
FINAL 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. One proposal was since withdrawn by the proposers. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 28, 2004, in the Matthews Room at Diocesan House. In the course of the hearings, the proposers made certain changes from the proposals as contained in the Preliminary Report of the Committee. A new proposal has been added as Resolution 2004-5, which its proposers intend to move as a substitute for Resolution 2004-4, as described in the Committee's Note preceding it. This Final Report also includes the recommendations of the Committee on Resolutions.

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,

Committee on Resolutions
The Rev'd Dirk C. Reinken
The Rev'd Terence Blackburn
The Rev'd Joan R. Watson
Ms. Margaret Hughes
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller
Mr. John A. Sully
Mr. Paul Ambos, Esq., Chair
Ms. Mary Ann Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

RESOLUTION 2004-1:

Subject: Concerning the World Trade Center Victims

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 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 request 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 an appropriate site to become a part of a memorial that will be built at that 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 George W. Bush, the President of the United States, 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.

I address some of the questions that have been raised:

Is all the ash from the World Trade Center to be relocated?

Once permission is obtained to remove the ashen remains, it would be the intent to remove all of the ashen remains, bone fragments, and decayed tissue which was bull-dozed back into the landfill. The process was a three-stage screen process during the operation of the recovery facility at Fresh Kills. The steel, vehicles were removed first and set aside for salvage. Then the larger pieces of concrete and support steel were removed, the screen process was then performed to identify remains larger than 1¼ inches. The remaining ashen remains, bone fragments, and decaying tissue, then called the "fines", were what was accumulated at the end of the process. Originally family members were told that these remains would be treated with respect and handled properly. There was no notice or permission requested from the families to bulldoze the remains back into the landfill. The Sanitation Department has been slow to identify the exact amount involved; there have been many numbers discussed, which deals with the conversion of tons to cubic yards to a specified depth which varies over the 40 acres.

How are the ashes of victims to be distinguished from other ashes?

The ashen remains are mixed with the concrete dust and construction material after the conclusion of the 3-tier sifting process.

If separation is not feasible, are all ashes to be relocated?

Yes, the intent would be to recover as much of the ashen remains based on how the remains were bulldozed into the landfill. The necessary engineering documentation has not been provided by the Sanitation Department at this date.

How much volume is involved here?

Since the city officials have not released specific information, estimates are broad numbers, estimated to be 1.2 million tons.

How as a practical matter is "a proper burial" to be effected?

A proper burial refers to the element of the grieving process, which the September 11 family members who lost loved ones at the WTC have not yet been provided. Understanding that there were less than 300 whole body recoveries, and at the height of the recovery effort 40,000 body parts had been retrieved for identification, and returned to family members, other family members have received nothing .

Are there health issues involved in removing ashes to some public memorial site?

That is an issue which would be dealt with by the responsible government agencies such as the EPA.

Would not the purposes of burial be served by burial at sea (one traditional form of burial)?

While that is a valid idea, it leaves the families with no place to visit or grieve, just as the landfill.

What precisely are we supposed to be asking the various governmental and religious bodies to whom this is to be sent to do?

The intent is to be a moral statement: that the mortal remains of those whose lives were sacrificed on 9/11/01 should not be in a landfill, unconsecrated ground, with garbage below and above them — that this was an injustice that must be corrected.

To what extent is the diocese being asked to support the agenda of another organization that is not fully disclosed in the resolution language?

The WTCFFPB is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to retrieve the ashen remains from the landfill and provide a proper burial with dignity for those we called heroes two years ago.

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.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

RESOLUTION 2004-2:

Subject: Support of Millennium Development Goals

Whereas, The Episcopal Church in its General Convention has endorsed and embraced the Millennium Development Goals developed by the United Nations for an international effort 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 has urged dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their budgets to fund international outreach efforts to achieve these goals, either through Episcopal Relief and Development (the successor to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief) or through similar organizations (Resolutions A001 and D033 of the 73rd General Convention and Resolution D006 of the 74th General Convention); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey endorse the designation of 0.7% of its diocesan budget for such international outreach efforts to achieve these goals; and be it

Further resolved, That this Convention encourage all congregations in the diocese to designate 0.7% of their own budgets for such international outreach efforts; and be it

Further resolved, That this Convention encourage all congregations to report to the 221st Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, in a manner to be designated by the Bishop, 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 commitment to fund international development aid at 0.7% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 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. GDP.

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.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

RESOLUTION 2004-3:

Proposed Resolution 2004-3 has been withdrawn by the proposers.

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;
5. This Convention pray that our Church will refrain from the blessing of same-sex unions, that may further alienate our Church from the Anglican Communion;
6. This Convention pray that our Church will refrain from the ordination as bishop of persons known to be living in a same-sex relationship, that may further alienate our Church from the Anglican Communion;
7. This Convention support and pray for the work of the Lambeth Commission appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to recommend ways of addressing theological disagreement in the Anglican Communion and preserving the unity of the Communion in the midst of divisions; and
8. This Convention call on the bishops, clergy, and people of this Church, the Primates of the several Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and all our sisters and

brothers throughout the Communion, to pray and labor together to preserve the unity in the faith that is Christ's desire for the Church.

Submitted by: 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.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

RESOLUTION 2004-5:

Note by the Committee on Resolutions: The proposers of Resolution 2004-5 intend to move the following proposal as an amendment by substitution to Resolution 2004-4 on the floor of Convention. The proposers of Resolution 2004-4 at the February 28 hearings modified their original proposal by incorporating the last two paragraphs of Resolution 2004-5, but they otherwise oppose such amendment by substitution and intend to argue against such amendment on the floor of Convention. The Committee on Resolutions has agreed to include this proposal in its report for the information of members of Convention but without taking any position as to the procedures to be decided upon at Convention.

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, Events including the adoption of Resolution 1.10 by the 1998 Lambeth Conference, the consent of the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to the election of the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New Hampshire and his ensuing Consecration, and the declaration by some Primates of the Anglican Communion of "broken" or "impaired" communion between their Provinces and the Episcopal Church, have exposed deep divisions within the Anglican Communion; and

Whereas, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ calls us to be one people through our baptism and our common belief in his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; 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 and unity;
3. It be the desire of this Convention that our Church maintain its membership in the Anglican Communion;
4. This Convention regret the present divisions within the Anglican Communion;
5. This Convention support and pray for the work of the Lambeth Commission appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to recommend ways of addressing theological disagreement in the Anglican Communion and preserving the unity of the Communion in the midst of divisions; and
6. This Convention call on the bishops, clergy and people of this Church, the Primates of the several Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and all our sisters and brothers throughout the Communion, to pray and labor together to preserve the unity in the faith that is Christ's desire for the Church.

Submitted by: The Rev'd Jack Zamboni, Rector of Grace-St. Paul's, Mercerville, and the Rev'd W. Keith McCoy, Deacon, St. John's, Somerville.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2004-5 by the Proposers:

The present divisions in the Anglican Communion are real and troubling, and this Convention should go on record in unambiguous support of our desire for their healing. Resolution 2004-4, however, connects its Support of Membership in the Anglican Communion with support of one particular position in the debates over the sexuality issues that figure so significantly in our divisions. While in the Diocese of New Jersey, as throughout the Episcopal Church, deep disagreement on these issues remains, the Anglican Communion is highly valued by people on all sides of these debates. Resolution 2004-5 gives this Convention the opportunity to speak in support of the unity of the Communion without tying that support to any one of the contested positions that exist among us, and in so doing to demonstrate that our unity in Christ is deeper than whatever disagreements we have.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.