

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C037
Title: Working for Equity, Support, and Protection of All LGBTQIA+ Anglicans
Proposer: Vermont
Topic: Anglican Communion, LGBTQ

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D092 Address the Exclusion of Same-Sex Spouses from Lambeth 2022
2009-D025 Reaffirm Participation in the Anglican Communion and Acknowledge Differences

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

2022-D026 Create a Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion
2012-D008 Reaffirm Commitment to and Participation in the Anglican Communion
2012-D071 Recognize Work in Uganda on Behalf of LGBT People

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](#).

C037 - Working for Equity, Support, and Protection of All LGBTQIA+ Anglicans

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Vermont

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 17 - Accessibility & Inclusion

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention embolden the bishops of The Episcopal Church to open opportunities for engagement and to work actively for change in the Anglican Communion with regard to treatment of LGBTQIA+ persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention, mindful of the failings of this Church to promote the dignity of every human being, stand ready, in a spirit of mutual confession and repentance, to work for reconciliation with other member churches of the Communion so that the injustices and violence of our several institutions against LGBTQIA+ persons be ended, both in our churches and in the larger society.

Explanation

This resolution, as amended by the 2023 Convention of the Diocese of Vermont, emerged over the course of a year of study and online gatherings in response to actions at the 2022 Lambeth Conference of deliberate exclusion and oppression against gay and lesbian members of The Episcopal Church.

Acts and statements that demean LGBTQIA+ persons and ignore the sin of those who hate them are deliberately harmful, prejudicial, and cannot be construed in any way as being founded in love or a spirit of unity or brotherhood within the Anglican Communion. As Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry oft proclaims: "If it's not about love; it's not about God." All members of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement are urged to follow the 5th step of *The Way of Love*: "GO," to tell their stories of relationship and listen to the stories of others.

The resolution urges bishops of The Episcopal Church to seek meaningful engagement with other leaders in the Anglican Communion whose words and actions lead to oppression of, and discrimination against, LGBTQIA+ persons, and it encourages intentional work for change and reconciliation.



Resolution Number: 2022-D092
Title: Address the Exclusion of Same-Sex Spouses from Lambeth 2022
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention express to the Most Reverend and Right Honorable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, its dismay at the decision to exclude same-sex spouses of LGBTQ+ bishops from participating in Lambeth Conference 2022; and be it further

Resolved, That we deeply regret that the exclusion of same-sex spouses of bishops sends a message to LGBTQ+ people around the world that the Church does not appreciate the value of the gift of God’s LGBTQ children, and that their families, relationships, and experiences are invalid, shameful and wrong; and be it further

Resolved, That we implore the Archbishop of Canterbury to consider the devastating emotional impact on bishops and their spouses, knowing that other bishops will be able to share in the conference with their opposite-sex spouses while LGBTQ+ bishops and their spouses face exclusion and discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on the Archbishop of Canterbury to acknowledge the value and benefit of diversity and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ bishops and their families for the good of the Body of Christ whose members cannot faithfully say “I have no need of you.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 817-818.



Resolution Number: 2009-D025
Title: Reaffirm Participation in the Anglican Communion and Acknowledge Differences
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm the continued participation of The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion; give thanks for the work of the bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 2008; reaffirm the abiding commitment of The Episcopal Church to the fellowship of churches that constitute the Anglican Communion and seek to live into the highest degree of communion possible; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and members of The Episcopal Church to participate to the fullest extent possible in the many instruments, networks and relationships of the Anglican Communion; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm its financial commitment to the Anglican Communion and pledge to participate fully in the Inter-Anglican Budget; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention affirm the value of “listening to the experience of homosexual persons,” as called for by the Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988 and 1998, and acknowledge that through our own listening the General Convention has come to recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships “characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God” (2000-D039); and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize that gay and lesbian persons who are part of such relationships have responded to God’s call and have exercised various ministries in and on behalf of God’s One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and are currently doing so in our midst; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention affirm that God has called and may call such individuals to any ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church, and that God’s call to the ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church is a mystery which the Church attempts to discern for all people through our discernment processes acting in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention acknowledge that members of The Episcopal Church as of the Anglican Communion, based on careful study of the Holy Scriptures, and in light of tradition and reason, are not of one mind, and Christians of good conscience disagree about some of these matters.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 627-628.