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## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 2006 CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

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The following resolutions were passed at the 2006 Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey. Proposed Resolutions 2006-5 and 2006-6 as contained in the Final Report of the Committee on Resolutions failed of passage. An amendment proposed on the floor to Resolution 2006-3 failed of passage, and the proposed resolution passed as set forth in the Final Report. The Statements in Support by the proposers are included for informational purposes but are not a part of the resolutions as passed (neither, technically, are the "whereas" clauses). The final resolution, which is here numbered 2006-7 for purposes of identification, was not included in the Final Report but was moved from the floor and received the required two-thirds vote of Convention for its consideration. A further resolution failed to receive such two-thirds vote and was not considered.

The following texts are subject to correction by the Committee on Validation of the Minutes, as provided in Canon 6 of the Diocese of New Jersey.

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### **RESOLUTION 2006-1:**

*Subject: Condemnation of Prisoner Abuse*

*Whereas*, There has been a record of abusive treatment in the name of the United States, including treatment causing death, of prisoners taken in the war in Iraq and of other detainees; and

*Whereas*, All Episcopalians in the Baptismal Covenant promise with God's help to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this 222nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey go on record as opposing absolutely and condemning government torture, as defined by the rules of the Geneva Convention and international law, or other abuse of detainees either directly or through agents anywhere in the world, no matter what degree of government justification may be claimed for such conduct; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Secretary of Convention transmit copies of these resolutions to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and New Jersey Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, and to the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church with a request that he forward copies to appropriate bodies of The Episcopal Church; and be it

*Further resolved*, That individuals in this Diocese be encouraged to write to their own elected representatives urging support of the principles of this Resolution.

*Submitted by: The Rev'd Stephen M. Rozzelle, Rector, St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge; Paul Ambos, Christ Church, New Brunswick, and the Rev'd Robert L. Shearer, Interim Vicar, Christ Church, New Brunswick; the Rev'd Gregory A. Bezilla, Chaplain, St. Michael's Chapel, Rutgers University, Piscataway; and the Rev'd George L. Campbell, Rector, Christ Church, South Amboy*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2006-1 by Proposers:*

United States law and international law prohibits degradation, physical abuse, or torture of detainees.

The "McCain-Graham-Warner Anti-Torture Amendment" to the Defense Appropriations Act of 2006 prohibits "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment" of persons in government custody. This law provides that military detainees be interrogated in accordance with the U.S. Army Field Manual on Intelligence Interrogation, which

expressly prohibit acts of violence or intimidation, including physical or mental torture, threats, insults, or exposure to inhumane treatment as a means of or aid to interrogation.

The law is clear:

No individual in the custody or under the physical control of the United States Government, regardless of nationality or physical location, shall be subject to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

In addition, provision is made for judicial review of claimed violations. The President, however, has indicated that the executive branch of government is not bound by this prohibition. His Presidential Signing Statement declared that the executive would "construe" the law as granting no rights to detainees and as not permitting them judicial review or habeas corpus access to the courts.

The *Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*, adopted August 12, 1949, provides:

Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces . . . placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely . . . To this end the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons: (a) Violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; . . . (c) Outrages upon personal dignity, in par-

ticular, humiliating and degrading treatment . . . . (Article 3, Section 1)

No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to any unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind. (Article 17)

Collective punishment for individual acts, corporal punishments, imprisonment in premises without daylight and, in general, any form of torture or cruelty, are forbidden. (Article 87)

Interrogation professionals agree that torture and abuse of prisoners will at best only result in giving the torturers the information the victim thinks they want to hear — not the truth. And those who carry out the degradation and pain end up degrading themselves.

Our Baptismal Covenant commits us to "respect the dignity of every human being". How can we condone the violation of this commitment by those we elect to act on our behalf? Torture and abuse of detainees cannot ever be a sign of the Kingdom, or an expression of God's will.

We strongly urge support of this Resolution.

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## **RESOLUTION 2006-2:**

*Subject: Economic and Social Disparities*

*Whereas*, Fifteen percent of the world's population owns 79 percent of the wealth, while the other 85 percent is left with only 21 percent of the wealth; absolute poverty punishes 1.3 billion people, who have to survive on less than a dollar a day; and

*Whereas*, Hunger is today more than ever the "silent bomb" and the most mortal; 25 children die of hunger every minute — 13 million each year; and

*Whereas*, Discrimination against women continues to grow at the beginning of the new millennium, such that of every 100 hours of work around the world, 67 are done by women, but only 4 percent of wealth is in their hands; the participation of women in decisionmaking is no more than 4 percent; 66 percent of illiterate persons are women; and

*Whereas*, The First World invests in the developing countries some 50 billion dollars a year, but it profits more than 500 billion dollars a year from those countries; and

*Whereas*, Eighteen percent of humanity consumes 80 percent of all available energy; in two years not a single tree would remain on the planet if the whole world consumed the amount of paper that the United States (which represents only 6 percent of the world's population) consumes; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this 222nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey declare that these global economic and social disparities are unacceptable in light of the Gospel and further that their presence is a reflection both of institutional and personal sin; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Diocese of New Jersey encourage all of its members to reflect upon these tragic inequalities and how they benefit by their continuance, to use all appropriate means to work for economic justice both in the world and within our nation, and to proclaim in word and deed a vision of economic and social equality that witnesses to the fact that it is not God's will that few have much and the majority nothing, and that all people are dear to their Creator; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Diocese of New Jersey endeavor to address the global reality of economic and social inequality and our participation in that reality by including it as a subject in any stewardship or Christian education programs that the Diocese or its constituent members might develop; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Diocese of New Jersey pledge itself and call upon its members to embrace a greater simplicity of life by the avoidance of conspicuous consumption, which offends and demeans those who are not in possession of material goods or resources and which contributes to economic injustice and social inequality; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Diocese encourage each of its members to a responsible use of material goods to the end that it might make an effective witness to the coming Reign of God, where all will have enough and none too little.

*Submitted by: The Rev'd Dr. Harry B. Hayden, Rector, St. John the Evangelist Church, New Brunswick*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2006-2 by Proposer:*

The facts recited above are taken from *God's Economy*, edited by Ross and Gloria Kinsler (Orbis Press 2005).

The tragic results of natural and human-caused disaster, which have been experienced by rich and poor these past few years, have caused light to shine on something that perhaps we have chosen to ignore: the social and economic disparities that are part of this world.

The proponent of this resolution believes that racism, sexual, and cultural discrimination, and all the rest, cannot be effectively challenged until and unless the underlying evils of economic and social injustice be addressed.

This motion makes no claim that it will substantially "cure" the disease that pervades our world, but it is made with the belief that, recognizing and naming the evil, committing ourselves to resist the evil, having a vision of the Kingdom that excludes the evil and witnesses to another reality, is an import and vital first step. This motion asks that the Diocese of New Jersey make this all-important first step.

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### **RESOLUTION 2006-3:**

*Subject: Inclusiveness*

*Be it Resolved*, That the Diocese of New Jersey, at its 222nd Convention and in order to more fully realize the promises contained in our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace among all peoples and respect the dignity of every human being," affirm that it is a welcoming diocese for all people, and that no condition or requirement, either overt or implied, based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other category of National Canon III.1.2, be permitted for any church-related position or other program of this Diocese, including all clerical offices throughout the Diocese, whether elected or appointed, as well as all positions held by lay persons within any mission, parish, or other organization of this Diocese; and be it

*Further resolved*, That this declaration be read at all convocations of this Diocese during the coming year and that attendees be provided with printed copies of this resolution and urged to make their congregations aware of its contents; and be it

*Further resolved*, That a copy of this resolution, or similar affirmation, be placed prominently on the diocesan web page.

*Submitted by: The Rev'd Cy Deavours, Deacon, St. John's Church, Elizabeth*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2006-3 by Proposer:*

Full inclusion is a matter of justice and echoes the Biblical injunction that whosoever loves God must love his neighbor also (1 John 4:21). Fairness in issues of race, gender, and sexual orientation are a vital concern to the health of our diocese, our church, and our nation. So important are these issues that the national Episcopal Church, in its canon *Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons*, provides (Canon III.1.2):

No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons.

The Episcopal Church in its national office maintains a staff position of Social Justice Officer to deal with these and other justice-related concerns.

While no open restrictions are usually placed on positions in the diocese, the lack of diversity in matters of race, gender, and sexual orientation is apparent within some parishes and points to the fact that many people whose race, gender, or orientation is not that of the majority may feel unwelcome or uneasy in our churches and diocesan organizations, particularly when these organizations are led by noninclusive groupings of individuals. Therefore, we must, at the very least, keep our intentions of inclusiveness before our eyes as a goal to be desired. We must acknowledge that racism, sexism, and homophobia exist both in our society and in our church. We can, however, hold the ideal of being an inclusive diocese.

This declaration affirms our resolve, as committed Christians, to provide for equity in our treatment of all people who serve God in this diocese.

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#### **RESOLUTION 2006-4:**

*Subject: On the Windsor Report*

*Resolved*, That the 222nd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey acknowledge with gratitude the conscientious efforts of the Lambeth Commission on Communion, reflected in *The Windsor Report 2004*; and be it

*Further resolved*, That this Diocesan Convention urge the clergy, laity, and congregations of the Diocese to give thoughtful and prayerful study to *The Windsor Report*, its recommendations, and the varied responses already made to it; and be it

*Further resolved*, That this Diocesan Convention encourage all Episcopalians to engage in honest conversation on the issues involved; and be it

*Further resolved*, That this Diocesan Convention encourage members of the Diocese to communicate their views on the issues to the Clergy and Lay Deputies to the 2006 General Convention.

*Submitted by: The Rev'd Frank B. Crumbaugh, III, Rector, Holy Innocents' Church, Beach Haven; the Rev'd Gregory A. Bezilla, Chaplain, St. Michael's Chapel, Rutgers University,*

*Piscataway; the Rev'd Lisa S. Mitchell, Rector, Christ Church, Shrewsbury; the Rev'd Ronald N. Pollock, Rector, St. John's Church, Somerville; and the Rev'd Terry Martin, Vicar, Church of the Holy Spirit, Tuckerton*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2006-4 by Proposers:*

The Archbishop of Canterbury established the Lambeth Commission on Communion in October 2003, requesting "consideration of ways in which communion and understanding could be enhanced where serious differences threatened the life of a diverse worldwide Church." The Report of the Commission, entitled The Windsor Report, is significant in its contribution to the ongoing conversations about the present and future of the Anglican Communion.

The Windsor Report has many ideas and proposals which may affect our common life together as Anglicans. These ideas and proposals are the beginning of a conversation regarding the future of Anglicanism. They are not necessarily the final word. They need to be thoughtfully and prayerfully considered before being accepted or rejected.

Responses to the Windsor Report and its recommendations have been made by scholars in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. We recommend the following responses as resources to inform the conversation among the members of the Diocese of New Jersey: *Understanding the Windsor Report*, by Ian Douglas and Paul Zahl (Church Publishing Inc. 2005); *The Anglican Theological Review*, Fall 2005, Vol. 87, No. 4 (Ellen Wondra, ed.); *"To Set Our Hope on Christ": A Response to the Invitation of Windsor Report ¶ 135* (<http://www.anglicanlistening.org>).

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**RESOLUTION 2006-7:**

*Subject: The Right Rev'd George E. Councill, Bishop of New Jersey*

*Resolved, That this 222nd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey express its gratitude for the faithful and passionate ministry and leadership of our bishop, the Right Reverend George E. Councill, and pledge to continue to offer him our prayers and support.*

*Submitted by: The Rev'd Terry Martin, Vicar, Church of the Holy Spirit, Tuckerton*