
PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions received four proposed resolutions prior to expiration of the January 15, 2004 deadline for submissions. They 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 28, 2004, 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,

Mr. Paul Ambos, Esq., Chair
Committee on Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2004-1:

Subject: Concerning the World Trade Center Memorial

Whereas, The unprovoked attack on the United States carried out by international terrorists on September 11, 2001 against targets in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, injury to countless others and the destruction of innumerable lives; and

Whereas, Among the victims of this depraved act were civilian and government workers, military personnel, airline passengers and crew members, and police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, many of whom reside in this State; and

Whereas, The remains of many victims of the World Trade Center attacks were never located; and

Whereas, The ash from the World Trade Center site that contains the remains of victims of September 11, 2001 has been held at Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, New York; and

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the State and City of New York to honor the victims of September 11, 2001 by returning their ashes to the site of a memorial at the World Trade Center in their honor, or a suitable resting place other than a landfill; and

Whereas, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey understands that the right to a proper burial is fundamental to the healing process and should be accorded to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack upon the WTC; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey go on record as supporting and endorsing the mission of the WTC Families for Proper Burial organization to have the ashen remains of those lost on September 11, 2001 covered and placed in containers to eventually be transported to the World Trade Center site to become a part of the memorial that will be built at this location, and be it

Further Resolved, That, as we continually pray in the Diocese of New Jersey for all those lost, the Secretary of Convention forward a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, to the Hon. Joseph L. Bruno, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, to the Hon. George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, to the Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, to the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to Mr. Joseph J. Seymour, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to the Hon. James E. McGreevey, Governor of New Jersey, and to the Standing Commission on National Concerns of The Episcopal Church.

Submitted by: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan, III, Trinity Church, Woodbridge.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2004-1 by Proposer:

My name is Thomas J. Meehan III, the father of Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, age 26, who perished in the attack upon the WTC on September 11, 2001. Colleen was an employee of Cantor Fitzgerald, working on the 103rd floor. Her partial remains (upper torso) were found on September 17, 2001, the date which was to have been her first wedding anniversary. My wife and I continue to be filled with the anguish of her death, the manner in which she died, her unviewable remains, her dismemberment, and the tragic death she suffered. I share these facts so that you may understand why our lives have not returned to "normal".

In the aftermath of the loss of so many lives, my wife JoAnn and I have become advocates to ensure that the lives lost are not forgotten. Families of those lost on 9/11/01 still speak in terms of body parts found and not found and of what will never be found, that we live with the tortured images of how our loved ones perished, their dismemberment, the manner in which they died, the place of their death, and the tragedy of their loss. The knowledge that their ashen remains and bone fragments have been left in a landfill called *Fresh Kills*, on 40 acres in Staten Island, is why I write to you today. We are left with no place to visit, pray, or honor their memories.

The right to a proper burial is part of the healing process; it marks a distinct point in the grieving process that those who have lost loved ones must travel. Almost a third of the victims were residents of New Jersey, and their families are still in pain and anguish as they try to cope with the emptiness of their lives — the lost spouses, children, siblings, and life partners that perished on September 11, 2001.

The WTC Families for Proper Burial seek to correct this injustice. More information is available at their website www.WTCFamiliesForProperBurial.com.

As members of Trinity Church, Woodbridge, my family offers this resolution for all of the victims of the September 11 tragedy. It has the endorsement of our parish priest, the Rev'd Robert L. Counselman. I hope that the diocese will extend its support, prayers, and acknowledgement of this injustice, and offer their acknowledgement of this issue, by passing this resolution.

RESOLUTION 2004-2:

Subject: Support of Millennium Development Goals

Resolved, That the 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey affirm and embrace the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals that pledge to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental stability; and
8. Develop a global partnership for development,

and be it

Further resolved, That this Convention, recognizing that funding for nutritional, education, health-care, and development programs is essential to achieve not only the Millennium Development Goals, but also for recognizing the dignity of all human beings, reaffirm Resolutions A001 and D033 of the 73rd General Convention and Resolution D006 of the 74th General Convention, challenging all dioceses and con-

gregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international outreach efforts and development programs like Episcopal Relief and Development and others; and be it

Further resolved, That this 220th Convention encourage all congregations to report to the 221st Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey their own progress in achieving this funding objective; and be it

Further resolved, That the United States government, as one of the 191 national signatories to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, be encouraged to abide by its commitments to fund international development aid at 0.7% of U.S. Gross National Product (GNP), and provide appropriate leadership and resources toward international efforts to implement these and other internationally agreed development goals; and be it

Further resolved, That the Secretary of Convention convey a copy of this resolution to the appropriate government officials and that individual Episcopalians contact their elected representatives, urging them to support the U.S. government's commitment to funding international development aid at 0.7% of the U.S. GNP.

Submitted by: Ms. Catherine Esposito, Trinity Church, Matawan, and Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2004-2 by Proposer:

In September 2000, the United Nations, the World Bank Group, and 189 governments agreed to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), objective targets to reduce extreme poverty by the year 2015. These organizations also pledged to provide appropriate funding to numerous governmental and nongovernmental agencies. The 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church endorsed these goals and encouraged giving 0.7% of all our budgets to Episcopal Relief and Development and similar organizations, to support the work of the international community in achieving the MDGs.

With more than a billion people living on less than a dollar a day, more than a billion people lacking access to safe drinking water, and twenty-five thousand people a day dying needlessly because food and basic healthcare are not available to them, we must do more to live into our baptismal covenant, and the MDGs help provide a measurable way forward.

RESOLUTION 2004-3:

Subject: Formation of Episcopal Discernment Commission

Whereas, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey is blessed with the new episcopal leadership of the Rt. Rev'd George E. Councill, and

Whereas, The transition of leadership in this Diocese has presented new challenges and opportunities for ministry in Christ's name, and

Whereas, Provisioning the structure and staffing called forth to renew, support, and encourage the whole community of faith throughout our 164 congregations needs to be prayerfully and thoughtfully considered, and

Whereas, The current members of Diocesan Staff serve the whole Church with distinction, loyalty, and sacrificial devotion to the cause of Christ; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That an Episcopal Discernment Commission be created and empowered to reflect and prayerfully develop recommendations about ecclesial structures and staff, including the possible calling of additional bishops; and be it

Further resolved, That said Commission be composed of no more than eleven representatives of the whole diocese, along with the Bishop as convener and chairperson; and be it

Further resolved, That said Commission make recommendations to the 221st Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey in a timely manner and in accordance with all applicable canons as to the nature, purpose, and intent of structures and staffing.

Submitted by: The Rev'd Philip B. Carr-Jones, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon, The Rev'd Timothy Mulder, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Gladstone, and The Rev'd Ronald N. Pollack, Rector of St. John's Church, Somerville.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2004-3 by Proposers:

The intention of this resolution is not to call for another bishop, even though historically the Diocese has had two full-time bishops. We may have come to a place where other leadership configurations are being called forth. However, with the arrival of Bishop Councill, he and the whole diocese deserve a thorough and thoughtful review of our leadership and support needs. Given the length of time for an electing process under current canons, we should proceed with a ministry review now, if one outcome might be the calling of an assisting/suffragan bishop.

RESOLUTION 2004-4:

Subject: Support of Membership in the Anglican Communion

Whereas, The Constitution of the Diocese of New Jersey states that we are "a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America"; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America states that said Church is "a constituent member of the Anglican Communion"; and

Whereas, The 1998 Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion, in Resolution 1.10, declared "homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture" and further stated that it cannot "advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions"; and

Whereas, The 74th General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America consented to the election, as Bishop of New Hampshire, of the Rev'd V. Gene Robinson, a man living in a same-sex relationship, and "recognize[d] 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"; and

Whereas, After the consecration of said bishop, primates of various provinces of the Anglican Communion around the world have declared "broken" or "impaired" communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and, in some cases, with the Diocese of New Jersey; and

Whereas, Such actions have called into question the continued existence of the Anglican Communion and/or our membership in it; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That:

1. This Convention proclaim that we treasure our Anglican heritage;
2. It be the prayer of this Convention that the Anglican Communion continue in existence;
3. It be the desire of this Convention that our Church maintain its membership in the Anglican Communion;
4. This Convention regret the alienation that has occurred as a result of said actions; and
5. This Convention pray that our Church will refrain from actions that may further alienate our Church from the Anglican Communion.

Submitted by: The Rev'd Douglas E. Anderson, Rector of Christ Church, Woodbury, The Rev'd William J. Gerhart, Rector of St. James, Edison, The Rev'd William Guerard, Rector of St. George's, Helmetta, The Rev'd Peter T. Manzo, Rector of St. Bartholomew's, Cherry Hill, and The Rev'd Lee Powers, Vicar of St. Mark and All Saints, Galloway.