

Diocese of New Jersey

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions received two proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2008 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. The proposers may make additional revisions prior to submission to Convention.

Following hearings at the preconvention meetings and at the formal hearing of the Committee to be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 23, 2008, in the Matthews Room at Diocesan House, 808 West State Street, Trenton, the Committee will prepare its Final Report with its recommendations, if any, with respect to the proposals. It is the Final Report that will be submitted to Convention.

As provided by the Rules of Order, proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ambos, Chair
Committee on Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2008-1:

Subject: Darfur

Be It Resolved, That The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey join with the government of the United States, the United Nations, and a host of other countries, organizations, and individuals from around the world to call and work for an end to the genocide in Darfur; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Diocese immediately establish a committee, the members to be appointed by the Bishop, to study the situation in Darfur and provide information to member parishes and others about the crimes against humanity taking place there along with recommendations of actions that can be taken by parishes and individuals to bring these violations and actions to an end at the earliest possible opportunity; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Diocese take such steps as are necessary to encourage and seek the support of the national church, other dioceses, other denominations, and individuals in this endeavor; and be it

Further Resolved, That the Diocese establish a specific fund for the relief to the refugees from and in Darfur and encourage local parishes and individuals to contribute to the fund through a program of education, outreach, and fundraising; and be it

Further Resolved, That parishes and individuals be educated in regard to the means of identifying companies and mutual funds that have investments in companies that support or have economic ties to the regime in the Sudan that is allowing these human rights violations to continue so that they can divest themselves of holdings in these entities; and be it

Further Resolved, That the United States and other countries and the United Nations be encouraged to relax immigration and other laws to allow the resettlement of the refugees from Darfur in countries other than the Sudan to bring to an end the suffering of the millions of refugees from the genocide.

SUBMITTED BY: Glendon Bell, St. Thomas Church, Glassboro

Statement in Support of Resolution 2008-1 by Proposer:

Darfur is an area of the largest country in Africa, the Sudan. Darfur itself is about the size of Texas and is bordered by the countries of Libya, Chad, and the Central African Republic. There are approximately six million people who call Darfur home, who are mainly subsistence farmers or nomadic herders.

In 2003 an insurgency started in Darfur against the central government of the Sudan. These rebels were mostly non-Arab black African Muslims. The central government supported a local militia that has come to be called the *Janjaweed*, whose members are mostly Arab black African Muslims.

The attacks on the civilian Darfur population has been compared to a scorched-earth policy, with entire villages being wiped out, food and water supplies destroyed, and murder, rape, and torture have been systematically carried out. It is estimated that up to 400,000 Darfur civilians have died as a result of direct violence, disease, and starvation.

Approximately 2,300,000 refugees are living in internally displaced-person camps in Darfur and an additional 200,000 live in refugee camps in Chad. These refugees, in or out of the country, are almost totally dependent on the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations for food, water, shelter, and health care. An additional 1,000,000 residents of Darfur still live in their villages under constant threat of attack.

For the first time in U.S. history, a conflict has been labeled genocide at the time it was taking place. It is a time for the world to honor its commitment to the pledge of "Never Again" and for The Episcopal Church to do all in its power to end the violation of basic human rights.

RESOLUTION 2008-2:

Subject: Timely Publication of the Journal of the Diocese

Be it Resolved, That the Diocesan Convention respectfully request that the President of the Convention and the Secretary take appropriate action to implement the timely publication of the Journal of each annual convention, so that the 2007 Journal be distributed no later than July 1, 2008, and that Journals for 2008 and ensuing years be distributed no later than six months after the close of the Annual Convention.

Submitted by: The Rev'd Elmer L. Sullivan

Statement in Support of Resolution 2008-2 by Proposer:

The Journal of the Diocese, when published in a timely manner, provides important reference material for the people of the Diocese, both clergy and lay. Delayed publication obviates much of the Journal's usefulness.

The 2006 Journal was not published until August of 2007, 18 months after the Convention was held. (As of this writing, the 2007 Journal has not yet been issued.) The long delay in publication makes much of the material in the Journal outdated, particularly the listings of persons who hold elective office and those who serve on the various appointed committees of the Diocese. If the people of the Diocese are to be properly informed, an official record of actions taken by the Convention and resolutions adopted should be available soon after the Convention, not 18 months later.

This resolution asks that the officers of the Convention act to restore the publication of the Journal to a more acceptable timetable.