

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D034
Title: Support and Advocacy for Restorative Justice and a Moral Commitment to Abolition of Prisons and Policing
Proposer: Culbreath, The Rev. Leeann
Topic: Public Policy, Prisons, Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D008 Call on Congress and the States to Address Mass Incarceration
2022-D009 Encourage a Moratorium on and Abolition of Private Prisons
2018-D004 Call for Sentencing Reform to End Racial and Gender Discrimination
2018-D029 Condemn Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture
2015-A011 Urge Advocacy for Policy Changes to End Mass Incarceration Practices
2015-D032 Reaffirm Disabled Persons' Rights in the Criminal Justice System
2015-D067 Divest from Private Corporations in the Prison Business
2015-D068 Support Ministries Against the School-to-Prison Pipeline
2012-B024 Promote Alternative to the School-to-Prison Pipeline
2012-D026 Urge Support for Bipartisan U.S. Commission on Criminal Justice
2003-A008 Urge Congress to Repeal Mandatory Federal Sentencing Guidelines
2000-B003 Endorse the Study of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System
2000-B055 Reaffirm Criminal Justice System Reform
1994-D035 Support Ministry to the Incarcerated

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

2022-D031 Advocate to End Immigrant Detention and Surveillance
1985-C043 Create a Task Force on Reform of the Criminal Justice System

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](#).

D034 - Support and Advocacy for Restorative Justice and a Moral Commitment to Abolition of Prisons and Policing

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Culbreath, The Rev. Leeann

Endorsed by: Lawton, Ms. Sarah, Steele, The Rev. Kelly

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: Yes

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: Yes

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & United States Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that the moral witness of the Church stands against racially-inequitable practices of exclusion and punishment and against our current systems of prisons and policing which function as racist systems of social control and treat people who have committed crimes as disposable; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention repent of the fact that The Episcopal Church never adopted resolutions calling for the abolition of chattel slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, and repent for our complicity in the our society's ongoing racially-inequitable reliance on policing and prisons to produce security for some people at the expense of the lives and dignity of others; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm that Jesus proclaimed freedom for prisoners (Luke 4:18) and promised the possibility of justice aimed at restoration even for those who murdered him (Luke 23:34), and thus that our baptismal vow to “proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ” calls us to proclaim God’s desire for liberation for all who are incarcerated and for real justice and accountability that restores relationships, transforms situations of harm, and aims at reconciliation, which is the core mission of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm that abolition of the current system of prisons and policing is a moral obligation and advocate for the abolition of prisons and policing, recognizing that prisons and policing form an inequitable system of racial control and a site of violence and dehumanization that does not resemble nor bring about the liberating and reconciling justice of God; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage all Episcopalians, parishes, congregations, dioceses, and prison ministries to engage at the local level in restorative and transformative justice programs, which seek to prevent and respond to crime and harm in creative and non-violent ways beyond prisons and policing; and encourage parishes, congregations, dioceses, and prison ministries to learn and teach about abolition and uphold abolitionist values within the contexts of their own ongoing work for social justice; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention hereby reaffirm and deepen The Episcopal Church’s commitment to advocacy for policy changes to end mass incarceration (Resolution 2015-A011) and defend the rights of disabled persons within the criminal legal system (Resolution 2015-D-32); and The Episcopal Church’s opposition to solitary confinement (Resolution 2018-D029), private prisons (Resolution 2015-D067), monetary bail (Resolution 1973-D097), and the school-to-prison pipeline (Resolution 2015-D068); and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention of The Episcopal Church further direct the Office of Governmental Relations and urge all Episcopalians, parishes and congregations, and dioceses to advocate for policy efforts consistent with the goal of the abolition of prisons and policing, including reforms aimed at disinvesting from police and reinvesting police budgets in other community needs, such as these specific policies:

- Supporting efforts to close prisons and jails, and policies that release incarcerated people; opposing governmental plans to open new prisons or jails, including plans for facilities for specific populations, such as immigrant detention facilities (see Resolution 2022-D031)
- Supporting policies for reducing police budgets or disinvesting from policing
- Supporting monetary investment in community needs such as affordable housing, health care, and education, because investment in poverty reduction, health, and education in fact reduces crime and promotes public safety
- Supporting restorative and transformative justice efforts in the criminal legal system that bring about restitution, accountability, and healing for both perpetrators and victims;

And be it further

Resolved, That this Convention of The Episcopal Church further direct the Office of Governmental Relations and urge all Episcopalians, parishes and congregations, and dioceses to oppose reform policies which do not lead toward the abolition of prisons and policing, including:

- Opposing increased investment in police budgets for new hires or police “training” programs, because larger police forces and new training do not shift resources towards other community needs that address the underlying causes of crime.
- Opposing police militarization and NDAA Section 1033, the federal act which provides for selling military supplies to police departments
- Opposing the prosecution and incarceration of police officers for excessive force and civil rights violations, because prosecution of high-profile cases does not change the resources given to other community needs, and reinforces the punitive logic of prisons and policing
- Opposing reforms that offer supposed “alternatives” to prison like electronic monitoring or house arrest, which actually increase the scope of systems of incarceration and criminalization, and increase the number of people under correctional control
- Opposing reforms that aim to build “better” prisons, such as by focusing on specific populations or by replacing old jails and prisons with newer facilities, which requires further investment in the carceral system;

And be it further

Resolved, That this Convention of The Episcopal Church urge the Committee on Corporate and Social Responsibility and Episcopal Migration Ministries to take abolitionist opposition to prisons and policing into account in their advocacy and decision-making.

Explanation

Mass incarceration and police violence are profound injustices in American society. Both are products of a culture of white supremacy that seeks to enact control over Black Americans, in particular. Additionally, US prisons are structured by practices of security and dehumanization that lead to violence and inhumane conditions, while efforts to reform policing have failed to control the violence committed by those entrusted with state authority.

The moral witness of the Church stands against practices of exclusion and punishment, especially those enacted in racially-inequitable ways. Our current systems of prisons and policing function as racist systems of social control, and they treat those who have committed crimes as disposable. The promise of the Gospel is the promise of justice for the marginalized and of restoration and redemption for those who have done harm to others. The hope of the Church points to the coming reign of God where there will be no prisons or police, but instead the true justice and peace of God.

Our call, as the Church, is to be faithful to that vision of God’s justice by standing with those calling for the abolition of the current system of policing and prisons and its replacement with restorative and transformative forms of justice and community safety.

The moral obligation to stand for abolition is rooted in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and in our baptismal covenant. Jesus proclaimed freedom for prisoners (Luke 4:18) and promised the possibility of justice aimed at restoration even for those who murdered him (Luke 23:34). Our baptismal vow to "proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ" calls us to proclaim God's desire for liberation for all who are incarcerated. We must proclaim God's desire for real justice and accountability that restores relationships, transforms situations of harm, and aims at reconciliation, which is the core mission of the Church.

Our baptismal vow to "work for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being" requires us to recognize the ways that policing and prisons are systems which function to uphold white supremacy and restrict the lives and liberty of marginalized people, especially Black, Latinx, and Indigenous Americans. Furthermore, the violence and abuse committed by police and occurring within prisons, including the torture of solitary confinement, restraint in shackles and chains, and other inhumane conditions, directly degrade human dignity. Being subject to police violence in one's community or being locked in a cage is not consonant with the dignity of every human being. Our baptismal covenant calls us to seek alternatives to any such imprisonment and violence.

The current US system of prisons and policing derives from the history of chattel slavery and Jim Crow segregation. American prisons and policing, in practice, function as a system of racial control — a "new Jim Crow"^[1] — established on a basis of anti-Blackness. Because of these historic connections, the current movement for prison and police abolition is a successor to the 19th-century movement for the abolition of slavery. Bishop James Theodore Holly repeatedly submitted resolutions to the General Convention calling for the abolition of slavery, but The Episcopal Church never adopted or endorsed them. We were on the wrong side of the abolition question in the 19th century. Let us be on the right side of this debate in the 21st century.

The Church has been complicit in our society's reliance on policing and prisons to produce security for some people at the expense of the lives and dignity of others. In the baptismal covenant, we promise that "whenever we fall into sin, we will repent and return to the Lord." Measured opposition to "mass" incarceration but not to incarceration more broadly, attempts to improve prison conditions, and efforts to seek police reform are not sufficient. God desires that we "return to the Lord with all our heart" (Joel 2:12). We must renounce sinful and dehumanizing systems of policing and incarceration and commit ourselves to equitable and peaceful systems of public safety. A moral commitment to aspire for the abolition of prisons and policing is true and necessary repentance.

Additional resources:

Other faith-based organizations pursuing and studying abolition include (links attached):

- [Community Safety for All Toolkit](https://surj.org/our-work/surj-faith/cs4a/) from SURJ-Faith: <https://surj.org/our-work/surj-faith/cs4a/>
- [Abolition Curriculum](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/abolition-curriculum/) from the Mennonite Church USA: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/abolition-curriculum/>
- [Abolitionist Sanctuary](https://www.abolitionistsanctuary.org/): <https://www.abolitionistsanctuary.org/>

- [Christians for the Abolition of Prisons](https://christiansforabolition.org): <https://christiansforabolition.org>

Books:

The Fall of the Prison: Biblical Perspectives on Prison Abolition, Lee Griffith (Eerdmans, 1993)

“Prison Makes Us Safer” and 20 Other Myths About Mass Incarceration, Victoria Law (Beacon, 2021)

Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice that Restores, Dominique Dubois Gilliard (IVP, 2018)

Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System, Laura Magnani and Harmon L. Wray (Augsburg Fortress, 2006)

We Do This ‘Til We Free Us, Mariame Kaba (Haymarket Books, 2021)

Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn’t Work and How We Can Do Better, Maya Schenwar (Berrett-Koehler, 2014)

Policy suggestions are drawn from [Critical Resistance's](#) Abolitionist Reforms. See attached documents.

[1] See Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, New Press, 2010.

Support Documents:

[Christians for Abolition website](#)

[Community Safety Toolkit from SURJ-Faith](#)

[Abolition Curriculum from the Mennonite Church](#)

[Abolitionist Sanctuary website](#)

[CR abolitioniststeps antiexpansion 2021 eng](#)

[CR police reform vs abolition chart revised](#)

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.



Resolution Number: 2022-D008
Title: Call on Congress and the States to Address Mass Incarceration
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) urge Congress and the states: (i). to reduce the use of incarceration for lower-level crimes; (ii). to pass legislation that would make default prison sentences — which are often excessively long — proportional to the specific crimes committed; and (iii) to use the power of their purses to encourage these changes; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of TEC again urge Congress to initiate studies to examine racial and gender disparities in sentencing, including racial and gender disparities in prosecutors' exercise of discretion in seeking sentencing enhancements under three-strikes, Section 851 federal drug enhancements, and other habitual offender laws and disparate racial and gender effects of drug policies such as mandatory minimum sentences and school zone drug enhancements; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention again urge state and federal governments to adopt legislation whereby all arrests and/or convictions for non- violent summary or misdemeanor offenses committed more than ten years ago are automatically sealed from access by prospective employers, landlords, and all others except law enforcement, noting that the young and people of color are disproportionately affected by this form of discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council refer this Resolution to the Office of Government Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 864.



Resolution Number: 2022-D009
Title: Encourage a Moratorium on and Abolition of Private Prisons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby direct and encourage the adoption, as appropriate, on a state-by-state basis and at the national level a moratorium on the construction of private prisons, and for their outright abolition; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention, consistent with established policies and procedures, refer this Resolution to the Office of Government Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 864-865.



Resolution Number: 2018-D004
Title: Call for Sentencing Reform to End Racial and Gender Discrimination
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) urges Congress to enact comprehensive federal sentencing reform legislation which would reduce some mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses, particularly those that have a discriminatory impact on minorities in penalties for crack and powder cocaine offences; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of TEC calls upon State legislatures to repeal all existing laws or the portions of such laws that either allow for or mandate a sentence of life without parole (LWOP) for a nonviolent offense and/or offenses committed by children under 18 years of age that after their time has been served, that their record is expunged; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of TEC urges Congress to initiate studies to examine racial and gender disparities in sentencing, including racial and gender disparities in prosecutors' exercise of discretion in seeking sentencing enhancements under three-strikes, Section 851 federal drug enhancements, and other habitual offender laws and disparate racial and gender effects of drug policies such as mandatory minimum sentences and school zone drug enhancements; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urges state and federal governments to adopt legislation whereby all arrests and/or convictions for non-violent summary or misdemeanor offenses committed more than ten years ago are automatically sealed from access by prospective employers, landlords, and all others except law enforcement, noting that the young and people of color are disproportionately affected by this form of discrimination.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 673.



Resolution Number: 2018-D029
Title: Condemn Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm the statement of the 76th General Convention, in resolution 2009-C020, condemning the use of torture “by the United States and any government, individual, or organization in any location in the world”; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognize prolonged solitary confinement (defined by the United Nations in its Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as revised in 2015, also known as “The Nelson Mandela Rules,” as the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact, in excess of 15 days) as a form of torture; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church condemn the use of prolonged solitary confinement by the United States and any government in the world, including national, state, local, and military jurisdictions, immigration detention centers, and private prisons and call on our government to look at alternatives to isolated confinement; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention call upon all Episcopalians, recalling the words of Jesus that when we visit those in prison, we are visiting him (Matthew 25:36), and the call to “Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured” (Hebrews 13:3), to demand that their governments end any use of prolonged solitary confinement in their prisons, jails, and detention centers, whether publicly run or contracted with private companies and raise our voice with human rights groups.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 424.



Resolution Number: 2015-A011
Title: Urge Advocacy for Policy Changes to End Mass Incarceration Practices
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

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

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

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

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

- 1. Advocating for alternatives to incarceration for those who are addicted, and increased funding for treatment programs;**
- 2. Advocating for alternatives to incarceration for those who are mentally ill, and increased funding for treatment programs;**
- 3. Advocating for protection of the civil rights and provision of appropriate support and accommodation for people with disabilities who are arrested and incarcerated;**
- 4. Advocating for funding for job training and apprentice programs for those who are at risk of incarceration and those who are formerly released from prison;**
- 5. Working with local businesses to create pathways to living wage jobs for formerly incarcerated people;**
- 6. Establishing mentoring and accompaniment programs for those leaving prison;**
- 7. Advocating for the repeal of mandatory-minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses;**
- 8. Calling for the abolition of the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder-cocaine offenses and, as an intermediate step, urging the U.S. Congress, in accordance with the recommendation of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, to make retroactive the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act, which reduces the disparity in sentencing from previous levels;**
- 9. Advocating to eliminate “three strikes” sentencing protocols;**
- 10. Joining local “Ban the Box” campaigns to remove questions about arrest records in on-line and written job application forms;**
- 11. Opposing the creation of “for profit” prisons and immigration detention centers, and, where they exist, organizing against guaranteed nightly numbers of prisoners and detainees, and advocate for access to education and rehabilitation programs for those being incarcerated or detained;**

12. Reforming monetary bail bond systems, which rely upon often-unlicensed and unregulated bail bond agents and on conditioning release from pre-trial incarceration solely on the ability to pay;

13. Advocating for immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison; and

14. Calling for the exploration and creation of restorative justice programs to transform juvenile justice systems; and be it further

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

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 300-301.



Resolution Number: 2015-D032
Title: Reaffirm Disabled Persons' Rights in the Criminal Justice System
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church reaffirm and renew the Church's commitment to people with disabilities in society, and recognize mission and leadership of the Episcopal Disability Network in helping to challenge and guide our Church's work in this area; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church affirm our Church's many ministries with those who are suspects, defendants, incarcerated, or otherwise involved with the criminal justice system, following the call of Jesus to attend to those who are in prison as if they are Christ himself; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognize and acknowledge that roughly half of adult criminal defendants in the United States have a physical, mental, learning, or other disability and two-thirds of juvenile defendants have a disability qualifying them for special education services and instruction; and that we further acknowledge persistent race-based disparities in the treatment of people with mental health conditions in our criminal justice system, and that in particular Black people with mental health conditions are more likely to be incarcerated than people of other races with similar conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognize that people with disabilities are often denied significant civil rights and even the liberty of life through encounters with law enforcement officials and throughout the criminal justice system, and that many are denied proper treatment and accommodations while in the system; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church condemn unreasonable use of force by law enforcement against people with disabilities and urge law enforcement officials to consider the possibility of disability when engaging with criminal suspects, and urge law enforcement leaders to provide extensive training to frontline officers on how to identify and engage effectively with people with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate for the civil rights and proper treatment of and accommodations for people with disabilities throughout the criminal justice system and ask the Episcopal Public Policy Network to help the Church advocate on this issue; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognize that all who minister in the criminal justice system, whether with law enforcement officials, defendants, or prisoners, need to understand disability issues in order to do their work effectively; and therefore urge all in the Church who are involved with these ministries to seek training and education on mental and physical disabilities and the legal rights of people with disabilities, by partnering with disability organizations and networks in our communities that provide this training; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget of \$25,000 to support the work of an ad-hoc triennial committee consisting of leaders active in disability rights, racial justice, prison ministries, and criminal justice advocacy from around the Church to discuss these disparities in the criminal justice system and to develop a blueprint for best practices, resources for training, advocacy, and future networking to provide support our Church's work in the area of criminal justice, and to report to the

79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church on its work and with recommendations for future steps.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 408-409.



Resolution Number: 2015-D067
Title: Divest from Private Corporations in the Prison Business
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs The Episcopal Church to continue a no-buy policy with respect to corporations which own or operate for-profit prisons and hereby encourages the Church Pension Fund to institute a similar no-buy policy.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 424.



Resolution Number: 2015-D068
Title: Support Ministries Against the School-to-Prison Pipeline
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention renew The Episcopal Church's commitment to offer relevant and transformative ministry in societies where the school-to-prison pipeline exists as a systemically racist and devastating process undermining the hopes of children and young people in challenged communities, replacing that hope with a belief that incarceration is not only inevitable, but a laudable rite of passage; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church is called to promote an alternative vision necessary to transform these unjust structures of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the Offices of Black Ministries and Social and Economic Justice work collaboratively to promote and support existing programs; to identify, create, and support additional programs which can serve as a blueprint for local leaders, and empower challenged communities to engage in grass roots organizing and faith-based education. The goal is to turn the pipeline to prison into a pipeline to the Kingdom, inviting children and young people to see themselves as valued members of the Kingdom of God; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$200,000 for the implementation of this resolution with \$90,000 earmarked for 12 individual start-up ministries.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 440.



Resolution Number: 2012-B024
Title: Promote Alternative to the School-to-Prison Pipeline
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention acknowledge that we live in a society where there exists "a pipeline from school to prison," a devastating process that undermines the hope of children and young people in challenged communities, and replaces that hope with a belief that incarceration is not only inevitable, but is a laudable Rite of Passage worthy of pursuit that will give them status in their communities. Rather we believe that The Episcopal Church can promote an alternative vision necessary to transform these unjust structures of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the offices of Black Ministries and Social and Economic Justice work collaboratively to identify and support and/or create programs, and work with local leaders to empower challenged communities to, through grass roots organizing and education, turn the Pipeline to Prison into a Pipeline to the Kingdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$300,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 711-712.



Resolution Number: 2012-D026
Title: Urge Support for Bipartisan U.S. Commission on Criminal Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church instruct the Office of Government Relations to urge the United States Congress to support a bipartisan United States Commission on Criminal Justice to inquire into our present flawed system of incarceration and seek alternatives that would be effective, humane, and financially prudent; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage Bishops and Deputies to transmit this resolution to their Senators and Representatives from their own states and districts, and urge their support for a bipartisan United States Commission on Criminal Justice.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 197.



Resolution Number: 2003-A008
Title: Urge Congress to Repeal Mandatory Federal Sentencing Guidelines
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the mandatory Federal sentencing guidelines used in federal criminal matters, and direct the Office of Government Relations to work for such repeal in order to give federal judges more discretion in sentencing offenders, and to overcome the current racially discriminatory impact of these guidelines.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 126f.



Resolution Number: 2000-B003
Title: Endorse the Study of Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church endorse the exploration and study of restorative justice for our nation's criminal justice system; and be it further Resolved, That the office of the Bishop for the Armed Services, Healthcare and Prison Ministries report back to the 74th General Convention the results of the study.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 492.



Resolution Number: 2000-B055
Title: Reaffirm Criminal Justice System Reform
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm that the Episcopal Church at all levels become active at local, state and federal levels on public policy decisions affecting the growing prison industrial complex; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church call for a moratorium to the posting of prisoners outside their home states and territories; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church call for a moratorium on further prison construction and the use of private prisons, except where a local diocese discerns the need to do otherwise for pastoral reasons, and call for appropriate changes in the laws requiring mandatory sentencing for nonviolent and property crimes.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 365.



Resolution Number: 1994-D035
Title: Support Ministry to the Incarcerated
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church declare its support of ministry to the incarcerated as a ministry priority, offering support and encouragement to those who minister to the incarcerated on the federal, state, county, and local levels, and quality ministry to inmates, prison staff, and families; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention declare its appreciation to the Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop, for sponsoring the first Episcopal Church Conference for those who minister to the incarcerated, entitled, "The Episcopal Church Goes to Prison," in April of 1994; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention request that the Presiding Bishop set forth a means of coordinating ministry to the incarcerated at the national church level by designating the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces, whose jurisdiction presently includes the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as Episcopal Church Center Liaison for all ministry to the incarcerated; and be it further

Resolved, That \$6,000 be appropriated to support this additional responsibility; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention encourage the Episcopal Church on all levels to provide funding for quality prison ministry, subject to funding in the budget.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 290.