

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A159
Title: Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues and Membership in Ecumenical/Interfaith Organizations
Proposer: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Topic: Ecumenism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A094 Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
2018-A036 Affirm Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
2015-A017 Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
2012-A038 On the Topic of Participation in Ecumenical Relationships (Rejected)
2006-A056 On the Topic of Ecumenical Relations and Establishing a Basis for Interreligious Dialogue (Rejected)

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2012-A037 Commend Guidelines for Ecumenical Shared Ministries

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

A159 - Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues and Membership in Ecumenical/Interfaith Organizations

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 14 - Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which The Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue; the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA), and the work toward full communion with the United Methodist Church (UMC); and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further

Resolved That this Convention joyfully affirms our representation and participation in Interreligious and ecumenical bodies, including, among others, the National Council of Churches (NCC), Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), and Christian Churches Together (CCT).



Resolution Number: 2022-A094
Title: Affirm the Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which The Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue; the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA), and the work toward full communion with the United Methodist Church (UMC); and be it further
*Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of work of the dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern) and commends the document *Sharing the Gifts of Communion* to the church for consideration; and be it further*
Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further
Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms our representation and participation in national ecumenical bodies, including the National Council of Churches (NCC), Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) and Christian Churches Together (CCT).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 456.



Resolution Number: 2018-A036
Title: Affirm Continuation of Ecumenical Dialogues
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention joyfully affirms the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues in which The Episcopal Church is engaged: the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue; the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARCUSA), noting particularly a renewed round of conversations; and the work toward full communion with the United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention joyfully affirms the continued coordinating committee work with our full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church (Northern Province and Southern Province); and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention celebrates with joy and gratitude the deepening international relationship among the leaders of The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and commends the members of these churches for the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have jointly issued.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 412-413.



Resolution Number: 2015-A017
Title: Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues sponsored currently by The Episcopal Church: The dialogue toward full communion with the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue, and the renewed round of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the U.S.A. (ARCUSA); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continued coordinating committee work with The Episcopal Church's full communion partners, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern and Southern Provinces of The Moravian Church in America; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention note with joy and gratitude the deepening relationship between the Primates and Presiding Bishops of The Episcopal Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Anglican Church of Canada, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and commend, to members of all four churches, the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have issued jointly.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 665-666.



Resolution Number: 2012-A038
Title: On the Topic of Participation in Ecumenical Relationships
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 77th General Convention express its disappointment that the formal membership of representatives of The Episcopal Church in certain international ecumenical dialogues has been withdrawn by the Archbishop of Canterbury; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church give thanks for those Episcopalians who continue to serve on the Network for Interfaith Concerns (NIFCON), the Anglican-Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC), and the Commission on Unity, Faith, and Order; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church remain faithfully committed to our Anglican identity, to our historic roots of seeking that unity for which all Christians long, and to mission and ministry with other Christians for the sake of the world; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church continue to find ways to further the principles of unity outlined in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and in the numerous national and international agreements between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, Methodists, Reformed, and others, taking into account the increasingly globalized aspects of the ecumenical movement; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit itself to work with Anglican partners as appropriate, and with the Anglican Communion Office as far as possible, and to consult with ecumenical partners who are themselves members of worldwide communions; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention allocate funds for continued representation in dialogue with those global bodies whose ecumenical conversations have been previously authorized by General Convention, especially but not limited to those with Roman Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, and the Orthodox.



Resolution Number: 2006-A056
Title: On the Topic of Ecumenical Relations and Establishing a Basis for Interreligious Dialogue
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

~~Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention acknowledge our baptismal identity as essential to who we are as Christians, and that it commits us, among other things, “to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves” (BCP page 305), and be it further~~

~~Resolved,~~ That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse the following statement as a basis for engaging in interreligious dialogue:

~~We affirm that the universe is the creation of a single loving God and is ours to care for in accordance with God’s purposes of respecting and honoring all who are created in the image of God (BCP, Catechism, page 846).~~

~~We acknowledge that the human family is broken by the power of sin and that Jesus’ Good News was given to the Church so that, with the help of God, we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation (BCP, Catechism, page 849).~~

~~We affirm the foundational Gospel proclamation that “Jesus is Lord” (1 Cor. 12:3), and therefore~~ We affirm the centrality of Jesus’ Summary of God’s Law: ~~which calls upon us~~ to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds, ~~and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:29-31; BCP, Catechism, page 851). For this reason we reach out in love and genuine openness to know and to understand those of other faiths. and that this first, great commandment leads to God’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves (BCP, Catechism, page 851).~~

Therefore we commend to all our members dialogue for building relationships, the sharing of information, religious education, and celebration with people of other religions as part of Christian life, with the understanding that:

1. dialogue begins when people meet each other
2. dialogue depends upon mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual trust
3. dialogue makes it possible to share in service to the community
4. dialogue is a medium of authentic witness by all parties and not an opportunity for proselytizing

We believe that such dialogue may be a contribution toward helping people of different religions grow in mutual understanding and make common cause in peacemaking, social justice, and religious liberty.

We further commend that dioceses, parishes, and other organizations of The Episcopal Church initiate such dialogue in partnership with other Christian Churches and in consultation with other provinces of the Communion, where appropriate in all cases.