

2007 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

The Committee on Resolutions received three proposed resolutions prior to the January 16, 2007 deadline for submissions, one of which was subsequently withdrawn. It received another proposal after the deadline and after distribution of the Preliminary Report of the Committee, which proposal is added to this report for informational purposes. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at Diocesan House. In the course of the hearings, some proposers made changes from the proposals as contained in the Preliminary Report. In addition, the Committee has inserted the text of General Convention resolutions referred to by the proposers. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report and 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 Terry Martin
Ms. Margaret Hughes
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller
Mr. John A. Sully
Paul Ambos, Esq., Chair
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

RESOLUTION 2007-1:

Subject: Restorative Justice

Be It Resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey adhere to Resolution A127 (Restorative Justice) and Resolution A123 (Slavery and Racial Reconciliation) of the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 2006, which asks dioceses to "conduct truth and reconciliation processes in regard to other histories and legacies of racial discrimination and oppression that may be applicable in their geographic area, while not diminishing the strong call to focus on the history and legacy of slavery" and to give a "progress report" to the Anti-Racism Committee of the Executive Council (A127); and be it

Further resolved, That the Bishop of this Diocese in consultation with the diocesan Anti-Racism Commission appoint a committee, as may seem appropriate to them, which shall be known as the Taskforce on Restorative Justice to research, to document, and to provide the written reports as required by Resolutions A123 and A127, said reports to

trace the historical involvement of this Diocese and geographical area in the institution of slavery and the economic benefits realized due to that involvement; and be it

Further resolved, That preparation of the reports should include at least one public forum and that copies of a progress report be made publicly available by the 2008 Convention of the Diocese; and be it

Further resolved, That these reports detail post-slavery issues of discrimination and societal privilege due to the legacy of slavery in this Diocese and this geographical area; and be it

Further resolved, That the diocesan progress report, having been reviewed by the diocesan Anti-Racism Commission and presented at the Diocesan Convention of 2008, then be submitted to the Executive Council of the Church as directed by Resolution A127.

Submitted by: The Anti-Racism Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey: The Rev'd Terrence W. Rosheuvel, Chair, the Rev'd Joan E. Fleming, the Rev'd Andrea R. Hayden, the Rev'd Dr. Francisco Pozo, the Rev'd Peter K. Stimpson, the Rev'd John C. Thompson-Quartey, the Rev'd Dr. Stephen L. White, Ms. Barbara Okamoto Bach, Ms. Annette Buchanan, and Mr. Charles Hughes; also co-sponsored by Ms. Noreen Duncan and Mr. Reginald Whitman, Co-Chairs of the Diocesan Anti-Racism Team.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2007-1 by Proposers:

This resolution follows the directives of The Episcopal Church contained in Resolutions A123 and A127 (2006). Slavery and its legacy are a major issue of social justice and moral substance for the citizens of this country and, in particular, for the members of this church body due to our baptismal covenant. The perpetuation of the institution of slavery was supported and enforced for many years by the governments, national and state, and by many people of this land. No compensation or other type of remuneration was ever granted or allowed to those held in bondage for their labor and contributions to this society.

The legacy of slavery has continued to this day and manifests itself in generational lack of opportunity, education, and discrimination for those who are descendants of the slaves. American society has paid, and continues to pay, a great price for this injustice, which has inflicted so much harm upon an innocent people and their descendants. This resolution calls upon this Diocese to recognize these facts and to work towards a healing and restorative process of reconciliation.

Addendum by Committee on Resolutions: *Text of General Convention 2006 Resolutions referred to above:*

A123 (as passed)

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery in the United States and anywhere else in the world, based as it is on "ownership" of some persons by other persons, was and is a sin and a fundamental betrayal of the humanity of all persons who were involved, a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our

culture; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participation in this sin and the deep and lasting injury which the institution of slavery and its aftermath have inflicted on society and on the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our most profound regret that (a) The Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture, and (b) after slavery was formally abolished, The Episcopal Church continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church apologize for its complicity in and the injury done by the institution of slavery and its aftermath; we repent of this sin and ask God's grace and forgiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church through the Executive Council urgently initiate a comprehensive program and urge every Diocese to collect and document during the next triennium detailed information in its community on (a) the complicity of The Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery and in the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination and (b) the economic benefits The Episcopal Church derived from the institution of slavery; and direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to monitor this program and report to Executive Council each year by March 31 on the progress in each Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That to enable us as people of God to make a full, faithful and informed accounting of our history, the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to study and report to Executive Council by March 31, 2008, which in turn will report to the 76th General Convention, on how the Church can be "the repairer of the breach" (Isaiah 58:12), both materially and relationally, and achieve the spiritual healing and reconciliation that will lead us to a new life in Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That to mark the commencement of this program the Presiding Bishop is requested to name a Day of Repentance and on that day to hold a Service of Repentance at the National Cathedral, and each Diocese is requested to hold a similar service.

A127 (as passed)

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse the principles of restorative justice, an important tool in implementing a neutral articulation of the self-examination and amendment of life that is required to fulfill our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th Convention, in support of and to enhance Resolution A123, call upon the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council to design a study and dialogue process and materials in order to engage the people of The Episcopal Church in storytelling about historical and present-day privilege and under-privilege as well as discernment towards restorative justice and the call to fully live into our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That in the spirit of inclusion, dioceses also be invited to determine whether their call is to conduct truth and reconciliation processes in regard to other histories and legacies of racial discrimination and oppression that may be applicable in their geographic area, while not diminishing the strong call to focus on the history and legacy of slavery; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses will give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee. The Anti-Racism Committee will report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Commission on National Concerns and to Executive Council and to the 76th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church hold before itself the vision of a Church without racism; a Church for all races.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

RESOLUTION 2007-2:

Subject: Expression of Gratitude and Regret

Be it Resolved, That this 223rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey acknowledge deep respect and gratitude to the Deputies to the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church who prayerfully struggled in conscience with their vote on Resolution B033 (On Election of Bishops); and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey, mindful of our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all peoples and respect the dignity of every human being," express deep regret for the pain and anguish suffered by our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, their families, and friends, because of the adoption of Resolution B033; and be it

Further resolved, That the people of the Diocese of New Jersey continue to offer forgiveness to each other and to others in the world-wide Anglican Communion as we seek to enter into deeper levels of communion with one another.

Submitted by: The Oasis Taskforce of the Diocese of New Jersey: The Rev'd Cipher Deavours, Dcn., St. John's Church, Elizabeth (taskforce co-leader); the Rev'd Teresa Suruda, Dcn., Trinity Church, Matawan (taskforce co-leader); the Rev'd Cornelia P. Spoor, Dcn., Grace-St. Paul's Church, Mercerville; the Rev'd Eric Brechner, St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, Gibbsboro; the Rev'd Robert L. Counselman, Trinity Church, Woodbridge; the Rev'd Susan B. P. Norris, Grace-St. Paul's Church, Mercerville; the Rev'd Mark H. Chattin, Holy Trinity Church, Collingswood; the Rev'd Dr. Patrick R. Close, Grace Church, Haddonfield; Mr. Louis A. Cavaliere, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Lumberton; and Mr. Theodore A. Foley, St. Peter's Church, Spotswood.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2007-2 by Proposers:

Last year this convention passed Resolution 2006-3 (Inclusiveness), affirming that "it is a welcoming diocese for all people, and that no condition or requirement, either overt or implied, based on race, gender, or sexual orientation, be permitted for any church-related position or other program of this Diocese, including all clerical offices throughout the Diocese". The adoption of this resolution was indeed good news to our LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex) brothers and sisters and to all those who stand by their side in their struggle for justice in society and the church.

Last year this convention also passed Resolution 2006-4 (On the Windsor Report). The statement in support of this resolution explained that, "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."

In June of last year the 75th triennial General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted several resolutions to further signal the intentions of The Episcopal Church to remain within the Anglican Communion. Resolution A160 (Expression of Regret) was adopted to express "regret for straining the bonds of affection in the events surrounding the General Convention of 2003 and the consequences which followed". Resolution A165 (Commitment to Windsor and Listening Processes) was also adopted and commits The Episcopal Church to "a process of discernment as to the nature and unity of the Church".

In addition to the above resolutions the General Convention was also asked to respond to the suggestion of the Windsor Report to "effect a moratorium on the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate who is living in a same-gender union until some new consensus in the Anglican Communion emerges". Resolution A161 (Election of Bishops) was one proposed response to the Windsor Report. However, this resolution was rejected by the Convention. After a great deal of prayer and discussion Resolution B033, calling for "restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion," was passed by the Convention.

The proposers of this resolution acknowledge how difficult it must have been for some to vote in favor of B033. We understand that many had voted for B033 as a relinquishment so that "our 26th Presiding Bishop and our members of the Anglican Consultative Council [may] have an opportunity to be at the table, to engage in those conversations" to take place in the Anglican Communion (Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold's address to the General Convention, June 21, 2006). We are grateful to all of the delegates for their hard work and prayerful consideration of their voting decisions.

However, it must be recognized that, in the attempt to avoid "further strains on the communion," the passage of B033 by The Episcopal Church has inflicted a great deal of pain and anguish on gays, lesbians, their families, and friends. To many, B033 is a continuation of the injustices that are so often inflicted by society at large.

For the sake of those who have experienced this pain, we strongly support this resolution.

Addendum by Committee on Resolutions: *Text of General Convention 2006 Resolutions referred to above:*

A160 (as passed)

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, mindful of "the repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation enjoined on us by Christ" (Windsor Report, paragraph 134), express its regret for straining the bonds of affection in the events surrounding the General Convention of 2003 and the consequences which followed; offer its sincerest apology to those within our Anglican Communion who are offended by our failure to accord sufficient importance to the impact of our actions on our church and other parts of the Communion; and ask forgiveness as we seek to live into deeper levels of communion one with another.

A165 (as passed)

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend the Windsor Report "as offering a way forward for the mutual life of our Communion" (Primates' Communiqué), and as an essential and substantive contribution to the process of living into deeper levels of communion and interdependence across the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to the ongoing "Windsor Process," a process of discernment as to the nature and unity of the Church, as we pursue a common life of dialogue, listening, and growth, formed and informed by the bonds of communion we share; and urge all members of this Church to commit themselves to the call of greater communion and interdependent life; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commend the "listening process" as recommended in the Windsor Report, "so that greater common understanding might be obtained on the underlying issue of same gender relationships" (Windsor Report, ¶135); and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention gratefully acknowledge the practical steps taken by the Anglican Communion Office to begin a formal "listening process" across the Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit this Church to participating fully and openly in this "listening process," both at the local level and with the rest of the Communion (ACC 13, Resolution 12); and be it further

Resolved, That a staff person at The Episcopal Church Center be identified to forward this "listening process" in coordination with the cognate person for the Communion and with our Communion partners.

A161 (as proposed and amended) (not passed by both Houses of Convention)

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, that the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church regrets the extent to which we have, by action and inaction, contributed to strains on communion and caused deep offense to many faithful Anglican Christians as we consented to the consecration of a bishop living openly in a same-gender union. Accordingly, we are obliged to urge nominating committees, electing conventions, Standing Committees, and bishops with jurisdiction to refrain from the nomination, election, consent to, and consecration of bishops whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion; and be it further

*Resolved that this General Convention not proceed to develop or authorize Rites for the Blessing of same-sex unions at this time, thereby concurring with the Windsor Report in its exhortation to bishops of the Anglican Communion to honor the Primates' Pastoral Letter of May 2003; and be it further Resolved that this General Convention affirm the need to maintain a breadth of responses to situations of pastoral care for gay and lesbian Christians in this Church.
Resolved that this General Convention apologize to those gay and lesbian Episcopalians and their supporters hurt by these decisions.*

B033 (as passed)

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention receive and embrace The Windsor Report's invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.

Note from the Committee: The following proposal was received after the deadline set forth in the Rules of Order for submissions to the Committee on Resolutions and has only been reviewed as to form. It may be come before Convention only upon a two-thirds prior consent for its consideration.

RESOLUTION 2007-3:

Subject: Support of Clergy

Be it Resolved, That all active clergy in the Diocese of New Jersey be encouraged to participate regularly in an ongoing colleague support group, and to secure a spiritual director for regular meetings.

Submitted by: The Watchung Convocation Clericus: The Rev'd Harry Mazujian, Calvary Church, Flemington; the Rev'd Ronald N. Pollock, St. John's Church, Somerville; the Rev'd Dr. Edward J. Murphy, St. Paul's Church, Bound Brook; the Rev'd Joanna D. Graham, St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge; the Rev'd Carol Horton, St. Thomas' Church, Alexandria; the Rev'd Bruce Montgomery, St. Martin's Church, Bridgewater; the Rev'd Nancy Hite Speck, St. Mark's Church, Basking Ridge; and the Rev'd Margaret R. Hodgkins, St. Andrew's Church, New Providence.

Statement in Support of Resolution 2007-3 by Proposers:

Active clergy need support in their ministry. While clergy wellness is a complex issue, we are aware of colleagues and acquaintances who have experienced burn-out, vocational doldrums, conflicts within parish or dioceses that have or might lead to people leaving parish ministry, financial woes, needs for therapy, physical ill health, stress-related

illnesses, family difficulties, inappropriate behavior, and more. This resolution seeks to address the emotional and spiritual needs of clergy who, because of the intense caregiving demands of their calling, often have difficulty with their own self-care. For deacons, priests, and bishops, who are leaders in prayer, it is important they be held accountable to a spiritual director for their own personal prayer life. Healthy boundaries with parishioners are more likely to be sustained if clergy share work or personal issues with professional colleagues. The encouragement by the diocese to seek spiritual and collegial support may help alleviate some of the pressures of sustained clerical ministry.

This proposal was submitted after the deadline in the Rules of Order due to concerns recently brought to the attention of the proposers.

Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:

The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.