

1
2
3 **Resolution 162-A**
4 **Memorializing the 78th General Convention**
5 **to promote multi-faith knowledge among lay and ordained Church leaders**

6 BE IT RESOLVED, that the 162nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa send this
7 Memorial to the 78th General Convention:

8 A Memorial calling for materials and programs to be developed for multi-faith education for
9 Episcopal clergy and lay leaders

10
11 To the Deputies and Bishops in the Episcopal Church assembled at the 78th General Convention:

12
13 As many of our communities are becoming more religiously and culturally diverse, Episcopal
14 clergy can inadvertently bear false witness against one or more other religions by their teaching
15 and preaching. The potential to give offense is particularly acute regarding Jews and Judaism;
16 because many Scripture passages heard in church on Sundays characterize Jews as Jesus'
17 opponents, or Judaism as a contrast for Christianity's virtues. No other people or religion is
18 singled out this way. But our concern for better knowledge about other religions does not stop
19 with Judaism.

20
21 Basic interfaith knowledge is essential, and ever more urgent. We want to assure that the church
22 is hospitable to visitors and spiritual seekers who come from diverse backgrounds, and to
23 interfaith families, so we don't diminish the church's credibility for a generation of seekers
24 coming of age in culturally diverse communities. Recent scholarly studies, both historical and
25 theological, are changing the way the Church views a number of other religions. Therefore
26 within the next triennium we would like to see basic educational resources creatively developed,
27 similar to what was developed for Anti-Racism and Safe Church training, for all clergy active in
28 ministry, and all diocesan and parochial lay leaders, with refresher education at regular intervals.

29
30 Better knowledge can help us work collaboratively across interfaith lines in our neighborhoods
31 and communities. It expresses our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being.
32 Our sponsorship of this Memorial is evidence of Church-wide concern for this matter. With hope
33 and trust,

34
35 Respectfully submitted,
36 The 162nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa

37
38 *Submitted to the 162nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa by The Rev. Margaret Weiner*

39
40 **RATIONALE:**

41
42 To respect the dignity of every human being, and to avoid bearing false witness against our
43 neighbors, and to reduce inter-religious tension, we would like a one-day training to be
44 developed that addresses the following matters:

- 45 * Correcting stereotypes about other religions
46 * Conveying recent historical and theological scholarship about Jews and Judaism

- 47 * Correcting church teachings on Jews and Judaism
48 * Giving references and resources for more accurate Bible translations

49

50 Statement of Requirement to Implement the Resolution

51 The Secretary of the IA Diocesan Convention must promptly certify the passage of the Memorial
52 at the October 24-25, 2014 convention, and forward this to the Executive office of the General
53 Convention Staff: Marian Conboy Executive Assistant/Deputy for Legislation, Email:

54 mconboy@episcopalchurch.org

55 Phone: (212) 716-6205

56

57 Additional information

58 The categories of people and entities which can sign or endorse a Memorial like this include
59 dioceses, provinces, bishops, deputies, and committees, commissions, agencies, and boards.

60

61 Explanation

62 Deputies and bishops at General Convention may sign any number of Memorials. That does not
63 affect the limit which does exist on the number of resolutions which they may sign. They may
64 only sign three resolutions at each General Convention.