



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE GENERAL CONVENTION

January 11, 2016

Dear Diocesan Bishops and Secretaries to Diocesan Convention,

It is a requirement of Canon I.1.1 (e) that I give notice to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Church in every Diocese, as well as to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, whenever any alteration of the Book of Common Prayer or of the Constitution is proposed. The 78th General Convention proposed three changes to the Constitution. It is your duty to make known such proposed alterations to the Convention of your Diocese and to certify that such action has been taken.

To facilitate this, I am sending the following:

- Proposed revisions to the Constitution to be read by the Secretary to his/her Diocesan Convention preceding a final vote by the 79th General Convention.
- The complete texts of “Actions of the 78th General Convention Referred to Dioceses and Congregations.” These are concurred resolutions referred to dioceses, diocesan bodies or congregations for action, consideration and information.
- A two part response form to be returned to the Secretary of the General Convention. Part One is to be returned once the proposed revisions of the Constitution have been read at Diocesan Convention. Part Two is to be returned when all referred legislation has been considered.

The deadline for submission is **December 1, 2017** so that responses may be reported to the Executive Council and included in their Blue Book report to the 79th General Convention. For the first time, we are offering the option of responding online. If you wish to do so, you can complete Part One here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/read-res> and Part Two here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/referred-res>.

If you prefer to complete the form manually or electronically, please return by mail to Secretary of General Convention, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017, by fax to 212 972-9322 or by e-mail to gcsecretary@episcopalchurch.org. All information and links will be available on the General Convention website, www.generalconvention.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Marian Conboy, Deputy for Legislation, at mconboy@episcopalchurch.org or by telephone at 212 716-6205.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this important reporting requirement.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe
Secretary of General Convention

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER



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THE GENERAL CONVENTION

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER

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DIOCESE _____

**RESOLUTIONS REGARDING PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The following Constitutional amendments shall be read by the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention preceding the final vote at the 79th General Convention in 2018, such reading to be certified by the Diocesan Convention with the Secretary of the General Convention.

RES. #	TITLE	DATES PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WERE READ AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION
B011	Amend Article II.7	
D003	Amend Article V	
D008	Amend Article I.1	

Report prepared by _____

Signature _____ Date _____

This form should be completed and returned to the Executive Office of the General Convention after the next Diocesan Convention. It should be returned no later than **December 1, 2017**.

Mail to:
The Secretary of the General Convention
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Or
gcsecretary@episcopalchurch.org

DIOCESE _____

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR ACTION OR CONSIDERATION*To be reported to Executive Council before December 1, 2017*

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR ACTION				
RES. #	TITLE	ACTION COMPLETED	ACTION ONGOING	NO ACTION
A011	Recommit to Criminal Justice Reform Study and Advocacy			
A013	Continue Financial Support for Global Missions, YASC and Episcopal volunteers in Mission			
A018	Encourage Interfaith Engagement			
A024	Direct Dioceses to Examine the Impact of the Doctrine of Discovery			
A033	Support Latinas in Ordained Ministry			
A037	Continue Work of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage			
A073	Update Model Policies for Preventing Sexual Misconduct			
A074	Update the Safeguarding Materials			
A080	Affirm Confirmation as Formation			
A159	The Role of the Church in the Culture of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse			
C031	In Support of Diocesan Mergers			
D061	Task Force for Scholarships for Undocumented Youth			

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION				
RES. #	TITLE	CONSIDERED (COMPLETED)	ONGOING	NOT CONSIDERED
A001	Restructure for Spiritual Encounter			
A012	Continue Funding of Mission Enterprise Zones			
A014	Celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development's 75 Years of Healing a Hurting World			
A021	Continue Our Commitment of 0.7% of the Millennium Development Goals			
A026	Develop Local Models of Establishing Young Men's Ministries in Indigenous Congregations			
A034	Support Latinas in Lay Ministry			
A051	Support LGBT African Advocacy			
A072	Develop Awareness of the Five Marks of Mission			
A075	Develop Awareness of Online Christian Formation Resources			
A076	Commend Use of Christian Formation Certifications			
A078	Reaffirm The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation			

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION				
RES. #	TITLE	CONSIDERED (COMPLETED)	ONGOING	NOT CONSIDERED
A090	Amend Canon III.8.6(g) Preparation for Ordination			
A091	Affirm Work for Food Ministries and Food Security			
A096	Affirm Relationship- Based Social Justice			
A102	Amend Canon III.12.4(a)			
A112	Encourage Support for YASC and EVIM			
A115	Amend Title III.12.9: Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation Between a Bishop and Diocese			
A120	Amend Canon III.7 to Add 7.11; Amend Canon III.9, to Add 9.12, and Renumber 9.12 and 9.13; and Amend Canon III.12, to Add 12.8 and Renumber 12.8, 12.9, and 12.10			
A158	Task Force to Review and Revise Policy on substance abuse, addiction and recovery			
A176	Humanitarian Relief in Liberia			
A179	Commending Memorial V to The Episcopal Church: A Call to Action			
A182	Using Education, Community Dialogue			

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION				
RES. #	TITLE	CONSIDERED (COMPLETED)	ONGOING	NOT CONSIDERED
	and Internal Audit to Respond to All Forms of Racial Injustice			
A183	Recommended Book Study of the Triennium: "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander (2010/2012)			
Bo07	Participation in the Bible in the Life of the Church Project of the Anglican Communion			
Bo08	Support Handgun Purchase Licensing			
Bo18	Support for Sudan and South Sudan			
Co14	Commend Charter for Compassion			
Co18	Pursue Justice, Peace and Security in the Holy Land			
Co20	Ministry to People with Mental Illness and Their Families			
Co37	Sponsoring and Supporting Scouting Units			
Co45	Environmentally Responsible Investing			
Do07	Amend Canon III.2.1 and Canon III.12.4(a)			
Do14	Question Ordinands About Addiction			
Do15	Encouraging Advocacy for Hunger Relief			
Do30	Establish Parental Leave Policy			
Do34	Affirmation and			

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION				
RES. #	TITLE	CONSIDERED (COMPLETED)	ONGOING	NOT CONSIDERED
	Support of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990			
D045	Support For Men's Ministry			
D073	Supporting Home and Community Based Services			
D077	Uniting Families			
D079	Education for Undocumented Families			

Report prepared by_____

Signature_____Date_____

This form should be completed and returned to the Executive Office of the General Convention no later than **December 1, 2017**.

Mail to: The Secretary of the General Convention
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Or by email to
gcsecretary@episcopalchurch.org



THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION
815 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

**RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES
FROM THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION**
January 1, 2016

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, FIRST READING

The following Constitutional amendments shall be read by the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention preceding the final vote at the 79th General Convention in 2018, such reading to be certified by the Diocesan Convention with the Secretary of the General Convention.

Bo11: Amend Article II.7

Resolved, That the Constitution of the General Convention (2012) Article II.7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7. ~~It shall be lawful for~~ The House of Bishops ~~to~~ may elect a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop Suffragan who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of ~~those persons of this Church who serve as chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, and such other agencies as may be specified by the Presiding Bishop.~~ The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop Suffragan so elected shall be ordained and consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. ~~The Suffragan Bishop shall be eligible for election as Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop of a Diocese.~~

Do03: Amend Article V

Resolved, That Article V, Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority for that purpose; or, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese. ~~In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.~~ After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have

been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

Doo8: Amend Article I.1

Resolved, That Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. *There shall be a General Convention of this Church, consisting of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, which Houses will sit, debate, and vote separately, unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution or the Canons. The Houses by majority vote of each House may call for the Houses to sit, debate, and vote, or any combination thereof, together. The General Convention may by Canon establish procedures for such sessions. In all deliberations freedom of debate shall be allowed. Either House may originate and propose legislation, and all acts of the Convention shall be adopted and be authenticated by both Houses.*

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR ACTION

The following resolutions adopted by both Houses of the 78th General Convention call for appropriate action by dioceses, diocesan committee(s), or congregations.

A011: Recommit to Criminal Justice Reform Study and Advocacy

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention acknowledges that implicit racial bias and racial profiling result in a criminal justice system that disproportionately incarcerates people of color damaging individuals, families, and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention challenges The Episcopal Church at every level to commit mindfully and intentionally to dismantling our current mass incarceration system; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urges the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and the Office of Governmental Relations of The Episcopal Church to advocate publicly for changes in Federal policies that perpetuate the mass incarceration system; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage each congregation and Diocese to undertake at least one specific initiative aimed at addressing the destructive consequences of the mass incarceration system. These initiatives include such possibilities as:

1. Advocating for alternatives to incarceration for those who are addicted, and increased funding for treatment programs;
2. Advocating for alternatives to incarceration for those who are mentally ill, and increased funding for treatment programs;
3. Advocating for protection of the civil rights and provision of appropriate support and accommodation for people with disabilities who are arrested and incarcerated;
4. Advocating for funding for job training and apprentice programs for those who are at risk of incarceration and those who are formerly released from prison;

5. Working with local businesses to create pathways to living wage jobs for formerly incarcerated people;
6. Establishing mentoring and accompaniment programs for those leaving prison;
7. Advocating for the repeal of mandatory-minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses;
8. Calling for the abolition of the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder-cocaine offenses and, as an intermediate step, urging the U.S. Congress, in accordance with the recommendation of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, to make retroactive the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act, which reduces the disparity in sentencing from previous levels;
9. Advocating to eliminate “three strikes” sentencing protocols;
10. Joining local “Ban the Box” campaigns to remove questions about arrest records in on-line and written job application forms;
11. Opposing the creation of “for profit” prisons and immigration detention centers, and, where they exist, organizing against guaranteed nightly numbers of prisoners and detainees, and advocate for access to education and rehabilitation programs for those being incarcerated or detained;
12. Reforming monetary bail bond systems, which rely upon often-unlicensed and unregulated bail bond agents and on conditioning release from pre-trial incarceration solely on the ability to pay;
13. Advocating for immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison; and
14. Calling for the exploration and creation of restorative justice programs to transform juvenile justice systems; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that each Diocese report back to the 79th General Convention on the initiatives engaged at congregational and Diocesan levels.

A013: Continue Financial Support for Global Missions, Young Adult Service Corps and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission Missionaries

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the growing success of the work of Global Missions, especially the global networks, relationships, and spiritual developments seen in programs like the Young Adult Service Corps and the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention, in showing our continued support to be a mission-based church firmly grounded in the work of global mission, call upon Executive Council to work to increase the opportunities for global mission through such programs as Young Adult Service Corps and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, through budgetary means as available so that opportunities for global mission are increased, diversified, and prioritized by the 79th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention call upon every diocese to explore the opportunities for global mission work and encourage as many people as possible to apply for, attend, and complete a mission assignment as made available by these programs.

A018: Encourage Interfaith Engagement

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and provinces to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the *Statement on Interreligious Relations*

(<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/general-convention-2009-statement-interreligious-relations>) and enact programs and ministries that implement its principles using a variety of resources, starting with *Towards our Mutual Flourishing* (http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/tomf_booklet_5.5_x_8.5_v10.pdf) and such other resources as dioceses and provinces may find useful; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage dioceses and provinces to include an interreligious component in their Christian formation programs for the laity such as Christian education for children, youth and adults, curricula in Episcopal schools, confirmation curricula, Lenten study programs, and forums for their wider communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge that for clergy development, dioceses and provinces include interreligious competency in continuing education programs, Commissions on Ministry's formation requirements, clergy days and retreats, and other clergy gatherings; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly encourage Diocesan Bishops to appoint and Diocesan Conventions to authorize the financial support of a Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer (EDEIO) who will be responsible for insuring engagement with the *Statement on Interreligious Relations* and the development of programs to increase interreligious literacy and engagement.

A024: Direct Dioceses to Examine the Impact of the Doctrine of Discovery

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in accordance with our Baptismal Covenant and in the spirit of being inclusive, reaffirm and renew the directive to all dioceses, made by the 76th and 77th General Conventions, to examine the impact, including acts of racial discrimination, racial profiling, and other race-based acts of oppression, that the repudiated Doctrine of Discovery, as well as the related Doctrine of Manifest Destiny, has had on all people, especially on people of color and indigenous peoples.

A033: Support Latinas in Ordained Ministry

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Missioner for Hispanic/Latino Ministries to work with the Justice and Advocacy Ministries office, and diocesan and provincial multicultural missioners, to discern and recommend steps to empower Latinas for ordained leadership in the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Missioner for Hispanic/Latino Ministries to work with the Office of Transition Ministries, the Office of Justice and Advocacy Ministries, and diocesan and provincial multicultural missioners to review canons, policies, and practices related to the formation and ordination processes and to eliminate gender and cultural biases that mitigate against the ordination of Latinas; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to allocate \$10,000 for the triennium to seed the development of ordained Latina leadership..

A037: Continue Work of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention requests dioceses and parishes use the study materials on marriage provided in the last triennium by the Task Force on the Study of Marriage, namely the “Dearly Beloved” toolkit and the appended essays in their Blue Book report to this Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to appoint jointly an expanded Task Force on the Study of Marriage to continue this work, consisting of not more than 15 people, including theologians, ethicists, pastors, liturgists, and educators, who represent the cultural and theological diversity in the Church; membership should include some of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage appointed in 2012, some from dioceses outside the United States, and young adults; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force explore further those contemporary trends and norms identified by the Task Force on the Study of Marriage in the previous triennium, specifically regarding those who choose to remain single; unmarried persons in intimate relationships; couples who cohabitate either in preparation for, or as an alternative to, marriage; couples who desire a blessing from the Church but not marriage; parenting by single or and/or unmarried persons; differing forms of family and household such as those including same-sex parenting, adoption, and racial diversity; and differences in marriage patterns between ethnic and racial groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force consult with (i) individuals and couples within these groups about their experience of faith and church life; and (ii) the results of diocesan and parochial study of "Dearly Beloved" toolkit; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force explore biblical, theological, moral, liturgical, cultural, and pastoral perspectives on these matters, and develop written materials about them which represent the spectrum of understanding in our Church and which include responses from theologians, ethicists, pastors, liturgists, social scientists, and educators who are not members of the expanded Task Force, and whose perspectives represent the spectrum of understandings on these matters in our Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force study and monitor, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, the impact of same-sex marriage and rites of blessing on our Church; the continuing debate about clergy acting as agents of the state in officiating at marriages; and any other matters related to marriage by action of or referral by this Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force report and make recommendations to the 79th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force provide educational and pastoral resources for congregational use on these matters that represents the spectrum of understandings on these matters in our Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$90,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

A073: Update Model Policies for Preventing Sexual Misconduct

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the 2004 Model Policies developed by The Church Insurance Agency Corporation for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse (the “2004 Model Policies”) be updated and supplemented to reflect the experience of the Church in using the 2004 Model Policies and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, not later than September 30, 2015, jointly appoint a Special Task Group of five to seven persons with experience in the use and development of Model Policies for Preventing Sexual Misconduct to update, or to oversee the updating of, the 2004 Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That the updating and supplementing of the 2004 Model Policies be completed by March 31, 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That the Updated Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse to the Church (the “Updated Model Policies”) be promulgated after they are approved by the Special Task Group; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as a point of contact for dioceses to obtain information about complying with the 2004 Model Policies and the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That not later than December 31, 2016, the Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Youth of each diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies with due regard to applicable local laws on the subject matters of the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses annually confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center, that the Guidelines of the diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies.

A074: Update the Safeguarding Materials

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 78th General Convention direct that the Episcopal Church Center arrange for the updating or supplementing of written and web-based materials used in the *Safeguarding God’s Children* and the *Safeguarding God’s People* programs to reflect the experience of the Church in using the *Safeguarding God’s Children* and the *Safeguarding God’s People* materials; and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further

Resolved, That, in addition to developing printed and web-based versions of the updated or supplemented *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials, electronic links to the online versions of the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula be made available on The Episcopal Church website; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize the availability of the revised or supplemented written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials to dioceses and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses of The Episcopal Church be required annually to confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center that the diocese and (to the best of its knowledge after due inquiry) congregations in the diocese are training persons in positions of authority (including clergy, staff, vestry, children, and youth educators/leaders and other volunteers) by using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials or other appropriate materials for this training; and be it further

Resolved, That after the written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula are revised or supplemented, re-training of trainers be conducted so that the persons conducting training in congregations and dioceses are fully aware of the changes in the training materials and are able to teach them competently; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

A080: Affirm Confirmation as Formation

Resolved, That recognizing that confirmation offers a distinct and valuable opportunity for Christian formation, that the General Convention request the Office of Formation and Congregational Development to convene representatives from 10 dioceses, including a bishop and two appointed leaders, to engage in intentional conversation about creating intergenerational and congregation-wide processes to equip people (teenagers and older) to claim their baptismal identity and be commissioned for ministry with the goal of strengthening and articulating best practices around confirmation; and be it further

Resolved, That these gatherings address the significance of confirmation as a creative opportunity for the reaffirmation of baptismal vows in the life of The Episcopal Church, and that confirmation produces confident baptized Christians and vital congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses engage in similar conversations on confirmation with attention to diverse cultures and their contexts, and report back to the Office of Formation and Congregational Development and the 79th General Convention on their findings.

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$43,500 for the implementation of this resolution.

Year 1-2 (\$3000)

Office of Formation and Congregational Development convene (virtually) a representative Confirmation Project Advisory Team to design a structured data-collection process to “tell the story” of confirmation as it is currently practiced in a diocese, and to develop an Episcopal Confirmation Project website to curate existing resources on confirmation.

End of Year 2 – Year 3 (\$39,500)

Office of Formation and Congregational Development convene a gathered “laboratory” of 10 Dioceses and Advisory Team to facilitate a process which includes diocesan confirmation story sharing, engaging with expertise of Advisory Team, and structured dialogue.

Year 3 (\$1000 – contract with author, web management)

Advisory Team prepares report on the significance of confirmation as Christian formation for the 79th General Convention including resolutions and disseminates the report to all participating dioceses.

A159: The Role of the Church in the Culture of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recognize that the field of substance use disorders and addiction has advanced substantially since 1985 when the 68th General Convention passed the current policy, acknowledging that alcohol use, addiction and recovery all involve biological, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions; and be it further

Resolved, that, as Holy Baptism is the entrance to the life of wholeness and holiness and addiction disrupts relationships with God, others, and ourselves, impairing body, mind, and spirit, the Church, respecting the dignity of every human being, has a moral and ethical responsibility to:

1. Confront and repent of the Episcopal Church’s complicity in a culture of alcohol, denial, and enabling,
2. Speak to cultural norms that promote addiction,
3. Promote spiritual practices as a means of prevention and healing,
4. Advocate for public funding and health insurance coverage for prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery, and collaborate with qualified community resources offering these services, and to respond with pastoral care and accountability.

And be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church affirms the need for exercising a healing ministry to all whose lives are affected by addiction and encourages all members of The Episcopal Church to pursue healing in their personal, professional, relational and vocational lives, and to seek help at the first sign of the disease of addiction; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge that the epidemic of addiction has a severely adverse social, economic, environmental, and spiritual impact on all communities, and presents particular challenges to communities of marginalized people at home and abroad; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church directs dioceses to work in partnership with The Episcopal Church Medical Trust, Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church, and community-based organizations in order to address most effectively prevention, intervention/diversion, education, advocacy, treatment, and recovery, including developing a list of trained therapists and consultants who are available to assist clergy and laity in this education process.

Co31: In Support of Diocesan Mergers

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention ask that the bishops and dioceses of The Episcopal Church create, nurture, and develop a culture of collaboration that results in new structures, partnerships, and practices on the interpersonal, group, and organizational levels; measurable outcomes of performance; standards of accountability, reporting and mutual ministry reviews at all levels (bishops, clergy, diocesan bodies); And be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages Dioceses to explore opportunities for collaboration, and possibly merging, with contiguous Dioceses, to better carry out their common mission; And be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the bishops and diocesan leadership of The Episcopal Church to engage in frank discussion about the number and size of our dioceses across the church, diocesan collaboration, vitality, and shared ministry, and what change is needed; And be it further

Resolved, That the Planning Committee of the House of Bishops is requested to set aside time this Triennium to discuss issues of diocesan vitality. And be it further

Resolved, That The Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church is directed to seek input from the above conversations and to study opportunities and challenges of diocesan collaboration, vitality, shared ministry, and the number and size of dioceses, and to report back to the 79th General Convention.

Do61: Task Force for Scholarships for Undocumented Youth

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention ask the Director of Mission to charge the offices of Latino/Hispanic ministry, Asiamerica ministry, and Young Adult/Campus ministry with the work to search for and distribute information about existing scholarships for immigrant students, youth, and young adults who, because of their immigrant status cannot qualify for federal, state, or private scholarships and/or loans, so that they may be able to attend institutes of higher education; and be it further

Resolved, That the designated offices also explore the feasibility, logistics and legalities of creating an Episcopal Scholarship that can also cover this purpose; and be it further

Resolved, That the designated offices appointed to this duty distribute the information that they find to the person in charge of Young Adult and/or Youth Ministries of every diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That the person in charge of Young Adult and/or Youth Ministries of every diocese, once receiving this information, be responsible for distributing this information to the congregations of their diocese and actively encourage the youth of the diocese - for whom the scholarships apply - to apply for these scholarships.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO DIOCESES FOR CONSIDERATION OR INFORMATION

The following resolutions adopted by both Houses of the 78th General Convention call for appropriate consideration by dioceses, diocesan committee(s), or congregations.

A001: Restructure for Spiritual Encounter

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge Episcopal seminaries and the General Board of Examining Chaplains to work collectively in creating, nurturing, and developing a culture of collaboration among them that results in: new structures; new curricula; new degrees beyond the traditional MDiv; partnerships and practices on the academic, departmental, and inter-seminary levels; alternative assessment instruments to provide tangible, measurable evidence that seminary trained leaders (lay and ordained) have the spiritual formation, skill sets, and intellectual aptitude to engage the world and to transform and lead The Episcopal Church, looking beyond competency in the academic areas defined by canon; standards of accountability, reporting, and mutual ministry reviews at all levels; and Episcopal seminaries' reportage of their progress to Executive Council and to each succeeding General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That Diocesan Councils and Commissions on Ministry, in collaboration with their Bishop, encourage and support diverse ways for ordained clergy to make a living inside and outside the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council study the issue of clergy compensation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society develop a network to help Episcopal congregations, including clergy, vestry, organist, musical, lay, and other liturgical leaders, to become skilled in creating, nurturing, and developing spaces and moments for spiritual encounters that transform lives and unjust structures; and to have partnerships and practices with other congregations to become excellent stewards of spiritual, financial, real estate, and community resources; and to report their progress and learning annually to their Diocesan Convention/Council and Bishop.

A012: Continue Funding of Mission Enterprise Zones

Resolved, That the Church celebrate and continue the good work initiated by GC2012-A073 to Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones, defined as a geographic area, as a group of congregations or as an entire diocese committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church honors the holy experiments emerging throughout the Church – experiments that are building partnerships, expanding the language of ministry, creating new ways to engage the people of God, harvesting and sharing learnings, and lending courage to those leading new ministries and lowering the cost of failure; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention continue to fund the start-up of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts from the 2012-2015 triennium with a significantly increased budget allocation over the initial grant funding; and be it further

Resolved, That in the coming triennium, dioceses are encouraged to apply for one of more Mission Enterprise Zone matching grants to facilitate and support the development of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts with exceptions to the requirement for diocesan matching funds in cases of diocesan financial limitations; and be it further

Resolved, That applications for partnership and funding from these new ministries will be discerned, supported and called by the existing Mission Enterprise Zone leadership (established in A073, GC2012) and grant discernment process in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continue to develop the Mission-Centered Episcopalians web-based sharing platform and to bring together mission developers for a face-to-face gathering where they can share best practices, upholding ministry leader wellness, mutual guidance and support, and sharing of stories, resources, and prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That Bishops and other diocesan leaders be encouraged to share what they are learning from the Mission Enterprise Zones in their Dioceses, specifically in the disciplines of: a.) financing and sustaining these experiments, b.) adapting liturgical practices for increased missional impact, c.) exploring new processes for mentoring and training emerging leaders in situ, and d.) blessing our diocesan families by more readily incorporating these non-traditional faith communities with seat and voice as discerned by the leadership of that Mission Enterprise Zone or New Church Start; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance allocate not less than the three million dollars designated in the EC draft budget for 2016-18 to continue funding the start-up of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts to implement this resolution during the 2016-2018 triennium.

A014: Celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development's 75 Years of Healing a Hurting World

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend Episcopal Relief & Development for strengthening the bonds of Anglican unity by partnering with The Episcopal Church's Anglican and Episcopal counterparts in nearly 40 countries worldwide, and for utilizing local assets to best steward resources and encourage long-term, holistic, and sustainable change to help heal a hurting world; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourages dioceses, congregations, and individuals to celebrate and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development during this, their 75th year, and in years to come.

A021: Continue Our Commitment of 0.7% of the Millennium Development Goals

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church rejoices in the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals during the past three triennia, but recognizing that much remains to be done, continues our commitment of 0.7% of the Church-wide budget to investment in similar programs throughout the 2016-2018 triennium and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention, recognizing that funding for nutrition, education, health care, gender equality and sustainable development programs is essential to achieve not only the Millennium Development Goals, but also to ensure respect for the dignity of all human beings, urges all dioceses and congregations to continue to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund appropriate international development programs; and be it further

Resolved, That funds in the General Convention budget for the 2016-2018 triennium specified for MDGs be allotted for a grants program that supports congregational and diocesan efforts in international development programs.

A026: Develop Local Models of Establishing Young Men's Ministries in Indigenous Congregations

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention support dioceses and congregations in their efforts to develop ministry among young men in Native American communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council's Committee on Indigenous Ministries administer funding for, and gather models of ministry among, young men that encourage active participation in God's Reign in the Church and in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$150,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

A034: Support Latinas in Lay Ministry

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Missioner for Hispanic/Latino Ministries to work with the Office of Justice and Advocacy Ministries, and with diocesan and provincial multicultural missioners, in supporting programs to develop leadership skills for Latina youth and young adults; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to allocate \$10,000 for the triennium to seed the development of Latina lay leadership.

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A051: Support LGBT African Advocacy

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize and commend the unconditional love and support that families, communities, scholars, and activists have shown to their Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) sisters and brothers in Africa who are at risk of violence, discrimination, and imprisonment; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the following redemptive words in the statement of the Primates of the Anglican Communion in the Dromantine Communique (2005) that: “The victimisation or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us. We assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by him, and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship;” and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage parishes and dioceses, especially those with companion relationships with Anglicans in Africa, as well as advocacy groups, to build relationships with and learn from Anglican African scholars who are already offering Biblical interpretations that affirm the dignity and humanity of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Global Partnerships, Justice, and Advocacy Ministries, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and other relevant church-wide offices be directed to work in partnership with African Anglicans who publicly oppose laws that criminalize homosexuality and incite violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people; and be it further

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns or other appropriate body as designated by Executive Council to compile, for church-wide reference and use, a listing of information and resources developed by African Anglican leaders and organizations working to curb anti-gay and anti-transgender violence, discrimination, and marginalization; and be it further

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage parishes and dioceses to offer prayers for the safety of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex sisters and brothers, their families and communities, and for the scholars and activists who tirelessly work on their behalf.

A072: Develop Awareness of the Five Marks of Mission

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm that the Five Marks of Mission adopted by the 76th General Convention in Resolution D027 are central to the work of the Church, its dioceses, its congregations, and the formation of its members; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage dioceses and congregations to use materials that instruct persons about the Five Marks of Mission, such as *Marked for Mission* (for youth and young adults); and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations adopt the practice of intentionally and publicly stating how each of their activities relates to the Five Marks of Mission.

A075: Develop Awareness of Online Christian Formation Resources

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center establish a prominent tab or link on the website of The Episcopal Church to give persons seeking Christian Formation resources access to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize to dioceses, congregations, and Christian Formation leaders the availability of these websites that provide helpful Christian Formation resources, and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations with websites consider including links to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further

Resolved, That Christian Formation leaders throughout The Episcopal Church be encouraged to share with these websites suitable formation resources that they themselves have developed.

A076: Commend Use of Christian Formation Certifications

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend to all dioceses and congregations the use of Christian Formation Certifications as a way to encourage professional development for both paid and unpaid Christian Formation leaders and to deepen the Church's commitment to the value and status of lay Christian Formation leaders; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend the work of Forma in having developed through Faith Formation Academy the Certificate in Leadership for Lifelong Christian Formation and the Certificate for Youth and Family Ministry; the programs at Virginia Theological Seminary; the Seminary of the Southwest's Certificate Program in Christian Formation; General Theological Seminary's Certificate in the Spiritual Guidance of Children; and the programs of other recognized entities offering continuing education opportunities and certification for those called to the ministry of Christian Formation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center promote awareness of these certification programs.

A078: Reaffirm The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend the ministry of Christian Formation and education leaders in The Episcopal Church for continuing to lift up *The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation* adopted as Resolution A082 at the 76th General Convention; and the importance of inviting, inspiring, and transforming all people, lay and ordained, in the Christian Faith as well as the continued development of training for leaders of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations adopt *The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation* and annually review the ways in which their Christian Formation ministries reflect and embody *The Charter*.

A090: Amend Canon III.8.6(g) Preparation for Ordination

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church replace existing Canon III.8.5 (g) with the following canon:

CANON III.8.5 (g):

Subject areas for studying during this program of preparation shall include:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures.
- (2) ~~Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement.~~ *History of the Christian Church.*
- (3) ~~Christian Theology, including Missionary Theology and Missiology.~~
- (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.
- ~~(5) Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills. Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.~~
- ~~(6) (5) Liturgies and Church Music; Christian Worship and Music according to the contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer, and the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.~~
- ~~(7) (6) Theory and The Practice of Ministry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship in contemporary society., including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.~~

A091: Affirm Work for Food Ministries and Food Security

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the work and projects being carried out across the Church in food ministry, including food pantries, feeding programs, community gardens, educational programs, and advocacy for programs that provide healthy, culturally appropriate food; and be it further

Resolved, that the 78th General Convention encourages the further development of Native and Indigenous community food programs, such as the program in Navajoland Area Mission that maintains and teaches traditional growing methods and food preparation techniques; and be it further

Resolved, that the 78th General Convention call on dioceses, congregations, and all the baptized to deepen our understanding of the moral, cultural, and environmental relationships associated with food systems, through educational programs focused on: sustainability, equity, cultural diversity, and accessibility of all people to healthy food; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention call on dioceses, congregations, and all the baptized to deepen our commitments as Christian communities to address food insecurity, food-related health issues, and food-related environmental effects in our communities and nations, through new and creative community, regional, and ecumenical projects, such as school and community gardens, church garden tithing to food banks, involvement with migrant worker and farm worker ministries, and food-worker organizing; and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention call on dioceses, congregations, and all the baptized to increase our involvement in advocacy for the development and maintenance of sustainable; equitable; culturally appropriate; and accessible food systems.

A096: Affirm Relationship-Based Social Justice

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the many justice ministries of service and advocacy throughout The Episcopal Church, ministries that are grounded in the Baptismal Covenant and that were initiated by General Conventions, dioceses, congregations, and other Episcopal organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the use of various methods to discern, develop, and sustain justice ministries, such as Asset-Based Community Development, needs surveys, and community organizing; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the formation of partnerships between congregations and well-established community organizing groups in their local contexts in order to be trained in the practice of community organizing and sustained by those partnerships that they may do justice ministry more effectively and efficiently; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention acknowledge that one of the greatest challenges of our time and culture is the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the sin of economic injustice that pervades our society; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention challenge all Episcopalians to hear in a bold way the call of both Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi to befriend and be with the poor, and that we come to know that the future vitality of The Episcopal Church is grounded in our mutually affirming relationships with our brothers and sisters who are poor; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage all Episcopal congregations to establish relationship-based, social-justice ministries through which relationships are developed between those who serve and those who are served, resulting in shared and transformational experiences and in a greater commitment to work for justice on all sides of the socio-economic divide; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage churches and dioceses to discover and partner with local experts such as Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), Direct Action and Research Training (DART), Gamaliel Foundation, Asset Based Community Development, People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO), and other local formulations of interfaith or cross cultural organizations that use relationships to structure their transformative work; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention ask Episcopal groups that are participating in relationship-based social justice to share their experiences with the broader Church through social media, the internet, and official communication channels, so that other groups can learn from their successes, challenges, and insights.

A102: Amend Canon III.12.4(a)

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention amend Canon III.12.4(a) to read as follows:

Each Bishop serving in a Diocese shall ~~maintain a reside residence~~ in that Diocese, except with the consent of the Standing Committee of that Diocese. ~~provided that, if a Bishop serves in more than one Diocese, the Bishop, with the concurrence of the Standing Committees of each Diocese in which the Bishop serves, shall reside in each of the Dioceses in which the Bishop serves.~~

A112: Encourage Support for YASC and EVIM

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage dioceses, seminaries, and parishes to recruit and support both Young Adult Service Corps members (YASCers) and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission members (EVIMs); and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention continue its commitment to increasing numbers of YASCers by 10 per year for the triennium 2016-2018, (30 in 2016, 40 in 2017, and 50 in 2018, for the triennium 2016-2018; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance increase the budget for the Young Adult Service Corps from \$1,100,000 to \$1,800,000, and a 10% increase for the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, for the 2016-2018 triennium in order to implement this resolution.

A115: Amend Title III.12.9: Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation between a Bishop and Diocese

Resolved, That

Sec. 9. When the pastoral relationship between a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan and the Diocese is imperiled by disagreement or dissension, and the issues are deemed serious by a Bishop of *that Diocese* or a two-thirds majority vote of all of the members of the Standing Committee or a two-thirds majority vote of the Diocesan Convention, any party may petition the Presiding Bishop, in writing, to intervene and assist the parties in their efforts to resolve the disagreement or dissension. The written petition shall include sufficient information to inform the Presiding Bishop and the parties involved of the nature, causes, and specifics of the disagreements or dissension imperiling the pastoral relationship. The Presiding Bishop shall initiate such proceedings as are deemed appropriate under the circumstances to attempt to reconcile the parties, which may include the appointment of a consultant or licensed mediator. The parties to the disagreement, following the recommendations of the Presiding Bishop, shall labor in good faith toward that reconciliation. If such proceedings lead to reconciliation, said reconciliation shall contain definitions of responsibility and accountability for the Bishop and the Diocese.

Sec. 10. *Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Collegial Relation between Bishops in the Same Diocese*

When the collegial relationship between a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan is imperiled by disagreement or dissension, and the issues are deemed serious by a

Bishop of that Diocese or a two-thirds majority vote of all of the members of the Standing Committee or a two-thirds majority vote of the Diocesan Convention, any party may petition the Presiding Bishop, in writing, to intervene and assist the parties in their efforts to resolve the disagreement or dissension. The written petition shall include sufficient information to inform the Presiding Bishop and the parties involved of the nature, causes, and specifics of the disagreements or dissension imperiling the collegial relationship. The Presiding Bishop shall initiate such proceedings as are deemed appropriate under the circumstances to attempt to reconcile the parties, which may include the appointment of a consultant or licensed mediator. The parties to the disagreement, following the recommendations of the Presiding Bishop, shall labor in good faith toward that reconciliation. If such proceedings lead to reconciliation, said reconciliation shall contain definitions of responsibility and accountability for the Bishops and the Diocese.

Sec. 4011. Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation between a Bishop and Diocese

A120: Amend Canon III and Renumber 12.8, 12.9 and 12.10

Resolved, That Canon III.7 be amended to add a new Canon III.7.11 to read as follows:

Sec. 11. Return to the Ordained Ministry of this Church after Release and Removal.

(a) When a Deacon who has been released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church under Canon III.7.8 desires to return to that Ministry, the person shall apply in writing to the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Deacon was last canonically resident, attaching the following:

~~—(1) Evidence that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this Church;~~

~~—(2) Evidence of previous ordained Ministry in this Church, and other Churches as applicable.~~

~~—(3) Evidence of moral and godly character;~~

~~—(4) Evidence that the person is free from any vows or other engagements inconsistent with the exercise of ordained Ministry in this Church;~~

~~—(5) A certificate from at least two Clergy in this Church stating that, from personal examination or from satisfactory evidence presented to them, they believe that the departure of the person from the ordained Ministry of this Church and from the ordained Ministry of any other Church to which the person has belonged since his or her departure from the ordained Ministry of this Church has not arisen from any circumstance reflecting unfavorably on his or her moral or religious character, or on account of which it may not be expedient to permit the person to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church;~~

~~—(6) A letter of support in the form provided in Canon III.6.6(b)(2) from the Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge and Vestry of a Parish of this Church; and~~

~~—(7) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.~~

(1) Evidence of previous ordination in The Episcopal Church;

(2) Evidence of appropriate background checks, certifications and proof of completion of applicable trainings including abuse prevention and anti-racism trainings;

(3) A statement from no less than two members of the clergy known to the applicant in support of the application;

(4) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.

~~(b) The provisions of Canon III.6.5(a) shall be applicable.~~

(b) If the Bishop so chooses, the Bishop may give permission for the Deacon to continue the process toward reinstatement, which may include the following:

(1) Active participation in a congregation for a period of time at the Bishop's discretion;

(2) Regular contact with the Bishop or the Bishop's designee during the course of the process;

(3) Evaluation by a licensed mental health professional of the Bishop's choosing for the purposes of evaluation and of determining fitness for resumption of ordained ministry in this church;

(4) Two references from those who are able to discuss the Deacon's former ministry;

(5) Meeting with the Standing Committee, who shall have the benefit of the materials above and who shall provide to the Bishop its recommendation regarding reinstatement;

~~(c) The Commission on Ministry may, with the consent of the Bishop, and with notice to the applicant, examine the applicant in any subject described in Canons III.6.5(f) and (g).~~

~~(d) Before the person may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the presence of the Bishop and two or more members of the Clergy of this Church the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.~~

(c) Before the person may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Bishop shall require the Deacon seeking to return to the ministry to sign a written declaration as required in Article VIII of the Constitution, without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction and execute such declaration in the presence of the Bishop and two or more members of the clergy of this Church.

~~(e) (d) Thereafter the Bishop, being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications and soundness in the faith, taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the person's Deacon's removal and release, may permit, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the return of the person Deacon into the ordained Ministry of this Church.~~

~~(f) No one shall be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church under this Canon less than twelve months from the date of having most recently become a communicant of this Church unless the Bishop Diocesan and a majority of the members of the Standing Committee conclude that special circumstances exist to merit such return which will benefit the needs of this Church.~~

(e) The provisions of this Canon III.7.11 shall not be applicable to any Deacon who has been removed, released, or deposed from their ministry as the result of any proceeding of Title IV of these Canons.

~~(g)~~ (f) Notice of the ~~person's~~ Deacon's return to the ordained Ministry of this Church shall be provided in writing to the same persons and entities receiving notice under Canon III.7.10.; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.9 be amended to add a new Canon III.9.12 to read as follows, and renumbering the two subsequent sections to be Canon III.9.13 and III.9.14.

Sec. 12. Return to the Ordained Ministry of this Church after Release and Removal.

(a) When a Priest who has been released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church under Canon III.9.8 desires to return to that Ministry, the person shall apply in writing to the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Priest was last canonically resident, attaching the following:

~~—(1) Evidence that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this Church;~~

~~—(2) Evidence of previous ordained Ministry in this Church and other Churches as applicable;~~

~~—(3) Evidence of moral and godly character;~~

~~—(4) Evidence that the person is free from any vows or other engagements inconsistent with the exercise of ordained Ministry in this Church;~~

~~—(5) A certificate from at least two Priests in this Church stating that, from personal examination or from satisfactory evidence presented to them, they believe that the departure of the person from the ordained Ministry of this Church and from the ordained Ministry of any other Church to which the person has belonged since his or her departure from the ordained Ministry of this Church has not arisen from any circumstance reflecting unfavorably on his or her moral or religious character, or on account of which it may not be expedient to permit the person to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church;~~

~~—(6) A letter of support in the form provided in Canon III.8.7(b)(2) from the Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge and Vestry of a Parish of this Church; and~~

~~—(7) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.~~

(1) Evidence of previous ordination in The Episcopal Church;

(2) Evidence of appropriate background checks, certifications and proof of completion of applicable trainings including abuse prevention and anti-racism trainings;

(3) A statement from no less than two members of the clergy known to the applicant in support of the application;

(4) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.

~~(b) The provisions of Canon III.8.5(a) shall be applicable.~~

(b) If the Bishop so chooses, Bishop may give permission for the Priest to continue the process toward reinstatement, which may include the following:

- (1) Active participation in a congregation for a period of time at the Bishop's discretion;
- (2) Regular contact with the Bishop or the Bishop's designee during the course of the process;
- (3) Evaluation by a licensed mental health professional of the Bishop's choosing for the purposes of evaluation and of determining fitness for resumption of ordained ministry in this church;
- (4) Two references from those who are able to discuss the Priest's former ministry;
- (5) Meeting with the Standing Committee, who shall have the benefit of the materials above and who shall provide to the Bishop its recommendation regarding reinstatement;

~~(c) The Commission on Ministry may, with the consent of the Bishop, and with notice to the applicant, examine the applicant in any other subject required described in by Canons III.8.5(g) and (h).~~

~~(d) Before the person may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction or foreign civil jurisdiction, and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the presence of the Bishop and two or more Presbyters the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.~~

(c) Before the ~~person~~ Priest may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Bishop shall require the Priest seeking to return to the ministry to sign a written declaration as required in Article VIII of the Constitution, without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction and execute such declaration in the presence of the Bishop and two or more members of the clergy of this Church.

~~(e) (d) Thereafter the Bishop, being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications and soundness in the faith, taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the person's Priest's removal and release, may permit, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the return of the person into the ordained Ministry of this Church.~~

~~(f) No one shall be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church under this Canon less than 12 months from the date of having most recently become a communicant of this Church unless the Bishop Diocesan and a majority of the members of the Standing Committee conclude that special circumstances exist to merit such return which will benefit the needs of this Church.~~

(e) The provisions of this Canon III.9.11 shall not be applicable to any Priest who has been removed, released, or deposed from their ministry as the result of any proceeding of Title IV of these Canons.

~~(g)~~ (f) Notice of the ~~person's~~ Priest's return to the ordained Ministry of this Church shall be provided in writing to the same persons and entities receiving notice under Canon III.9.11.; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.12 be amended to add a new Canon III.12.8, to read as follows, and renumbering the three subsequent sections to be Canon III.12.9, III.12.10, and III.12.11.

Sec. 8. Return to the Ordained Ministry of this Church after Release and Removal

(a) When a Bishop who has been released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church under Canon III.12.7 desires to return to that Ministry, the person shall apply in writing to the Presiding Bishop, attaching the following:

- ~~—(1) Evidence that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this Church;~~
- ~~—(2) Evidence of previous ordained Ministry in this Church, and other Churches as applicable;~~
- ~~—(3) Evidence of a moral and godly character;~~
- ~~—(4) Evidence that the person is free from any vows or other engagements inconsistent with the exercise of ordained Ministry in this Church;~~
- ~~—(5) A certificate from at least two Bishops in this Church stating that, from personal examination or from satisfactory evidence presented to them, they believe that the departure of the person from the ordained Ministry of this Church and from ordained Ministry of any other Church to which the person has belonged since his or her departure from the ordained Ministry of this Church has not arisen from any circumstance reflecting unfavorably on his or her moral or religious character, or on account of which it may not be expedient to permit the person to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church;~~
- ~~—(6) A letter of support from the Bishop of the Diocese in which the person was last canonically resident; and~~
- ~~—(7) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.~~

(1) Evidence of previous ordination in The Episcopal Church;

(2) Evidence of appropriate background checks, certifications and proof of completion of applicable trainings including abuse prevention and anti-racism trainings;

(3) A statement from no less than two Bishops known to the applicant in support of the application;

(4) A statement of the reasons for seeking to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church.

~~(b) The Presiding Bishop shall examine the person regarding his or her reasons for departure from the ordained Ministry of this Church, reasons for seeking to return to that Ministry, and any other subject reflecting on that person's fitness to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church. The Presiding Bishop may, at his or her discretion, invite others to participate in the examination.~~

(b) If the Presiding Bishop so chooses, the Presiding Bishop may give permission for the Bishop to continue the process toward reinstatement, which may include the following:

(1) Active participation in a congregation for a period of time at the Presiding Bishop's discretion;

(2) Regular contact with the Presiding Bishop or the Presiding Bishop's designee during the course of the process;

(3) Evaluation by a licensed mental health professional of the Presiding Bishop's choosing for the purposes of evaluation and of determining fitness for resumption of ordained ministry in this church;

(4) Two references from those who are able to discuss the Bishop's former ministry;

(5) Approval of the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice

~~(c) Before the person may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to all things to the Discipline of this Church without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction or foreign civil jurisdiction, and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the present of the Presiding Bishop and two or more Bishops the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.~~

(c) Before the ~~person~~ Bishop may be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church, the Presiding Bishop shall require the Bishop seeking to return to the ministry to sign a written declaration as required in Article VIII of the Constitution, without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction and execute such declaration in the presence of the Presiding Bishop and two or more Bishops of this Church.

~~(e)~~ (d) Thereafter the Presiding Bishop, ~~being satisfied of the Bishop's theological qualifications and soundness in the faith,~~ taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the ~~person's~~ Bishop's removal and release, may permit, with the advice and consent of the Advisory Council of Advice to the Presiding Bishop, the return of the ~~person~~ Bishop into the ordained Ministry of this Church.

~~(e) No one shall be permitted to return to the ordained Ministry of this Church under this Canon less than 12 months from the date of having most recently become a communicant of this Church unless the Presiding Bishop and a majority of the members of the Advisory Council to the Presiding Bishop conclude that special circumstances exist to merit such return which will benefit the needs of this Church.~~

~~(f)~~ (e) Notice of the ~~person's~~ Bishop's return to the ordained Ministry of this Church shall be provided in writing to the same persons and entities receiving notice under Canon III.12.7(c).

(f) The provisions of this Canon III.12.8 shall not be applicable to any Bishop who has been removed, released, or deposed from their ministry as the result of any proceeding of Title IV of these Canons.

A158: Task Force to Review and Revise Policy on substance abuse, addiction and recovery

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention acknowledge The Episcopal Church's long-standing tolerance for the use of alcohol which, in some cases, has contributed to its misuse, and has undermined a climate of wholeness and holiness for all; that our Church culture too often avoids hard conversations about alcohol use, and the role of forgiveness and compassion in healing and recovery; and that The Episcopal Church now commits to create a new normal in our relationship with alcohol. We aspire to be a place in which conversations about alcohol, substance misuse, or addiction are not simply about treatment but about

renewal, justice, wholeness, and healing. We affirm that Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church has long been and continues to be a valuable resource for this work; and be it further

Resolved, that the 78th Convention adopt the following policy on alcohol and other substance misuse and encourage dioceses, congregations, seminaries, schools, young adult ministries, and affiliated institutions to update their policies on the use of alcohol and other substances with the potential for misuse. These policies should consider the following:

1. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws should be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
3. Some dioceses and congregations may decide not to serve alcohol at events or gatherings. Others may decide to permit a limited use of alcoholic beverages at church-sponsored events. Both can be appropriate if approached mindfully.
4. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served. Whenever alcohol is served, the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. If hard liquor is served, a certified server is required.
5. Serving alcoholic beverages at congregational events where minors are present is strongly discouraged. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
6. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in this case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
7. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
8. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event, e.g. “wine and cheese reception,” “cocktail party,” and “beer and wine tasting.”
9. Ministries inside or outside of congregations will make certain that alcohol consumption is not the focus of the ministry and that drinking alcohol is not an exclusively normative activity.
9. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
10. The groups or organizations sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the clergy or the vestry. Such groups or organizations must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become

intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired. Consulting with liability insurance carriers is advised.

11. Recognizing the effects of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted.

12. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse.

13. We encourage clergy to acknowledge the efficacy of receiving the sacrament in one kind and consider providing non-alcoholic wine.

And be it further

Resolved, that, mindful of the emerging legalization of other addictive substances and the increasing rise of addiction, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church provide for the ready availability, implementation, and continuing development of this policy church-wide, in consultation and coordination with Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church.

A176: Humanitarian Relief in Liberia

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention expresses its deepest love and concern for the people of Liberia, the Most Rev. Dr. Jonathan B.B. Hart, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, the clergy and people of the Church of Liberia as they continue to struggle with rebuilding their country in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis, military conflicts and economic disaster caused by these conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recognize the established and ongoing covenant relationship with our global partner within the Episcopal Church of Liberia, and recommit The Episcopal Church, the Presiding Bishop, and the Executive Committee of The Episcopal Church to this relationship; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention acknowledge the crisis being experienced by our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living and working in the midst of these heinous conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage and challenge Dioceses of The Episcopal Church to create diocesan partnerships with the church of Liberia and other initiatives that working together will address the humanitarian and economic development that will bring about the financial sustainability of our brothers and sisters in the Church of Liberia.

A179: Commending Memorial V to The Episcopal Church: A Call to Action

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend Memorial V, presented to this Convention, especially its call to “Share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed, including learning how to tell the story of how Jesus makes a difference in our lives, even and especially to those who have not experienced true transformation”; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage Deputies and Bishops to circulate Memorial V in their communities, congregations and dioceses for study and reflection.

A Memorial to the Church

To the Deputies and Bishops of The Episcopal Church assembled at the 78th General Convention:

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:4-6,8

In the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the newly formed church of disciples of the risen Savior found itself in a new situation. No longer could Christians depend on traditional ways of following Jesus and traditional places in which to do it. Driven out of their comfortable existence praying in the Temple in Jerusalem and waiting for the kingdom to come, they found themselves in new and unexpected neighborhoods, developing new ways of proclaiming the Word. Yet they found that the crowds were eager to hear the Good News of Christ and welcomed it with joy. The very loss of the old ways of being the church gave them opportunities to expand and multiply the reach of Christ's loving embrace.

Our beloved Episcopal Church is in a similar situation. We must find new ways of proclaiming the gospel in varied and ever changing neighborhoods. Old ways of being the church no longer apply. We can no longer settle for complacency and comfort. We can no longer claim to dominate the political and social landscape. We can no longer wait inside our sanctuaries to welcome those who want to become Episcopalian.

We have a choice before us. We can continue, valiantly and tragically, to try to save all the rights and privileges we have previously enjoyed. We can continue to watch our church dwindle until it someday becomes an endowed museum to the faith of our forebears. We can continue business as usual until we lose our common life entirely.

Or we can lose our life for Jesus' sake so that we might save it.

We, the undersigned, hold dear the Episcopal Church and believe passionately in the gift this church offers. Washed in the waters of Baptism and nourished from the deep springs of word and sacrament, we experience the power of God's presence as we open the Scriptures and celebrate the Eucharist. We stand in awe of the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the power of the triune God to love, to forgive, to make whole. We know the joy of serving God through serving others. We long for a world with every unjust structure toppled. We love this church enough to yearn for it to be transformed.

We recognize the importance of this present moment. We join the Task Force for Reimagining the Church in calling for the church to follow Jesus into the neighborhood, traveling lightly. Our deepest hopes and aspirations are not dependent upon any particular act of this Convention. Many essential steps are found in the daily walk of discipleship undertaken by congregations and individuals throughout the church, and we commend the work of many who are helping the church adopt these discipleship practices. This Convention, however, has the opportunity to act on a number of matters that can support God's faithful people, our parishes and missions, and our dioceses in living out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Specifically, we call upon the people of the Episcopal Church to:

Recommit to reading scripture, praying daily, gathering weekly for corporate worship, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom, knowing that engaging in these practices brings personal and corporate transformation;

Share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed, including learning how to tell the story of how Jesus makes a difference in our lives, even and especially to those who have not experienced true transformation;

Pray and fast for the Holy Spirit to add day by day to those who come within the reach of Christ's saving embrace;

Encounter Jesus Christ through loving service to those in need and through seeking justice and peace among all people.

And we call upon those bishops and deputies gathered for Convention to the following actions as specific ways we may enter this time of transition in a spirit of exploration, discovering the gifts that the Holy Spirit has for us in this moment:

Engage creatively, openly, and prayerfully in reading the signs of the times and discerning the particular ways God is speaking to the Episcopal Church now;

Pray, read the scriptures, and listen deeply for the Holy Spirit's guidance in electing a new Presiding Bishop and other leaders, in entering into creative initiatives for the spread of the kingdom, and in restructuring the church for mission;

Fund evangelism initiatives extravagantly: training laborers to go into the harvest to revitalize existing congregations and plant new ones; forming networks and educational offerings to train and deploy church planters and revitalizers who will follow Jesus into all kinds of neighborhoods; and creating training opportunities for bilingual and bi-cultural ministry;

Release our hold on buildings, structures, comfortable habits, egos, and conflicts that do not serve the church well;

Remove obstacles embedded in current structures, however formerly useful or well-meaning, that hinder new and creative mission and evangelism initiatives;

Refocus our energies from building up a large, centralized, expensive, hierarchical church-wide structure, to networking and supporting mission at the local level, where we all may learn how to follow Jesus into all of our neighborhoods.

Like those early followers of Christ, we find ourselves being scattered out of familiar and comfortable places and ways of being the church. Rather than be ruled by memory and consumed by fear, we can embrace this crisis, trusting that the Lord of Life will give us everything we need to spread the Gospel, proclaim the kingdom, and share the love of God. May God grant great joy in every city and neighborhood into which we go.

A182: Using Education, Community Dialogue and Internal Audit to Respond to All Forms of Racial Justice

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st century systemic racial injustices that still occur in multiple contexts including but not limited to education; employment; housing; health care; banking; voting rights; immigration; policing, courts, and prisons, etc., be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirms that the Gospel, our Baptismal Covenant, and our Marks of Mission call individuals, churches, dioceses, provinces, and the wider Church to find more effective and productive ways to respond to racial injustice as we love our neighbors as ourselves, respect the dignity of every human being, and transform unjust structures of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare that “not knowing” and “not having the eyes to see and ears to hear” are serious obstacles to transforming unjust structures and therefore direct the Church at every level for this triennium to commit to increase the use of study, education, research, anti-racism training, liturgies, and Christian formation instruction that specifically address systemic racial injustice; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Church at every level to increase the number of dialogues about systemic racial injustice it has with local, state and national bodies within the public and private spheres and that these dialogues be used to identify, examine, and offer correctives to policies and practices within and among these bodies that result in systemic racial disparities and injustices; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to create vehicles for listening to diverse neighbors and developing reconciling relationships; such options might include (a) listening campaigns in local communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of a different race or culture (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) neighborhood prayer walks, (d) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth-telling, healing and action, (e) and others with which leaders throughout the Church are familiar; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with other church offices and organizations as appropriate to host, resource, and moderate an ongoing online forum for Episcopalians dedicated to the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation, with spaces dedicated to sharing about local and diocesan efforts and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with Youth Ministries to commission a gospel-centered, Internet-integrated, action-oriented, anti-racism youth ministry curriculum for congregations throughout The Episcopal Church, including those not in the United States, to be provided in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music produce and post online a set of prayers for racial reconciliation and justice, suitable for inclusion in the Prayers of the People; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Executive Council to conduct its own internal audit to assess to what extent, if at all, racial disparities and systemic racial injustices exist within the Church (including but not limited to clergy salaries and deployment); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Executive Council report back to the 79th General Convention on the results of the internal audit; what concrete steps it

and the wider Church took to address systemic racial injustice in the wider culture; and how effective those steps were.

A183: Recommended Book Study of the New Triennium: “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church encourage all dioceses, congregations, schools, and other faith communities of The Episcopal Church over the next triennium to commit to studying one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time, “mass incarceration,” and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses, congregations, schools, and other faith communities consider using the New York Times bestseller, “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness” by Michelle Alexander as a common text that invites the people of The Episcopal Church into engagement; and be it further

Resolved, That Convention acknowledge that each Diocese in the U.S. and in the other 16 countries of The Episcopal Church may have different circumstances and disparities in the imprisonment of its racial and ethnic minorities when compared to its dominant population and therefore should adapt this triennial study to its unique circumstances by identifying and developing additional resources to address same, be it further

Resolved, That the Church instruct the DFMS Justice and Advocacy Ministry Team and the DFMS Diversity Ministry Team to work together to compile and distribute to Dioceses and make easily accessible on The Episcopal Church website a tool kit of relevant study and discussion guides; print, and video, and Internet resource materials; and other information.

Boo7: Participation in the Bible in the Life of the Church Project of the Anglican Communion

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church express its appreciation to the Anglican Consultative Council and the staff of the Anglican Communion Office for the Anglican Communion’s “Bible in the Life of the Church” project in its efforts to deepen engagement with Scripture across the Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to make their parishes, clergy and lay leaders aware of the resources and findings of the “Bible in the Life of the Church” project; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses and seminaries of The Episcopal Church be invited to engage with Scripture together with Episcopalians/Anglicans from other parts of the Communion using the methods and resources of the “Bible in the Life of the Church”; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and seminaries of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to contribute educational resources from their own contexts to the “Bible in the Life of the Church” project in order to share lessons from their contexts with the wider Anglican Communion.

Boo8: Support Handgun Purchase Licensing

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support handgun purchaser licensing in order to prevent gun violence and save lives; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to advocate for handgun purchaser licensing in their local contexts.

B018: Support for Sudan and South Sudan

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC), mindful of resolutions D-007 from 2009 and A-019 from 2012; Joyfully celebrate the vitality and growth of the Episcopal Church In South Sudan and Sudan and give thanks for the Church's efforts to bring about justice and peace in South Sudan and Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention heartily commend the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan (ECSSS) for its steadfast efforts to end the civil war which broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, and to help resolve older and continuing conflicts in the border areas of Abyei, and in Darfur, Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains in Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge TEC dioceses and parishes to consider prayer partnerships and joint work with bishops, dioceses, and church organizations in ECSSS to support them to reduce and resolve the current conflicts, help refugees, hold war criminals accountable, and improve people's living conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Presiding Bishop, in cooperation with other denominations and other provinces of the Anglican Communion to set aside several weeks in 2016 for prayer for peace in South Sudan and Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the offices and agencies of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to utilize all measures at their disposal to advocate for the protection of refugees, conflict resolution and sustainable development in South Sudan and Sudan with appropriate governmental and international agencies and offices.

C014: Commend Charter for Compassion

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirms the Charter for Compassion and its encouragement of respectful and compassionate conversation while honoring full expression of differences, and encourages its study and a prayerful response; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention asserts the importance of joining with other partners to further the understanding of the principles of compassion and how we might live more intentionally, putting compassion at the center of our daily lives and relationships within the Episcopal Church and beyond, in ecumenical and interreligious contexts, within our cities and towns, and in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages all dioceses to study the Charter for Compassion and to participate in its call to action.

C018: Pursue Justice, Peace and Security in the Holy Land

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its solidarity with and support for Christians in Israel and the Occupied Territories; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention affirm the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in healing, education, and pastoral care; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention affirm the work of Christians engaged in relationship building, interfaith dialogue, non-violence training, and advocacy for the rights of Palestinians; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge Episcopalians to demonstrate our solidarity by making pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Territories and learning from our fellow Christians in the region; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention request the Program, Budget and Finance Committee consider allocating \$15,000 during the next triennium for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to produce a video and study guide based on the experiences and learnings of pilgrims to the region and Christians living in the region, to be distributed to the Episcopal Church.

C020: Ministry to People with Mental Illness and Their Families

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls upon dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of the Episcopal Church to explore and adopt best practices for the vitality and increased capacity of their mission and ministry in the inclusion, support, and spiritual care for persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of the Episcopal Church increase understanding about mental illness by providing educational material and training; utilizing existing programs such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, veterans groups, governmental departments of mental health, local organizations, and other programs and organizations; and sharing the information so that it is readily accessible.

C037: Sponsoring and Supporting Scouting Units

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention congratulate the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for over 100 years of fine work with American youth, teaching leadership, cooperation, teamwork, and ethics in a non-sectarian program emphasizing outdoor and life skills, a program which has reached millions of boys; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend the BSA for its recent change to a non-discriminatory membership policy, welcoming all youth to be scouts, irrespective of their sexual orientation, a change consistent with Resolution C031 adopted by the 73rd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommend that vestries and clergy in charge of congregations sponsor or continue to sponsor scouting units (packs, troops, posts and crews), especially those units recently displaced by decisions from other denominations to cease sponsoring scouting units as a consequence of the BSA's recent change to a non-discriminatory membership policy concerning sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge that parishes strongly consider, at the time they charter or renew the registration of their Boy Scout unit, communicating to the Boy Scout Council and to the public that The Episcopal Church strongly disagrees with the BSA's policy of discriminating against qualified adult leaders based on sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage qualified adults to volunteer as leaders, and otherwise to support the BSA work with youth in their communities; and engage in educational programs within their churches to inform members and others about these nondiscrimination issues; and be it further

Resolved, That insofar as the 77th General Convention affirmed our full inclusion, support, and love for our brothers and sisters in the transgender community at all levels of church leadership and membership, the Episcopal Church is eager to work with the BSA in hopes of making the great benefits and life-long lessons of scouting available to all; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs that the Office of General Convention send a copy of this resolution to the BSA's National Office and the National Executive Board of the Boys Scouts, and to seek discussions to alter its membership policy for adult leaders which discriminates against qualified adults based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Co45: Environmentally Responsible Investing

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church welcomes the release of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon rule for existing power plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention calls upon the Investment Committee of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner, and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention calls on the Investment Committee of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation to refrain from purchasing any new holdings of public equities and corporate bonds of fossil fuel companies, and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urges all dioceses and parishes of the Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy within the coming year.

D007: Amend Canon III.2.1 and Canon III.12.4(a)

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention wishes to provide flexibility so that Dioceses may explore opportunities for shared ministry and collaboration; and be it further

Resolved That Canon III.2.1 is amended as follows:

Canon III.2.1

In each Diocese there shall be a Commission on Ministry ("Commission") consisting of Priests, Deacons, if any, and Lay Persons. The Canons of each Diocese shall provide for the number of members, terms of office, and manner of selection to the Commission. Any Diocese may agree in writing with one or more other Dioceses to share a Commission on Ministry.

D014: Question Ordinands about Addiction

Resolved, That Sponsoring Clergy, Vestries, Commissions on Ministry, Standing Committees, and Bishops interviewing and evaluating Nominees, Postulants, and Candidates for Ordination explore directly issues regarding substance use in their lives and family systems; and be it further

Resolved, That Nominees, Postulants, and Candidates who may have addiction issues be offered appropriate resources and referred to qualified mental health, healthcare, and/or addiction professionals for further evaluation prior to proceeding in the ordination process.

D015: Encouraging Advocacy for Hunger Relief

Resolved, That dioceses, parishes, and faithful Episcopalians are called to advocate changes in public policy to help poor and hungry people; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention congratulate Bread for the World (BFW) for forty years of effective, non-partisan Christian public policy advocacy to make U.S. government rules and policies work better to combat hunger and poverty; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend BFW's objective to change public policy in order to end extreme poverty and hunger in the United States and worldwide by 2030; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recognize that BFW's current advocacy efforts, including prayer, letters, and personal visits with lawmakers by committed Christians, are a faithful path for our dioceses, congregations and people to follow as Christian advocates for the poor and hungry.

D030: Establish Parental Leave Policy

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urges all dioceses, congregations, and other church-related offices and agencies/contexts to establish and make available parental leave policies for birth and adoptive parents, both clergy and lay, in their employ; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention extend the provisions stated in resolution 2000-Co42, to include mention that clergy who give birth have a 12 week benefit that is available through the short term disability coverage provided by the Church Pension Fund; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Church Pension Group to increase publicity and knowledge about the provisions provided through the short term disability; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Executive Council in consultation with the Church Pension Group to prepare a church wide model policy on parental leave for both birth and adoptive parents for consideration by the 79th General Convention.

Do34: Affirmation and Support of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention reaffirm and renew the Church's commitment expressed in the 70th General Convention to the principles of inclusion and the protection of the civil rights of all persons with disabilities on this, the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26th, 1990), in the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare its continuing unwavering support, and advocate for total compliance with the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act by all covered entities, including public and government entities and places of public accommodation in the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention upon passage of this Resolution issue a press release announcing said Resolution to the national media signed by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations be urged to seek education from available community D/deaf/hard of hearing and disability organizations on supporting full inclusion of disabled persons in all aspects of public life.

Do45: Support for Men's Ministry

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention acknowledge with thanks to God for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and 132 years of ministry to men and boys; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage and support dioceses and congregations in their efforts to develop and expand Ministry to Men and to mentor and raise up the next generation of young men throughout the Episcopal Church.

Do73: Supporting Home and Community Based Services

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention call on states to fully fund all Medicaid and state general revenue-funded home and community-based services and to support programs for persons with disabilities of all ages, to provide individualized services, and to reduce all waiting lists and end unnecessary delays for such services; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention call on states to end the segregation of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in large congregate institutions and other

facilities, both publicly and privately operated, and commit to serving all persons in the community; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and local congregations to discern ways in which they can provide practical support to individuals and families affected by a lack of adequate home and community-based services and supports.

Do77: Uniting Families

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge dioceses and congregations to develop programs and partnerships with local agencies that emphasize the value of strong immigrant families and provide assistance with psychological, financial, and spiritual needs so as to assist immigrant families with their needs as they struggle to adapt to their new home country; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Do79: Education for Undocumented Families

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge dioceses and congregations to provide resources and education for undocumented persons and their families to learn about their legal rights, including their rights regarding certain immigration relief such as asylum; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.