those proposed C Resolutions were from the Diocese of New Jersey, as approved by last year's Resolutions 2009-1 "2009 General Convention Support of Seminarians", which was presented to General Convention as [C032](#), 2009-2 " Liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season", presented as [C034](#), and 2009-8 "2009 General Convention Affirmation of Canonical Process", presented as [C033](#). None of these proposals were adopted by General Convention, although similar proposals from others were: [C013](#) on "Support for Those Studying for Ordained Ministry", and [D025](#) on "Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion", which includes the statement that "God's call to the ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church is a mystery which the Church attempts to discern for all people through our discernment processes acting in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church". The Creation Season proposals were referred to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for further study and possible proposal to the 2012 General Convention.

Several D Resolutions were proposed by members of our Diocese's Deputation. The Rev'd Joan M.P. Anders proposed [D001](#) on "Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season" (filed prior to our Diocesan Convention last year, and also referred for further study). John Wood Goldsack proposed [D002](#), drafted by Paul Ambros, to "Amend Canon III.10.2(a)(2)" (to allow ELCA and other non-Episcopal priests to serve congregations without having first to be received into TEC; rejected by the House of Bishops). Charles Perfater proposed two: [D014](#) on "Environmental Justice" (similar to last year's Diocesan Resolution 2009-5), which was enacted, and [D015](#) on "Merciful and Humane Treatment of God's Creatures" (similar to last year's Resolution 2009-4), which was also enacted.

The texts of all resolutions are available through the [General Convention website](#) on the [View Legislation pages](#) (subject to correction as to final text) and will be published in the Journal of the 76th General Convention, and subsequently in the digital archives of the Archives of the Episcopal Church. A [Summary of Actions of the 76th General Convention](#) is also available, which lists the status of all proposed and enacted Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article XII of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church requires that proposed amendments to the Constitution be passed at one General Convention, read at each Diocesan Convention, and then be passed at the succeeding General Convention, in order to be effective. The following proposed Constitutional amendments were passed on first reading by the 76th General Convention:

[B015 Amend Constitution Article I.4](#)

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That lines 3 and 4 and 11 of Article I.4 of the Constitution (page 2) be amended to change the name of the "Convocation of the American Churches in Europe" to "Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe" as follows:

Sec. 4. The Church in each Diocese which has been admitted to union with the General Convention, each area Mission established as provided by Article VI, and the Convocation of ~~the American~~ *Episcopal Churches in Europe*, shall be entitled to representation in the House of Deputies by not more than four ordained persons, Presbyters or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese and not more than four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese; but the General Convention by Canon may reduce the representation to not fewer than two Deputies in each order. Each Diocese, and the Convocation of ~~the American~~ *Episcopal Churches in Europe*, shall prescribe the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen.

B029 Consent to Episcopal Elections

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 76th General Convention amend Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church as follows:

Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. ~~But if the election shall have taken place within one hundred twenty days before the meeting of General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.~~ No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.

D029 Amend Article VIII of the Constitution

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution is amended by the addition of a final sentence as follows:

No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO ALL DIOCESES

The following Acts of Convention have been referred by the Secretary of Convention to dioceses for action, consideration, or information pursuant to Episcopal Church Canon 1.6.4, which requires Dioceses to report annually to the Executive Council of the Church, including "information concerning implementation by the Diocese of resolutions of the previous General Convention which have been specifically identified by the Secretary of General Convention." They are presented here for the information of the clergy and laity of the Diocese.

- A003 [78th General Convention Site](#)
- A033 [Peace and Reconciliation in Southern Sudan](#)
- A034 [Advocacy for Cuba](#)
- A036 [Haiti](#)
- A037 [Prayer for a Wall Around Bethlehem to Come Down](#)
- A041 [War in Iraq](#)
- A042 [First Use Military Action](#)
- A043 [Relief for Victims of International Criminal Gangs](#)
- A045 [Restricting use of Bottled Water, Energy and Water Conservation](#)
- A065 [Convening and Supporting Evangelists](#)
- A074 [Endorse Theological Statement on Interreligious Relations](#)
- A075 [Approve Presbyterian-Episcopal Agreement](#)
- A077 [Episcopal Health Ministries](#)
- A078 [Annual Recovery Sunday](#)
- A079 [Addiction Education for Ordained Ministry](#)
- A081 [Accommodation for People with Disabilities](#)
- A083 [Directive for Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation in the Next Triennium](#)
- A085 [Commendation for the Work of Proclaiming Education for All](#)
- A102 [Authorize Enriching our Worship 1, 2, 3 and 4](#)
- A104 [Multicultural Leadership Development](#)
- A105 [Fresh Start](#)
- A138 [Establishing a Mandatory Lay Employee Pension System](#)
- A142 [To Recommit to Being Anti-Racists for the Next Three Triennia \(Until 2018\)](#)
- A143 [Extension of General Convention Resolution A123 to General Convention 2012](#)
- A144 [Extension of Resolution 127 to General Convention 2012](#)
- A159 [Address the Issue of AIDS](#)
- A161 [AIDS Education and Resources](#)
- A163 [Mandate on NEAC AIDS Tutorial](#)
- A164 [Commendations to Presiding Bishops](#)
- A166 [Parental Leave](#)
- A167 [Trafficking](#)
- A177 [Denominational Health Plan](#)

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A178 [Establish the First Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday](#)
A180 [General Ordination Exam Fee](#)
A185 [Proposed Title IV Revisions](#)
B021 [Call for Access to DNA Testing](#)
B022 [Indigenous Artifacts](#)
B025 [Equitable Education for All Our Children](#)
C020 [Condemnation of Torture](#)
C049 [Renew and Strengthen Economic Justice Ministry](#)
C051 [Wounded Soldiers and Veterans](#)
C052 [Increased Media Coverage of Global Crises](#)
C056 [Liturgies for Blessings](#)
C071 [Health Care Coverage for All](#)
C080 [Lay Leadership and Ministry Development](#)
C083 [Support for Day Laborers](#)
D007 [Sudan Peace and TEC Partnership](#)
D011 [Principles for Decisions at the End of Life](#)
D014 [Environmental Justice](#)
D015 [Merciful and Humane Treatment of God's Creatures](#)
D018 [Address the Global Economic Crisis](#)
D019 [Recommit to MDGs as a Mission Priority](#)
D020 [Provincial Acceptance of Anglican Covenant](#)
D025 [Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion](#)
D032 [Non-Discrimination in Lay Employment](#)
D035 [Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery](#)
D051 ["The 80-Cent Solution": Support for World Missionaries](#)
D065 [Youth Seat, Voice and Vote on Vestry](#)
D075 [Mission, the Heartbeat of the Church](#)
D090 [Inclusive Church Paper Work](#)
D092 [Reaffirm](#)
D095 [Prison Ministry Sunday](#)
D096 [Prevention of Domestic Violence](#)

PARTICULAR RESOLUTIONS OF NOTE

The following General Convention resolutions are of particular note as affecting Episcopal congregations and individuals:

By Resolution D055, [Tithing](#) (not on the above list), the General Convention "reaffirm[ed] the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians" and asked that individual Bishops and Deputies who "either are tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years" so indicate by name (or anonymously) in a list to be published in the Journal of the Convention. In [testimony](#) on the floor of the House of Deputies, Albert T. Mollegen, Jr., Deputy from the Diocese of Connecticut and the sponsor of the resolution, asked dioceses and congregations to reaffirm this on their own levels. New Jersey Deputation Chair Joan Anders has with others proposed a diocesan version of this resolution to our Diocesan Convention as proposed Resolution 2010-1.

Resolution A088, [Enriching Our Worship 5](#) (also not on the list), authorizes the use of *Rachel's Tears, Hannah's Hopes*, a collection of liturgies and prayers for healing from loss related to childbearing and childbirth. Resolutions A096, [Additional Calendar Commemorations](#), and A097, [Authorize Trial Use of Commemorations](#) (each also not on the list), collectively approve for trial use until the next General Convention revised commemorations in the Calendar of the Church Year and propers for such commemorations as set forth in the draft *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*, to replace *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. Both of these sources are printed at length in the Blue Book [Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music](#). *Holy Women, Holy Men* is expected to be published in paperback and electronic formats for use during the coming triennium. Congregations are to report back to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music prior to the next General Convention as to their experiences with the added celebrations and the appropriateness of the proposed prayers and scripture passages.

By Resolution A138, [Establishing a Mandatory Lay Employee Pension System](#), General Convention reaffirmed the requirement of a [1991 resolution](#) that lay employees of dioceses, missions, parishes, or any "other ecclesiastical or-

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ganization or body subject to the authority of the Church" who are scheduled to work 1,000 hours a year or more be covered by a mandatory pension plan, to be administered by The Church Pension Fund. While the 1991 legislation was also mandatory, and was to be implemented by diocesan canons, a survey commissioned by the 2006 General Convention found that only 70% of eligible employees churchwide were currently being covered by the plan. The 2009 resolution incorporates the lay pension requirements into Episcopal Church Canon I.8, and there is a deadline of January 2012 for full compliance. The deputation has brought this legislation to the attention of the Committee of the Church Pension Fund of the Diocese and requested that they coordinate with the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons as to whether any conforming amendments need to be made to Diocesan Canon 35 or the Constitution of the Diocese.

Resolution A177, [Denominational Health Plan](#), mandates a church-wide health insurance plan to cover all domestic clergy and lay employees of dioceses, parishes, missions, and other church organizations that are scheduled to work 1,500 hours a year or more. The plan would be administered by The Episcopal Church Medical Trust and would replace plans previously negotiated by individual dioceses or parishes. Implementation of the new plan is to be completed by the end of December 2012. The deputation has brought this legislation to the attention of the Insurance Committee of the Diocese and requested that they coordinate with the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons as to whether any conforming amendments need to be made to Diocesan Canons 36 or 40.

News coverage and commentary were given to Resolutions C056, [Liturgies for Blessings](#), calling for the collection of liturgical and theological resources concerning the church's responses to the developments of civil same-sex unions, and D025, [Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion](#), calling for continued Episcopal Church participation with the other Provinces of the Anglican Communion as it develops its ecclesial response to the acknowledged presence and ministry in our church of gay and lesbian Episcopalians. These carefully-crafted resolutions give responsibility to bishops to take a pastoral role in leading their dioceses forward amidst the controversies that we are facing.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Deputation thank the Diocese for its financial and theological and moral support. We thank our counterparts in the House of Bishops, the Right Reverend George E. Councill, XI Bishop of New Jersey, and the Right Reverend Sylvestre D. Romero, Assistant Bishop, for their fellowship and assistance.

We acknowledge the participation of diocesan representatives in the committee structures that were essential to the workings of the Convention: Bishop Councill served on the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance. Joan Anders served on the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations. John Goldsack served on the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church. Jack Zamboni served on the Legislative Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music. And Charles Perfater served on the Legislative Committee for Dispatch of Business. In addition, Joan Anders, Gail Bennett, and Robert Fox served as coaches for the training during Convention for the [Public Narrative](#) project, in which many in the New Jersey deputation participated.

One of the more impressive aspects of participation in General Convention is the variety of liturgical practices in the Daily Convention Eucharists. We also commend the [prayers](#) and the [meditations](#) that were offered in the House of Deputies through the course of Convention by the Rev'd Frank Wade, Chaplain to the House.

We encourage others to seek election as Deputies or Alternates. The next General Convention is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 4 through July 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Joan M.P. Anders, Deputation Chair
The Rev'd John V. Zamboni
The Rev'd Canon Joan E. Fleming,
Deputation Chaplain
The Rev'd Canon Servio R. Moscoso
The Rev'd Ronald N. Pollock
The Rev'd Gail L. Bennett, Dcn.
The Rev'd Andrea Rose-Marie Hayden
The Rev'd Mark H. Chattin

Canon John Wood Goldsack, Esq.
Ms. Noreen Duncan
Mr. Charles Perfater, Deputation Vice-Chair
and Diocesan Administrator
Mr. Robert Fox
Ms. Georgeanne Dorney
Alicia Graham, Deputation Secretary
Paul Ambos, Esq.
Ms. Carole Forsythe