

## STANDING COMMISSION ON WORLD MISSION

### Membership

Ms. Martha Gardner, <i>Chair</i>	Massachusetts, I	2024
The Rev. Elizabeth Frank, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Ohio, V	2024
The Rev. Grey Maggiano, <i>Secretary</i>	Maryland, III	2024
Ms. Emily Badgett	North Carolina, IV	2021
The Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards	Atlanta, IV	2021
Ms. Grecia Christian Reynoso	Dominican Republic, IX	2024
Canon Judith Conley	Arizona, VIII	2024
The Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque	Colombia, IX	2021
The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates	Massachusetts, I	2024
Mr. Matt Gobush	Virginia, III	2021
Ms. Helena Mbele-Mbong	Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, II	2021
Dr. Martin McCann	Atlanta, IV	2021
The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin	Western North Carolina, IV	2024
The Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales	Puerto Rico, IX	2024
The Rev. Judy Quick	Alabama, IV	2021
Ms. Denise Reovan	Virgin Islands, II	2024
Ms. Angela Smith	Western Kansas, VII	2024
The Rt. Rev. William Stokes	New Jersey, II	2021
The Rev. Irene Tanabe	Hawaii, VIII	2024
Mr. John Tull	Florida, IV	2024
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, <i>Ex Officio</i>	North Carolina, IV	
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, <i>Ex Officio</i>	Ohio, V	

### Changes in Membership

Ms. Karen Longenecker, Diocese of Rio Grande left in 2019, replaced by Mr. John (Jack) Tull, Diocese of Florida.

## **Representation at General Convention**

Canon Judith Conley, Diocese of Arizona  
The Rev. Judy Quick, Diocese of Alabama  
The Rev. Elizabeth Frank, Diocese of Ohio, Alternate  
Ms. Greycia Christian Reynoso, Diocese of the Dominican Republic  
Mr. John (Jack) Tull, Diocese of Florida  
The Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque, Bishop of Colombia  
The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts  
The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina  
The Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales, Bishop of Puerto Rico  
The Rt. Rev. William Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey

## **Acknowledgements**

The Commission wishes to thank the Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson, Ph.D., Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church, and the Rev. David Copley, Director of Global Partnerships and Mission Personnel, who met regularly with the Commission and shared valuable expertise. Ms. Rebecca Linder Blachley, Director of the Office of Government Relations, assisted with several projects, and we thank her.

We thank the following staff officers who gave reports to the Commission as part of surveying the global work of the church:

- The Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds, Staff Officer, Middle East
- Archdeacon A. Paul Feheley, Interim Partnership Officer for Africa
- Ms. Lynnaia Main, Episcopal Church Representative To The United Nations
- The Rev. Glenda McQueen, Staff Officer, Latin America & the Caribbean
- The Rev. Canon Bruce W. Woodcock, Partnership Officer for Asia and the Pacific

The Commission offers deep thanks to those who served as language interpreters and assisted with translation of documents, enabling us to carry out our work in both Spanish and English.

## Mandate

### Canon I.1.2.n.3

3. A Standing Commission on World Mission. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:
- i. Identify the global mission work carried out by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, dioceses, congregations and mission organizations throughout the church.
  - ii. Consult with the above bodies to envision future directions for the church's global engagement.
  - iii. Develop policy proposals for world mission for consideration by General Convention.
  - iv. Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the General Convention.

## Summary of Work

### MANDATE

Resolution 2018-A208 of the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) established a Standing Commission on World Mission with the mandate to identify global mission work and consult with those bodies to discern future directions for the church's global mission engagement, to offer ideas about policy proposals for General Convention, and to discharge other duties of the General Convention.

Throughout the triennium, the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) met as an interim body in person, electronically, and by sub-committee to further the work to achieve its mandate.

Resolutions from previous General Conventions and the 2003 Standing Commission on World Mission Companions in Transformation have informed the work of the SCWM.

### MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH

The Standing Commission on World Mission invites the Church to embrace and remember this call to God's mission throughout the world:

## **BECOMING A WORLD WHERE LOVE IS THE WAY:**

*Crossing Boundaries, Listening Deeply, Living Like Jesus, Together*

### **Crossing Boundaries**

Following the example of Jesus, who sent disciples into all the world, the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement is a global church. We gather as communities in North, Central, and South America, in Europe, and in Asia. We are part of the Anglican Communion. We work with ecumenical and inter-religious partners. We cross global boundaries at home through relationships with migrants and refugees. When we cross boundaries with love, we are sharing in God's mission.

*Where is God calling us?*

### **Listening Deeply**

As we cross boundaries, with the help of God, we strive to listen deeply to one another and to the Word of God in Holy Scripture. We discover and honor sacred differences in cultures and people. We repent of harm caused by failing to listen and failing to honor one another. We hear the Spirit calling us to renounce evil powers that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God.

*Whose voices need to be heard?*

### **Living Like Jesus**

Jesus proclaimed the good news of God's reign of love in this world. Episcopal Church mission priorities of evangelism, reconciliation, and creation care have global dimensions. Following Jesus in the Way of Love calls us to work with global partners to address racism, environmental degradation, human migration, challenges to human rights, poverty, and the need for sustainable development - all while proclaiming God's love, mercy, and hope.

*What would Jesus say or do today?*

### **Together**

God's mission is to make us one together, to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We have far to go, but as we walk together, God is at work among us. We trust that God has

poured out gifts on the whole Church. We seek mutual, interdependent relationships – offering and receiving gifts, respecting differences, sharing joys and sorrows, learning from each.

*How will we walk more closely together?*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The SCWM discerned Guiding Principles to frame the work of and offer a direction for global mission for The Episcopal Church and its mission partners around the world, to walk the Way of Love in a global context. The Message to the Church, *Becoming a World Where Love Is the Way*, embodies these Guiding Principles.

The Guiding Principles will be a Resolution to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, to include an invitation to all dioceses and jurisdictions to have a Global Mission Advocate to nurture the ongoing work of global mission.

### **Guiding Principles for World Mission**

Jesus affirmed the Greatest Commandment and its corollary: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Jesus also gave a New Commandment: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

Jesus’ final act was to give the Great Commission: to bring his Word to all nations.

Our dream is of a Beloved Community where all of God’s children are included; where the gifts of all are honored. In baptism we are called to be companions, which means standing with, traveling with, and sharing bread with one another. We are members of a global community, beginning with ourselves – the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church – the Anglican Communion, Christians, and people of other faiths or no faith throughout the world.

World mission is living into God’s mission of reconciling love in a global context, crossing boundaries of differences, meeting Christ in one another, as we walk the way of Love together throughout the world in true relationship.

World mission implies being present with others, as Jesus became incarnate and was present with us. As companions in mission, we are open to one another, learning from one another, and through that experience being transformed as we reach a deeper understanding of what it means to be Christians together, even across boundaries that might otherwise divide.

Every baptized Episcopalian has vowed to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of all human beings. Jesus' Way of Love invites us to "GO" beyond our boundaries, our comfort zones, beyond the Red Door of our Churches. How do we live into this call in a global context?

The catechism of the Episcopal Church teaches that the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. How do we live into this mission in a global context?

Living out the Way of Love throughout the Global Beloved Community in the 21st Century involves:

- Emphasizing evangelism, reconciliation, and creation care.
- Working with partners of all ages and abilities to respect the dignity of every human being.
- Serving as a prophetic voice to keep before The Episcopal Church engagement with God's Mission in the world.
- Transforming with grace and humility the culture of world mission engagement beyond historic transactional relationships from a position of power towards mutual models of mission as companions.
- Celebrating various models of God's mission and embracing the full diversity of the Body of Christ in person, online, and in spirit.

Jesus sends us into the world to be His disciples of love: "Just as the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21)

Therefore, as followers sent by Jesus, we are all invited to follow these **Guiding Principles**:

- Think and imagine a world where love is the way.
- Commit to world mission that is incarnated in personal presence, meeting Christ in all whom we encounter, in our backyard or around the globe.
- Go the Way of Love: cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus.
- Walk humbly the Way of Love with our companions in mission, in mutual discovery and deepening of God's reconciling love, learning together, praying together, worshipping together, as we transform and bless each other.
- Excite, inspire, and engage others to discover the joy of God's mission.

- Honor and embrace in mutual discovery the God-given gifts of all individuals, parishes, dioceses, their partners, and their communities.
- Nurture relationships to develop avenues for cross-cultural mission, local/global/pilgrimage, for all ages and abilities.
- Advocate for structural changes to support global mission issues, including promoting the dignity of all and honoring refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers everywhere.
- Honor our sacred differences while we unite as Beloved Community around God’s table.
- Support missionaries, from discernment, during their service, and upon their return.
- As we walk this Way of Love, address together the many issues of poverty, violence, oppression, threats to global health, and environmental degradation, often in a time of global upheaval.
- Remember that to “Go” can also mean “Go” by building relationships, learning, listening, encouraging across space through virtual presence and communication from where you are.
- Encourage all dioceses to have a Diocesan Global Mission Advocate.

*O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. — Book of Common Prayer*

## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Four sub-committees were assigned to address the mandate:

1) Theology 2) Relationship 3) Advocacy 4) Communications

### **Theology Sub-Committee:**

Purpose: To clarify the theology of mission – God’s mission – to guide the work of global mission throughout the Church

Activities:

The Theology Sub-Committee drafted the Guiding Principles for World Mission. The SCWM collaborated with the Office of Global Partnerships (OGP) and the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) to refine the Guiding Principles for World Mission.

The Theology Sub-Committee also addressed two aspects of theological education:

1. The degree to which World Mission is taught in Episcopal seminaries and Diocesan Schools of Ministry, via a questionnaire sent to these schools and
2. The availability of theological education for lay and clergy in TEC's non-US jurisdictions, via a questionnaire sent to the bishops of these jurisdictions.

World Mission formation in Episcopal Seminaries and Diocesan Schools of Ministry:

- In most seminaries, world mission was found to be an integral part of formation either in a specific course or part of other courses. It is central to the life and discipleship of churches and is part of the teaching of Anglican Studies. The findings from the Diocesan Schools of Ministry were less conclusive.

Theological Education in TEC's Non-US Dioceses and the Convocation:

- There is a need for further development of theological education for lay and clergy, most notably in the area of Anglican Studies. Few non-US jurisdictions have their own seminaries or schools of ministry and thus rely on other seminaries or institutions, Episcopal and non-Episcopal.
- Funding for course development and participation is another consideration.
- Many would welcome on-line courses, with foreign language capabilities, primarily in Spanish, but also in other languages, being mindful of issues such as payment options and availability of books.

**Relationship Sub-Committee:**

Purpose: To identify and coordinate with TEC staff, mission organizations, and diocesan/parish/individual mission advocates to share visions for the future of global mission

Activities:

- The Relationship Sub-Committee identified global mission work, collaborating with the OGP, resulting in a spreadsheet which highlights mission relationships of dioceses and parishes and mission organizations and agencies. Also noted are the Bi-Lateral and Covenant relationships of the Episcopal Church.
- Communication and collaboration with several of these entities have formed the content and direction of future paths of global mission engagement.
- The SCWM and the OGP encourage dioceses and parishes to complete the Episcopal Asset Map to capture global mission relationships.



**Advocacy Sub-Committee:**

Purpose: To raise a prophetic voice, build coalitions, speak truth to power and coordinate with the Office of Government Relations and other organizations to assess and address issues of global mission and promote the process of international engagement

Activities:

- The Advocacy Sub-Committee communicated and collaborated with the Office of Government Relations (OGR) to assess potential areas of support.
- The Advocacy Sub-Committee proposed several resolutions for the 80th General Convention to guide the work of the OGR and the Office of the Episcopal Church and the United Nations to advocate for global mission in the Church.
- The Advocacy Sub-Committee directed the work of a Constable Grant to develop Just War training materials for Episcopal Military and Veteran's Administration Chaplains.

**Communications Sub-Committee:**

Purpose: To affirm effective and diverse ways to communicate a consistent message of global mission, to engage and inspire the Episcopal Church for God's mission in the world

Activities:

- The Communications Sub-Committee advised other sub-committees to consider the messaging and ways to convey the message to the Church most effectively.
- The Communications Sub-Committee will ensure the implementation of the message and resources of global mission in multiple media.

**CONSTABLE GRANTS**

The SCWM collaborated with the OGP and GEMN to prepare a Constable Grant and to develop a Global Mission Toolkit with the Constable Grant Funds. This toolkit provides resources for individuals, parishes, dioceses, seminaries, and diocesan schools of ministry to encourage and inspire global mission. These resources include Bible studies, discussion and worship resources, videos, and webinars, available on the TEC website.

The SCWM sponsored a Constable Grant in partnership with the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) to develop a virtual pilgrimage of the Holy Land, highlighting themes of Jesus' life and ministry in current ministries in Israel, Palestine, Gaza, and Jordan. COVID travel

restrictions delayed the timing of the completion of the AFEDJ grant. The virtual pilgrimage will allow individuals, parishes, and dioceses to experience the land where Jesus lived, loved, and served and show how the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Jerusalem Peacebuilders continue the work of Jesus today in the context of the complex political arena. These virtual resources will be available in multiple media.

"Bearing Witness: A Journey with Holy Land Christians towards Mercy, Justice, and Peace" (working title) will invite participants to reflect and respond to their deeper understanding of the witness of Christians in the Middle East by focusing on themes of Jesus's ministry:

1. Hope and Empowerment
2. Teaching
3. Healing
4. Overcoming Stigma and Breaking Barriers
5. Reconciliation and Peacemaking

The SCWM submitted and received a Constable Grant entitled "Military Chaplains Just War Education Project". The SCWM is collaborating with the office of the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries and coordinating with the Office of Government Relations in the administration of the project. Members of the SCWM serve on a steering committee with representatives from both offices to develop Just War training materials for the Episcopal Military and Veteran's Administration Chaplains, advised by experts in the field of Just War theory. A Project Director convened the panel of experts and the Advisory Board of Military Chaplains to develop the curricula for the Episcopal Military and Veteran's Administration Chaplains, with a consideration of a strategy to continue this work beyond the scope of the grant.

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

The Standing Commission on World Mission collaborated very closely with the Office of Global Partnerships throughout the triennium to ensure that the work of the SCWM supported the goals of the OGP and also its presence representing the Episcopal Church at the United Nations. We include their reports as follows:

### **The Office of Global Partnerships**

We strive to be International bridge builders and reconcilers, focused on relationships and seeking a world where love is the way. We continue with our ministry of physical presence and walking along side our partners through our staff and missionary programs. In 2021 we celebrate our Young Adult Service Corps program, with 20 years of transforming lives and deepening faith through mission

engagement. We are developing new and innovative modes of ministry, with online meetings, resource development and programming through a diversity of social media platforms. Mission Personnel is engaged in a new creative border ministry initiative collaborating with four US dioceses and the Province of Mexico. In a fractured world, staying connected with our Anglican Communion family is more important than ever, and we are experiencing a significant increase in collaboration between dioceses, Provinces and agencies across the Anglican Communion.

### **The Episcopal Church at the United Nations**

The Episcopal Church celebrated 75 years of active engagement with the United Nations in 2020. We continue to be faith leaders at the United Nations on a wide range of issues, including the care of creation, human rights, sustainable development and gender equality. In doing so, the office partners actively with the Anglican Communion and other faith-based and civil society partners in mutual engagement with the United Nations.

### **BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to funding for the Office of Global Partnerships, The Standing Commission on World Mission recommends the following budget allocations:

- \$5,000 to support the work of a Task Force on Pacifism and Just War as it continues its work online.
- \$50,000 to support the work of the Global Episcopal Mission Network over this triennium.
- \$90,000 for a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation, meeting over two triennia. \$30,000 for this triennium and \$60,000 for the next.

### **REFERENCES FOR THE SUMMARY OF WORK**

*Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century*, Mission Vision Statement presented by the Standing Commission on World Mission to the 2003 General Convention

2018-A207 Encouraging Mission as Part of the Beloved Community, 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Office of Global Partnerships of the Episcopal Church: <https://episcopalchurch.org/global-partnerships>

Global Episcopal Mission Network: <https://www.gemn.org/>

Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church: <https://episcopalchurch.org/office-government-relations>

Office of the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries:  
<https://episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-federal-chaplains>

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: <https://afedj.org/>

The Episcopal Church and the United Nations: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/global-partnerships/episcopal-church-united-nations/>

Episcopal Relief & Development: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

Episcopal Migration Ministries: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/>

Episcopal Asset Map: <https://www.episcopalassetmap.org/>

## Proposed resolutions

### **A016 Adopt, Study, and Promote Guiding Principles for World Mission & Initiate Global Mission Advocate Program**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention adopt the following Guiding Principles as a foundation upon which it engages in mission:

- Think and imagine a world where love is the way
- Commit to world mission that is incarnated in personal presence, meeting Christ in all whom we encounter, in our backyard or around the globe
- Go the Way of Love: cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus
- Walk the Way of Love with our companions in mission, in mutual discovery and deepening of God's reconciling love, learning together, praying together, worshipping together, as we transform and bless each other

## REPORTS TO THE 80th GENERAL CONVENTION

---

- Excite, inspire, and engage others to discover the joy of God’s mission
- Honor and embrace in mutual discovery the God-given gifts of all individuals, parishes, dioceses, their partners, and their communities
- Nurture relationships to develop avenues for cross-cultural mission, local/global/pilgrimage, for all ages and abilities
- Advocate for structural changes to support global mission issues, including promoting the dignity of all and honoring refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers everywhere
- Honor our sacred differences while we unite as Beloved Community around God’s table
- Support missionaries, from discernment, during their service, and upon their return
- As we walk this Way of Love, address together the many issues of poverty, violence, oppression, and environmental degradation
- Remember that to “Go” can also mean “Go” by building relationships, learning, listening, encouraging across space through virtual presence and communication from where you are
- Encourage all dioceses to have a Diocesan Global Mission Advocate

and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Convention commend these Guiding Principles to Episcopal seminaries, diocesan schools of ministry, dioceses and jurisdictions, and congregations for study and implementation and that they be encouraged to study and promote the Guiding Principles; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Convention encourage each diocese, jurisdiction, Episcopal seminary, and diocesan school of ministry to appoint at least one person to serve as a Global Mission Advocate to promote the study and use of the Guiding Principles and share with the Church promising global mission practices developed as these guiding principles are implemented alongside other models of ministry such as Asset-Based Community Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Standing Commission on World Mission and the Office of Global Partnerships collaborate during the triennium with the Global Episcopal Mission Network to create a Network of Global Mission Advocates to share their experiences with the implementation, study, and promotion of the Guiding Principles. This Network shall provide guidance to the Standing Commission on World Mission on the practical application of the Guiding Principles and suggest amendments.

EXPLANATION

The nature and understanding of mission continuously evolve. As we strive to be a Beloved Community, the Standing Commission on World Mission presents these Guiding Principles for World Mission to frame the work of and offer a direction for global mission for The Episcopal Church and its mission around the world, to walk the Way of Love in a global context. Expanding on the work of Companions in Transformation presented by the SCWM to the General Convention in 2003 (2003-A150), the current Commission sought input from numerous people active in world mission – inter alia missionaries, academics, the Office of Global Partnerships, the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) – in developing these Guiding Principles.

It is recommended that these Guiding Principles be used along with the Global Mission Toolkit, which is being developed by SCWM with GEMN and the Office of Global Partnerships to guide worship, discussion and engagement in world-wide mission.

**A017 Assessment of Past Colonialism in the Church's World Mission Ministries**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention acknowledge and grieve the participation of the Episcopal Church and its various entities and institutions in colonialism in North America, Latin America, Africa, and Asia; and warns of and laments colonial mindsets in the Church today; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention affirm that Colonialism and its continuing impacts are antithetical to the Gospel as proclaimed by our Savior Jesus Christ, and that we are all called to repent and atone for the evils perpetuated in the name of Christ in the missionary field; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) encourage the Episcopal Church to use principles and practices which turn from the colonial mindset of the past towards mutuality of relationships in our mission, ministries, and outreach; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention direct the SCWM to deliver a report to the 81st General Convention on the historic role of the Episcopal Church in colonialism through its missionary work, and how and where a colonial mindset continues to prejudice our work in propagating the Gospel.

EXPLANATION

When the Church Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church met for the first time in 1828, the Rev. D. Wainwright offered the opening sermon which read in part: “The Indians of Western America and the isles of the Pacific are ignorant and degraded; the savage hordes of Africa are remote and intractable.” From the beginning, the missionary work of the Episcopal Church was wrapped up in the broader effort at colonization. In fact, the first missionary efforts undertaken in the Church were under the auspices of the Colonization Society.

Looking back we are now aware that Episcopal Missionary efforts, while always undertaken with the goal of propagating the Gospel all over the world, also suffered from the unmistakable connection to colonialism.

This resolution calls on the Church to review its missionary history from our founding to the present day in order to study and reflect upon the difficult reality of our complicity in colonialism and how we have unwittingly done harm to the propagation of the Gospel so that we can repent, ask forgiveness, make amends, and strive not to repeat those mistakes.

**A018 Teaching World Mission and Theological Education Beyond the United States**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention, urge all seminaries and programs of formation to include world mission as a core part of their curriculum; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention recognize with appreciation offerings of Episcopal seminaries and other institutions of formation that reach beyond the United States, and urge these seminaries and other institutions to further collaborate with dioceses and jurisdictions outside the United States in developing their online course offerings to provide accessibility of courses and materials to those outside the United States, and take into consideration: cost, timing (if online discussion is required), languages, and certification, with an emphasis on Anglican studies; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention task the Standing Commission on World Mission with convening and leading a group composed of members of the Standing Commission, representatives of seminaries in the United States and of seminaries and diocesan programs outside the United States to collaborate and promote development of such courses.

EXPLANATION

Few of the jurisdictions outside the United States have seminaries or extensive programs of formation. They rely on the programs they are able to develop and on other institutions and seminaries – often non-Anglican – for theological education and training. Attending a seminary in the United States is not an option for most, for a variety of reasons. The need is particularly great in all aspects of Anglican studies: liturgy, theology, tradition and history. While some seminaries and other institutions offer some programming beyond their physical campuses, having more courses available online could considerably help to fill this gap and strengthen the offerings available within these jurisdictions. Courses available beyond the United States would benefit not only those in dioceses of The Episcopal Church, whether those seeking ordination or lay leaders, but also others throughout the Anglican Communion.

**A019 Theological Education and Formation in Languages other than English**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention celebrate the efforts being made within The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion to collaborate in offering theological education and formation in languages other than English; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urge and promote increasing development and availability throughout The Episcopal Church of theological education and formation in languages other than English, including in our major seminaries and other programs of formation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention encourage Spanish-speaking dioceses of The Episcopal Church to strengthen collaboration amongst themselves and with seminaries in the United States, and also with the Latin American Provinces and Spain to further develop and make widely available courses and materials in theological education and formation in Spanish; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urge the seminaries and other institutions of formation, in collaboration with the non-US jurisdictions and the Standing Commission on World Mission to identify theological and other texts, especially in Anglican studies, most in need of translation for theological formation, and consult with the Office of Communications and others as appropriate to explore ways such translations can be made, following professional guidelines; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on World Mission, working with the Office of Global Partnerships, be tasked with urging and following up on this initiative.



EXPLANATION

There is a great need to strengthen theological education in languages other than English. Few jurisdictions outside the United States have the resources to do this entirely on their own. Through greater collaboration amongst all Spanish-speaking provinces and dioceses, in particular, more quality materials and courses could be offered more widely, to the benefit of all.

In addition, very few materials pertinent to Anglican studies are available in any language other than English. French and Spanish, in particular, as well as Kreyòl, Chinese, and other languages are the primary language not only of significant parts of The Episcopal Church but throughout the Anglican Communion, making in-depth study of Anglican theology difficult for many members at all levels. There is a great need for more materials and translations not only in Spanish but also in French for the growing numbers of francophone Anglicans, not to mention other languages. By expanding theological education and formation in all languages in wide use in The Episcopal Church, the Church more fully embraces people whose primary language is other than English and becomes closer to becoming Beloved Community.

**A020 Support Decade of Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention express continued support for the ways in which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become the cornerstone of development policy and action of the Episcopal Church's institutions, agencies, dioceses, and congregations and provided a framework for approaching the Church's call to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention encourage all parishes, dioceses, and jurisdictions to support the UN's Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the SDGs by (1) educating themselves about the SDGs using United Nations, Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church resources; (2) developing their own educational resources to translate the core Christian values and imperatives of the SDGs in ways that can be easily grasped, shared, and put into action; (3) undertaking self-audits to assess how their existing mission work and ministries already address the SDGs; and (4) sharing stories about how they are working toward the SDGs and furthering the work that Jesus calls all of us to do; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention commend and acknowledge Episcopalians who are already working towards the SDGs, including the Episcopal presence at the annual UN High-Level Political

Forum on the SDGs and Episcopal Relief & Development which continues to educate the Church about the SDGs and work toward the SDGs through its programs and priorities.

#### EXPLANATION

General Convention and Executive Council have previously affirmed the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 2015-A021 Continue the Financial Commitment to International Development Programs (affirmed by Executive Council in October 2015), 2018-B026 Endorse the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the Basis for Policy and Action, and 2018-B027 Encourage Gender-Inclusive Responses to Climate Change. These resolutions have established the Church's endorsement of the overall goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the principle of using the SDG framework, as well as linking that support to concrete financial commitments of 0.7% of operating budgets. Episcopal Relief & Development has taken the lead in educating the Church about the SDGs, in addition to contributing to the Goals through its projects.

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called for a Decade of Action to advance achievement of the SDGs and acknowledge the need for action on global, local, and individual levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all 17 SDGs and shown that what began as a health crisis has quickly become a human and socio-economic crisis. As the pandemic continues to impede progress towards the SDGs, it also makes their achievement all the more urgent and necessary.

In response, the Church needs to expand its focus beyond funding to education at the parish and diocesan level so that all Episcopal faith communities can understand the Christian values and imperatives at the root of the SDGs. Existing UN, Anglican and Episcopal resources can be adapted to speak prophetically within local contexts. Similarly, the resolution seeks through self-audits to reveal existing ministries, local and global, which further the work that Jesus has called us to do as well as contribute to achievement of the SDGs. Reports on these self-audits would provide valuable input to the Church's representatives to the United Nations, enabling them to accurately map and lift up the Church's work to achieve the SDGs in the UN context.

#### **A021 Support for the United Nations**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention applaud the United Nations on its 75th anniversary and recall the prophetic role Episcopalians and The Episcopal Church played in its inception, including modeling a universal fellowship of peace-loving communities, shaping its founding principles, supporting its formation in 1945 through the actions of General

## REPORTS TO THE 80th GENERAL CONVENTION

---

Convention, and inspiring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the faithful public service of Eleanor Roosevelt and other Episcopalians; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention express gratitude to the United Nations for its leadership over three quarters of a century in promoting multilateralism and fostering dialogue among nations of the world, maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention affirm the critical importance of the United Nations in addressing contemporary global challenges, including the spread of disease, dislocation of migrants and refugees, rise of climate change, persistence of poverty, discrimination in all its forms and intersectionalities, abuse of human rights, and threats of violence, conflict, and war; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention recommit The Episcopal Church to active engagement with the United Nations in its special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and the observer organization status in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and through the ministries of the Office of Global Partnerships and Mission Personnel and the Episcopal Church Representative to the UN, and the efforts of individual Episcopalians; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urge all nations, especially the United States, to support the United Nations and its offices, programs and funds, as well as related specialized agencies through their active participation and full payment of their assessed financial contributions; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention call on all nations, especially the United States, to participate in the formulation, signature, ratification and implementation of United Nations Declarations, Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to resolve global concerns, especially those which protect the most vulnerable; and be it further

*Resolved*, That all Episcopalians seek ways to fulfill our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being” by endeavoring in our local parishes and dioceses to inform, educate, raise awareness, and develop programs to contribute to the work of the United Nations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That all Episcopalians observe United Nations Day annually on October 24, and pray for the UN’s continued success in building a more peaceful, just, and prosperous world in accord with Jesus’

call to us to love our neighbor as ourselves, care for our world, heal the sick, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, serve the poor and proclaim the Good News; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention give thanks for the continued support and partnership of the Anglican Communion in common ministry at the United Nations and encourage collaboration and mutual support for all Anglicans while uplifting Episcopal voices and concerns through Episcopal representation at the United Nations.

#### EXPLANATION

On United Nations Day (October 24) 2020, the United Nations commemorated the 75th anniversary of its official founding. Presiding Bishop Curry invited Episcopalians to join him on Sunday, October 25th, in praying the “Prayer for Peace Among the Nations” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 816) as a prayer of solidarity while the world continues to work towards peace, justice, human rights and the full development and dignity of all peoples living in harmony with each other, our planet and its creatures. Established in the aftermath of the destruction of two World Wars, the United Nations was then - and still is today - envisioned as a global forum for dialogue between nations of the world, to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law.

Episcopalians have been engaging with the United Nations (UN) since before its inception in 1945. Today, Episcopalians participate in many ways: as UN staff; as representatives of member states, civil society organizations or The Episcopal Church following UN dialogue on global issues that concern them; or as participants in UN events virtually or in person. Specifically, the Episcopal Church was granted in 2014 UN Economic and Social Council special consultative status and was granted in 2017 observer organization status with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This resolution commends UN initiatives and actions and recommits The Episcopal Church, in collaboration with the Anglican Communion, and other faith-based partners, to active engagement with the United Nations. It urges the United States and member nations to pay fully their assessed financial contributions; craft international agreements, declarations, treaties, and conventions to resolve global concerns; and recognize these actions as multilateral legal instruments that complement, rather than compete with, national laws.

## **A022 Commend the Work of Episcopal Migration Ministries**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention commend the work and mission of Episcopal Migration Ministries, specifically its faithful ministry of welcome and love to more than 95,000 refugees through its 40 year-old Resettlement Program and its 80 year-old Church Engagement Program; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention reaffirm that The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to welcome the stranger and respect the dignity of every human being and that those fleeing persecution have a particular claim on our attention and concern as they seek a life of dignity and peace in the face of oppression; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention endorse the continued ministry of Episcopal Migration Ministries in responding to the needs of refugees, even as the number allowed to enter the United States has been greatly reduced in recent years, and working with the Church through the Church Engagement Program to minister to asylum seekers, those in detention, and all migrants.

### EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has served immigrants new to the United States since the late 1800s, when the Church opened port chaplaincies to minister to sojourners on both coasts. In the 1930s, local parishes collected donations to provide steamship passage for those fleeing Nazi Europe. Out of this effort, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief was born, the forerunner organization to Episcopal Relief & Development and Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). Since the mid- and late 20th century, EMM has partnered with other faith organizations to resettle those oppressed by the Iron Curtain, genocides of Southeast Asia, wars and conflict in Africa and the Middle East. In 1988, EMM was formally established as a resettlement agency and, in partnership with a network of affiliate agencies, dioceses, churches, and volunteers, is today one of only nine national agencies through which all refugees enter the United States.

At baptism, we vow, with God's help, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as yourself. In the face of mounting obstacles, the staff of EMM have courageously put that promise into action and continue to lead the way in refugee resettlement and in building ministries of welcome, education, and advocacy across the Church.

The process of deepening relationships with the Church includes discerning together what the ministry opportunities and needs for local churches and dioceses are concerning migration ministries. The EMM Church Engagement unit has led local discernment which has birthed two new vibrant ministry areas in immigration detention and asylum. Consistent with Executive Council

Resolution MBo01 (Oct. 15, 2018), the Standing Commission on World Mission urges the Convention to lift up and commend EMM's faithful ministry and encourage individual and parish collaboration and support through advocacy, personal involvement, and funding.

### **A023 Direct Inclusion of Asset Mapping Question in the Parochial Report**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the General Convention direct the Executive Officer of General Convention to add to the Parochial Report the following question and instructions for responding affirmatively to capture the diversity of God's mission in the world:

"Have you completed or reviewed your profile of domestic and global mission activities on the Episcopal Asset Map, a joint project of The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development?"

#### EXPLANATION

2018-A058 challenged all congregations to complete their profiles on the Episcopal Asset map. The Episcopal Asset Map is the "Find a Church" and "Find a Ministry" tool of the Episcopal Church. To be effective, the Asset Map requires updating. The Parochial Report provides a tool for reminding congregations to complete or update their profiles as well as promoting the usefulness of the Asset Map in responding to the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

The first item of the mandate for the Standing Commission for World Mission (Resolution 2018-A208) is to identify the global mission work carried out by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, dioceses, congregations, and mission organizations throughout the church. This ongoing activity would be more effective and current if parishes noted and updated their global mission engagements on the Episcopal Asset Map.

The identification of global mission engagements also supports the work of the Office of Global Partnerships. Understanding the scope and character of these global mission engagements enables communications among parishes and dioceses with similar ministries and provides useful direction for the Office of Global Partnerships and the Global Episcopal Mission Network to provide resources and support for these relationships.

## **A024 Create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention, pursuant to Joint Rule IX.22, create a Task Force on Translation and Interpretation, whose mandate includes, but is not limited to, (1) development of a working strategy and criteria for determining and prioritizing the types of materials (media releases, resources, reports, etc.) pertaining to church life to be translated and meetings related to governance to be interpreted and into which languages; (2) establishment of criteria for assuring the quality of translations and interpretation, employing dynamic equivalence, and establish procedures and criteria for hiring professional translators and interpreters to assure high-quality translations and interpretations; (3) consultation with non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and area missions about their needs and priorities for translations and interpretation; and (4) recommendation of funding levels necessary to implement the strategy; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force begin its work no later than January 1, 2023, with the task concluding its work at the conclusion of the 82nd General Convention, unless its mandate is extended by the 82nd Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force report annually to Executive Council and provide an interim report to the 81st General Convention and a final report with recommendations to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the membership of this task force be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies and include up to three Bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of Bishops from non-English speaking dioceses and jurisdictions; up to three Clergy and up to three Lay Persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies for five-year terms, with special consideration given to inclusion of persons from non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and mission areas; up to two members of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) appointed by the SCWM; and one member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) appointed by the SCLM; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Executive Officer of General Convention appoint a member of the staff from the General Convention Office and the Presiding Bishop appoint a member of staff from the Language Services Department of the Office of Communications to serve as consultants to the task force; and be it further

*Resolved*, That \$90,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution, of which \$30,000 would be allocated to the first triennium of the task force's work.

EXPLANATION

Previous resolutions of General Convention have called for all official documents, publications, and digital publications produced by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to be issued in Spanish, and French, notably resolutions 2003-C029, 2003-A082, and 2009-B017. These resolutions have not been fully honored for reasons including lack of funds and the difficulty of identifying which documents should be selected for translations into which languages. Failure to translate critical documents and interpret critical meetings adversely impacts both evangelism and full inclusion of non-English speaking members in the life of the Church, including preparation and participation in General Convention.

More recently, the 79th General Convention acknowledged and started to address shortcomings in translation and interpretation. Resolution 2018-A281 acknowledged the need to improve the provision of interpretation and translations at General Convention. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) has made significant progress this triennium, pursuant to 2018-A070, with translations of the Book of Common Prayer into Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole. The Church awaits SCLM's plan, pursuant to 2018-C024, for translating *Enriching Our Worship*, the Book of Occasional Services, and other authorized liturgical resources into the "primary languages currently in use in this church."

Translations of the Book of Common Prayer and liturgical materials serve as an important beginning, but do not address the on-going needs for translation and interpretation of materials and meetings in the life and governance of an inclusive, welcoming, international church. Recognizing that it is infeasible to translate everything, the task force must prioritize what is translated and interpreted and in which languages, evaluate the technical expertise required, and request the requisite funding. Translations must employ "dynamic equivalence": a way of stating, in the target language, the same idea present in the original source language. The correspondence is not word-to-word, but from idea-to-idea, expressed in the same words but, if not possible, in similar phrases having a similar meaning in the source language in its cultural context.

Successful development and implementation of a strategy or criteria to routinely identify and prioritize the types of materials most in need of translation as well as meetings requiring interpretation, requires collaboration with the Presiding Bishop's staff in the Office of Communications and the General Convention Office. It is imperative, once the strategy and procedures are developed and ready for implementation, that more funds be made available for the important work of translation and interpretation. Translation and interpretation needs and costs should be assessed in the planning of new initiatives and programs.



## **A025 Inclusivity in Forms and Information on the Website of The Episcopal Church and Related Organizations**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention direct The Episcopal Church and urge all agencies, institutions and other organizations connected with it to review and revise their online forms as necessary to ensure functionality for those residing in non-US areas of The Episcopal Church so that forms can be completed with information world-wide, including but not limited to: addresses, telephone numbers, postal codes and country designations, currency abbreviations and credit card numbers to allow non-US standard responses to form fields for members of congregations and others residing outside the United States; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention direct the Church Center to ensure that all reports, information and interactive material posted on the website of The Episcopal Church include all of its dioceses and jurisdictions, and that they be available and usable by all members of The Episcopal Church, including those outside the United States, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention direct all those developing materials of any kind for use by the Church to take into account variations required by dioceses, jurisdictions, and church members outside the United States.

### EXPLANATION

We are fond of saying The Episcopal Church is an international church. However, members of congregations outside the United States have found it difficult, if not impossible, to complete online forms for such things as Parochial Reports, lists of deputies to General Convention, registration for programs, ordering materials, etc., as the forms do not accommodate input of addresses with foreign postal codes and countries, telephone numbers, credit card numbers, international email domains, accent marks and other information from geographical areas outside the United States. As a result, incomplete or incorrect information is often provided, or it becomes impossible to fill the form or complete the transaction at all.

The Episcopal Church includes a number of jurisdictions (dioceses and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe) outside the United States, yet in posting information and interactive sites on the website of The Episcopal Church these jurisdictions and their congregations are often excluded in the reporting and/or do not have full access. For example, in publishing the results of the Parochial Reports, information from the non-US jurisdictions is often only partially included, leaving out financial information in particular. Additionally, the mapping demographics of Parochial Report data launched on the TEC website do not even mention the jurisdictions outside the US. Such inclusion

was already requested through Resolution 2009-Co60 “Direct Inclusion of Overseas Congregations in Statistical Reports.”

Many materials developed for use in the Church assume they will be used in the United States by Americans. As a result, some materials are of less use outside the United States. While to a certain degree this is inevitable, those developing materials should be aware that most materials should also be relevant to those outside the United States.

As we seek to build a Beloved Community, this resolution seeks to ensure that all members of The Episcopal Church have full access to information and online forms, and that all reporting and information are fully inclusive. It is vital that the website of The Episcopal Church be inclusive of the entire Church.

### **A026 Applaud Missionaries and Commend the 20th Anniversary of the Young Adult Service Corps**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention applaud the flexibility and resilience of members of the Young Adult Service Corps and the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission who, during the difficult times of pandemic, have faithfully continued to respond to God’s call for them, walking the Way of Love as agents and instruments of God’s reconciliation, and seeking and serving Christ in all persons; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention commend the 20th Anniversary of the Young Adult Service Corps and the work of the Office of Global Partnerships in the spiritual and vocational formation of program candidates and participants; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention give thanks for parishes and dioceses which financially and spiritually support these missionaries during their placements and upon their return home.

#### EXPLANATION

The Young Adult Service Corps was designed to offer young adults ages 21-30 the opportunity to discern vocations, share their gifts and skills, and be part of the life and work of a community in another part of God’s world. In the last 20 years, 208 young adults from all nine provinces of The Episcopal Church have spent time living, working, and praying alongside Anglican/Episcopal and

ecumenical and interfaith partners throughout the world. Young adults commit to one-year assignments.

Episcopal Volunteers in Mission supports Episcopalians ages 31 to build relationships, share their gifts and skills, listen to and learn from partners around the world, and be open to the personal transformation that comes from meeting God in new ways. This program offers opportunities for shorter-term assignments of several months and longer-term assignments of 1-2 years. It is open to both lay and ordained people in a variety of fields including, but not limited to, education, finance, administration, agriculture, communication, and chaplaincy.

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic created challenges for missionaries in both these programs. Their responses to the realities in and demands of their assignments have demonstrated spiritual maturity and faithfulness in discerning faithful responses to God's call and deep commitment to their ministries. Furthermore, financial and spiritual support from dioceses and parishes are critical for sustaining these missionary efforts.

### **A027 Support of the World Health Organization**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention express its full support of the World Health Organization in its mission to promote the highest standard of health for all people; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention support the position that the United States of America remain a full member of the Organization; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to communicate to the leadership of both Houses of Congress and other appropriate governmental agencies the position of The Episcopal Church regarding the World Health Organization and its concern that the independence of the World Health Organization to pursue its global mission not be compromised by partisan national politics and interference, especially as the world responds to the threat of climate change to world health and the effect of pandemics such as Covid-19 on populations with fragile health care systems.

#### **EXPLANATION**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations system with 194 member states. Its primary role is to direct international health within the United Nations' system

and to lead partners in global health responses, directing and coordinating international health work through collaboration with countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, foundations, academia, and research institutions.

In 2019, the WHO outlined the top ten threats to global health. The dominant threats are global warming and climate change. Strong threats are heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The WHO also noted the threat of a flu-like pandemic such as Covid-19, although when and where the pandemic would appear could not be predicted. Other threats were vulnerable health care systems and vaccine resistance.

The WHO has led the eradication of smallpox and is instrumental in efforts to control polio, HIV, and tuberculosis. The WHO has improved maternal and child health care worldwide.

In April 2020, the United States suspended financial contributions to the World Health Organization and began procedures to withdraw from the Organization. This resolution seeks to encourage Episcopalians to understand how the World Health Organization exemplifies the healing ministry of Jesus and thus promote the WHO to decision-makers in the United States and throughout all countries of the Episcopal Church as the impact of the WHO affects its global mission partners worldwide.

The Principles of the World Health Organization, stated at the beginning of its Constitution, confirm our baptismal vow to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”. As the world-wide intergovernmental health organization, the WHO is the leading agency in promoting health for all. While other organizations, governmental and non-governmental, are involved in healthcare and public health, the role of WHO as the lead intergovernmental organization in health and as part of the UN system is crucial.

### **A028 Join, Participate, and Fund The Global Episcopal Mission Network**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention celebrate and commend the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) and its leadership on 25 years of encouraging global mission within and beyond the Church and equipping and inspiring individuals, congregations, and organizations to engage in this work; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention acknowledge GEMN’s collaboration with the Standing Commission on World Mission and the Office of Global Partnerships in Constable Grant funded work

to develop and disseminate a toolkit of online mission formation resources and other programs to promote theologically grounded practices of engagement with the world; and be it further

*Resolved*, That individuals, congregations, seminaries, mission organizations, dioceses, and jurisdictions be encouraged to support the work of GEMN by becoming members, participating in its conferences and activities, and funding its work; and be it further

*Resolved*, That \$50,000 be budgeted to support the work of GEMN during the next triennium.

#### EXPLANATION

GEMN was founded in 1995 as a network of dioceses who sought to promote the global mission work of the Church and collaborate around best practices in global mission. Over the years, the network expanded to include individuals, congregations, seminaries, and mission organizations. Recent GEMN Conferences have focused on Episcopal Church mission priorities of evangelism, reconciliation, and care for creation. During this past triennium, GEMN worked closely with SCWM and with the Office of Global Partnerships (OGP) to develop a digital Global Mission Toolkit to further the work of mission formation. GEMN also transitioned its Mission Formation Program and other mission education to online formats.

Recent world events - such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and increasing human migration - highlight the importance of working together as God's people in mission across national boundaries. As an integral partner with OGP and SCWM, GEMN plays a crucial role in The Episcopal Church by building and strengthening networks of Episcopalians engaged in global mission. GEMN intends to continue collaboration with SCWM and OGP in the coming triennium to promote and share the Guiding Principles for World Mission and the Global Mission Digital Toolkit as well as offer online and in-person mission conferences and formation for Global Mission Advocates.

This resolution calls for support for GEMN from both voluntary memberships and from the triennium budget to create a more stable financial base for shared networking around global mission. It also encourages participation in GEMN activities to help Episcopalians think and imagine a world where Love is the Way.

## **A029 Support for Military Chaplains**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention commends the ministry of The Episcopal Church's military chaplains, who bravely tend to the spiritual and religious needs of United States Armed Forces service members as pastors, priests and preachers; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, in addition to tending to chaplains serving in federal prisons and hospitals, continue to uphold The Episcopal Church's leadership role in forming and supporting military chaplains to respond to the challenges facing today's military personnel, including extended exposure to violence, injustice, hatred and hardship; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention affirms the 2001 "Declaration of the Episcopal Church's Understanding of Ministry to the Armed Forces", including Episcopal military chaplains' commitment to love and serve members of all faith groups, and to ensure access to the free exercise of religion within the constraints of military service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Congregations engage with military chaplains so as to learn from their experience with global mission and interreligious dialogue, and from their example as an embedded servant ministry proclaiming and portraying the Gospel beyond the church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on World Mission collaborate with the the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to choose an appropriate day for observance of the Church's military chaplains, and consider developing a collect and suggested lectionary for observance of Military Chaplains Day for authorization by the 81st General Convention.

### EXPLANATION

Approximately 150 ordained Episcopal ministers currently serve as military chaplains and commissioned officers in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, both active duty and reserves, as well as with the National Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, State Defense Forces (Georgia) and Veterans Administration hospitals. The Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries tends to these military chaplains, as well as to chaplains serving in federal penitentiaries.

Many Episcopalians may not be aware of this important ministry of the church, which dates to the Revolutionary War when General George Washington appointed Episcopal priest John Hurt as the nation's first Army chaplain. Rev. Hurt was ordained on December 21, 1774; this date, signifying the Episcopal Church's unique longstanding leadership role within the U.S. military chaplain corps, is one

option the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music may consider in responding to the final Resolved of this Resolution calling for a day of observance.

In January 2001, the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries and twelve serving chaplains composed a statement of understanding of Episcopal Church ministry within the military context. This “Declaration of the Episcopal Church’s Understanding of Ministry to the Armed Forces” is referenced and affirmed in this Resolution, and is copied in full below. The purpose of the statement was to clarify the parameters of the role of Episcopal Church chaplains; chaplains are currently urged to utilize it when interpreting to new commanders and supervisory chaplains their role as priests serving in the uniformed service.

In bringing forward the ministry of military chaplains and the Bishop Suffragan, the Standing Commission on World Mission intends to highlight in particular their contribution to the church’s global mission, including enhancing interreligious understanding and ministering to service members deployed overseas.

Declaration of the Episcopal Church’s Understanding of Ministry to the Armed Forces:

Clergy of the Episcopal Church are ordained to fill the roles of pastor, teacher and priest. The Episcopal Church expects its chaplains to fulfill those roles in as broad and inclusive a manner as possible while remaining faithful to the church’s historical, theological and liturgical roots in both Roman Catholicism and the English Reformation.

As pastors, Episcopal military chaplains love and serve all of the people among whom we work. We preach and teach the faith of the church in Protestant and other services as opportunity permits, remaining flexible in form yet consistent in upholding the traditions of the Episcopal Church. Caring for all and committed to the free exercise of religion by all we cooperate with chaplains of all faith groups to ensure access for the free exercise of religion and religious accommodation within the constraints of military service. In this way, we try to feed those of God’s people whose spirituality, theology, or liturgical practice diverges from ours.

For Episcopalians, the Eucharist is the central act of worship. All baptized persons are welcome to join us in this sacred mystery. We gather in community to be nourished in Word and Sacrament. The Bible, reason, and tradition inform and shape the Eucharist through which we have communion with our Lord and by which we are invigorated for mission.

Present divisions in the body of Christ cause us much pain. We look for the day when all are one in Christ. Until then, we live with those divisions and the unavoidable, resulting constraints.

Sacramentally, Episcopal chaplains can only function in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer, the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the guidance of the Episcopal Bishop. Only clergy from churches in communion with the Church of England can conduct Episcopal services.

We, the undersigned Priests and Bishop of the Episcopal Church who minister to the Armed Forces, are thankful for the ministry entrusted to us and ever mindful of our need for God's grace and mercy for ourselves and with those to whom we minister in this challenging, pluralistic environment.

Washington National Cathedral, Feast of the Confession of St. Peter the Apostle, In the Year of our Lord 2001

Composed and signed by Bishop George E. Packard, Chaplains Carl M. Andrews, Gerald J. Blackburn, Dedre Ann Bell, S. Michael Bell, George M. Clifford III, Robert W. Eldridge, Reese M. Hutcheson, Roger D. Kappel, James B. Magness, Richard D. Oberheide, Gary L. Parker, and Malcolm Roberts III.

### **A030 Task Force on Pacifism and Just War**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 80th General Convention authorize the establishment of a Task Force on Pacifism and Just War to deepen understanding of the Church's pacifist and just war traditions, including the Anglican Communion's distinctive contributions to these traditions, among military chaplains, missionaries, seminarians, clergy, congregations, and others engaged in the Church's global mission, for application to contemporary war, peace and human rights issues; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force draw upon the experience and expertise garnered from the Military Chaplains Just War Education Project funded through the 2020-21 Constable Grant program to prepare a report recommending educational programs, public policy positions, and outreach initiatives consistent with the Task Force's mandate for consideration by the 81st General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Task Force be appointed jointly by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Commission on World Mission, and consist of three bishops, three priests or deacons, and six laypersons from a diverse representation of the Church, and include military chaplains and those living in jurisdictions outside the United States; and be it further

*Resolved*, that \$5,000 be budgeted for work of the Task Force over the next triennium.



## EXPLANATION

Despite several Resolutions adopted by General Convention over time, awareness and understanding of The Episcopal Church's approach to the morality and ethics of warfare, informed by both historic pacifist and just war traditions, remains incomplete. Enhancing educational opportunities and training for the Church's military chaplains on these matters was the intent of the Military Chaplains Just War Education Project proposed by the Standing Commission on World Mission and awarded a Constable Grant by Executive Council in June 2020. This Resolution anticipates the completion of this project in 2021 and seeks to establish a Task Force that can build upon its work to potentially broaden its practical application to the wider Church, respecting the diversity of perspectives on war and peace among Episcopalians while also appreciating the continued calling of the Church to find its prophetic voice on these perennial issues.

Monies budgeted for the Task Force in the Resolution are intended to defray any modest expenses for translation, travel or meeting arrangements to facilitate completion of the Task Force's work. It is envisioned that the Task Force would rely primarily on virtual meeting technological solutions where possible to minimize these expenses.

## Continuance recommendation

After being disbanded for 2015 to 2018, the Standing Commission on World Mission was reorganized for this triennium. We recommend that this Commission continue to operate in the next triennium in order to:

- Promote the Guiding Principles for World Mission, the Message to the Church, and the use of the Global Mission Digital Toolkit; seek feedback about these resources; and monitor their use and impact
- Research and draft a report on how the Episcopal Church participated in colonialism and identify some of the ways a colonial mindset continues to affect mission relationships
- Continue work begun in this triennium to advocate for theological education on World Mission and promote development of courses for Anglican studies for jurisdictions outside the United States
- Review and monitor adherence to previous commitments made by The Episcopal Church to provide translations of materials into languages other than English for use by The Episcopal Church
- Monitor use of the Episcopal Asset Map
- Continue collaboration with mission partners such as OGP, GEMN, and mission agencies to carry out Episcopal Church mission priorities and strengthen The Episcopal Church's witness around the world