

Selected Resolutions of the 74th General Convention

Many of the resolutions of General Convention call for action or study by dioceses, congregations and individual Episcopalians. Following are brief descriptions of some with implications for the Diocese of Vermont. The complete texts are available on the General Convention web site. Click on the link on the Episcopal Church web site (www.dfms.org) or go to <http://gc2003.episcopalchurch.org/gc2003/index.htm>. Click on Legislation, then click on "view current legislation." The list is arranged by resolution number. Click the resolution number in the column, "Final Text," to see the complete text.

Diocesan Policies

A072 changes canons to require **vestry approval of the annual Parochial Report**.

A079 recommends nomination of candidates for deputations to General Convention who represent the **next generations** and the multilingual, multicultural character of our churches, and encourages dioceses and congregations to engage this vision when presenting candidates for all representative boards.

A123 calls on dioceses to establish **committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency** and to make efforts to ensure that health care insurance covers mental health and addiction.

A130 states that it is the policy of the Episcopal Church to provide employees with a **living wage**, including health benefits, and be a model for ethical labor practices.

B008 calls on each diocese to develop and adopt policies for the **protection of children and youth from abuse** that address specific principles and guidelines.

B018 encourages the provision in each diocese of a **chaplain for clergy families**.

Stewardship and Evangelism (20/20 Movement)

A026 commits the church to using **language and visual images that reflect the diversity of age, sex, ethnicity, physical ability and race** among the baptized membership; creates a task force to explore opportunities for doing so.

A045 **defines communicants** as members who have received communion at least three times in the last year.

A074 asks every congregation to engage in an **annual study** and review of its common life.

A075 charges dioceses to **foster a missional perspective or culture**; foster a culture of partnering with others; equip people to facilitate congregational self-study and planning; and to use these principles to organize episcopal visitations.

A081 calls for development of a **national advertising campaign**.

A083 calls every Episcopalian to be able to **articulate his or her faith story**; dioceses and congregations to create opportunities for stories to be told.

A084 asks the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism and others to **report annually on progress toward the 20/20 vision** in the areas of leadership, spirituality, prayer and worship, research, new congregation development, vital congregations, next generations, communication, funding and reporting [this means diocesan reports to the SCDME].

A133 adopts and calls for distribution and promotion of the report, **Expanding Mission and Vitality in Small Congregations: A Framework Affirming and Strengthening the Ministry of Small Churches**.

A134 encourages all dioceses to articulate a vision and engage in the **Alleluia Fund** process of planning, giving and spiritual transformation in order to fund new mission opportunities [an Easter season program of the 73rd GC].

A135 calls on all members to develop a personal spiritual discipline that includes, at a minimum, the **holy habits** of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath time, and weekly corporate worship.

A138 urges dioceses and congregations to adopt the principle of devoting as much of their resources of time, talent and treasure outside of the congregation as on itself [includes support for dioceses and national church]. Part of the **50/50 sharing** should include 1% giving to seminaries, and 0.7% giving to international development programs that address root

causes of ill health, illiteracy, and economic justice

A140 urges establishment of a **Mission Funding Office** for the Episcopal Church to raise needed funds for mission.

C006 calls on the church to **reach out, in implementing the 20/20 goal of focusing on domestic mission and evangelism, to groups not traditionally within the scope of these efforts**, particularly those characterized by diversity of race, ethnicity, language, disability and sexual orientation.

C008 reaffirms designation of 1997-2007 as the "Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation," during which each diocese will take steps to fully recognize and **welcome Native Peoples** into congregational life.

C029 asks that the Church Center, dioceses and congregations **make materials available in Spanish and/or French** where appropriate.

D033 directs every congregation to provide educational opportunities and other resources for Christians of all ages that **promote understanding of the role of money in our lives**.

Education and Study

A013 encourages study of issues in **biomedical ethics**.

A029 commits to a process of **open dialogue on difficult issues** and proposes funding for trainers to facilitate respectful deliberation.

A033 and A132 urge dioceses and congregations to study, understand and utilize **just war theory and pacifism**.

A121 encourages each diocese to make provisions for the **continuing education** of all clergy and lay professionals.

B110 endorses the continuation of the **Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations**.

Ministry

A111 **revises Title III of the Canons on ministry**. Eliminates the distinction between seminary trained and locally ordained clergy (Canon 7 and Canon 9). See article in this issue.

A119 asks the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, in consultation with the dioceses, to continue a **study of the role of deacons**. [Note: the House of Bishops rejected proposals for eliminating the transitional diaconate in favor of direct ordination to the priesthood.]

Ministry with Youth and Young Adults

A065 encourages dioceses, congregations and other organizations, with the support of the Ministries with Young People Cluster, to **explore and develop internship and leadership development programs for 18-30 year-old members** and to seek funding for these programs.

A077 encourages effective, well-organized campus ministries and **ministries with children, youth and young adults in every congregation** where appropriate and requests funding for training.

A128 recognizes that **aspects of our culture render all young people "Youth at Risk,"** and commends a series of programs for local implementation to support the development of caring, competent, faithful, and loving young people.

Environment

C026 urges all church institutions to initiate a plan for **phasing out the use of pesticides, herbicides and other toxic chemicals** to control pests and undesirable plants and to institute the use of alternatives.

D046 urges dioceses, congregations and communicants to become active stewards of their **water resources** by taking a series of four stewardship steps.

D066 endorses and calls for implementation of Anglican Consultative Council resolutions of 9/02 that ask all churches to place **environmental care** on their agenda and ask all Anglicans to make personal commitments to care for creation.

Peace and Justice

A010 continues the **anti-racism mandate**, commends the emerging network of trainers, and requires training of all seeking election or appointment to Episco-

pal Church commissions, committees, boards and agencies.

A125 urges dioceses and congregations to **become familiar with the criminal justice system** and establish ministries that assist prisoners and their families throughout their involvement in the system; asks Office of Peace and Justice to identify training programs for volunteers.

A126 calls on dioceses, congregations and individuals to **promote reforms in state juvenile justice systems** that focus on justice, human dignity and rehabilitation.

D016 encourages members to **ensure that husbandry methods for captive and domestic animals prohibit suffering**.

D031 resolves that the church at all levels **develop plans for living into a culture of non-violence**.

Health and Science

A011 sets forth **guidelines for genetic research and intervention**.

A012 sets forth **guidelines for caring for children in the face of new genetic techniques** and prohibits reproductive cloning.

A014 supports donation of early embryos remaining after in vitro fertilization [for use by others or in research] and urges **approval of research on human embryonic stem cells** obtained from such embryos.

A021 calls upon congregations and members to **take the lead in ensuring that all methods used to prevent the spread of HIV are taught** in school curricula.

D054 urges dioceses to examine and embrace ways by which they can **join in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS**.

Global Concerns

A150 asks each diocese to **designate a group to make a critical study of the vision statement for world mission in *Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century***, and calls on parishes to participate in the vision process.

D006 endorses and embraces the achievement of the **United Nations' Millennium Development Goals** and asks that dioceses and congregations commit 0.7% of annual budgets to fund international development programs.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

A089 establishes a task force to **study the increasingly common practice of communion of the unbaptized** [current rule is communion for the baptized only].

C031 calls for an end to all forms of religious persecution and **encourages the yearly celebration of interfaith worship services** in all communities.

D077 encourages members to **reach out in friendship to our neighbors of all religions** (especially at this time to Muslims), seeking mutual understanding and expressing support, and expresses concern about incarceration in the post 9/11 era solely on the basis of ethnicity.

Liturgy

A044 clarifies that the canons on **reception of members from other traditions** in the apostolic succession includes the laying on of hands by the bishop.

A091 **authorizes continued use of the materials in Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2**.

A093 approves **commemoration** of Enmegahbowh, Florence Nightingale and Philip the Deacon in the Calendar of the Church Year.

A094, 096 & 098 approve **trial commemoration** of Janani Luwum, William Temple, C. S. Lewis, Philander Chase, and Li Tim-Oi.

A103 **continues trial use of the Revised Common Lectionary** as adapted for the Episcopal Church.

C025 asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to collect, develop and distribute supplemental **materials in which the roles of the baptized are more fully reflected in the ordination rites**.

C051 recognizes that local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and **blessing same-sex unions**.