

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D059
Title: Addressing Antisemitism in the Church and the World
Proposer: Replogle, The Rev. Jenny
Topic: Discrimination, Racism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-C012 Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism (Referred)
2022-C030 Establish a Task Force to Address Anti-Semitic Language in Common Texts
2018-A230 Condemn Unjust Scapegoating
2015-A062 Address Christian Anti-Judaism in Liturgical Texts
2006-C001 Develop Materials to Address Anti-Jewish Prejudice
1997-D055 Reaffirm Interfaith Dialogue and Acknowledge Prejudice Against Jews

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

1991-D181 Consult Christian-Jewish Relations Committee Before Adopting Liturgies

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](#).

D059 - Addressing Antisemitism in the Church and the World

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Replogle, The Rev. Jenny

Endorsed by: Brown, Deputy Nathan, Erdman, Ms. Rachel

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: Yes

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: [Gods Unfailing Word Principles](#)

[La palabra inquebrantable principios](#)

[Christian-Jewish Relations Theological and Practical Guidance for Episcopalians](#)

[Relaciones judeo-cristianas Guía teológica y práctica para episcopales](#)

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That this General Convention confess antisemitism is one of the most pernicious forms of religious prejudice, and that some Episcopalians have at times been guilty of antisemitic words and actions; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention lament the current rise in antisemitism across the globe; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention repent of the ways that our Church has fostered antisemitism in its liturgy, teaching, and discourse; and be it further

Resolved, That our Church commit itself to resisting antisemitism as we strive for lasting justice and peace among all people, and we engage in loving dialogue with our Jewish neighbors; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention charge the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations with focusing on combating antisemitism in the Church in the following triennium as a sign of this commitment, and shall report to the 82nd General Convention on the following topics:

1. Pastoral guidance, commentary, and optional alternate lections for those lections that are known to have been misinterpreted as antisemitic, supersessionist, and/or contemptuous of Jewish traditions, consulting with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music;
2. Pastoral guidance and direction on avoiding the appropriation of Jewish rituals and rites of passage in our parish churches, consulting with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music;
3. Training resources for clergy, seminarians, and lay leaders on avoiding antisemitism, beginning with greater distribution and teaching of “Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church”, consulting with the Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development;
4. The value for usage of *God’s Unfailing Word: Theological and Practical Perspectives on Christian-Jewish Relations* from the Church of England’s Faith and Order Commission as an additional teaching resource for the church after significant study; and
5. Consultation with Jewish leadership in such a way that a diversity of voices across different movements and communities may help inform The Episcopal Church in its word and actions.

Explanation

During its April 18-20 meeting in Raleigh, the Executive Council adopted a “Resolution on Gaza” (MB 013). Its seventh resolved states that Executive Council “continue[s] to unreservedly reject all forms of antisemitism and anti-Jewish hatred, and all forms of Islamophobia, including any conflation of the acts of national governments with the sentiments, beliefs, or actions of Jews and Muslims around the world.” The current resolution offers the 81st General Convention an opportunity to affirm such a commitment as both urgent and part of an ongoing witness with past General Conventions, including resolutions such as 2022-C030, 2018-A230, 2015-A062, and 1997-D055. It recognizes that The Episcopal Church has never explicitly condemned antisemitism as a prejudice that manifests as than just theological anti-Judaism, including racial bias and violence.

In a February 2024 speech, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, pointed out that antisemitism is “not a hatred that is limited to one particular place, orientation, or political outlook.” The Episcopal Church is guilty of perpetuating this hatred. In 2018, we made the Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Top Ten Worst Global Anti-Semitic Incidents list for false claims about Israeli brutality towards Arabs that were made on the floor of the 79th General Convention.

The Pew Research Center documented a significant increase in antisemitic incidents since at least 2020, when Jewish people were among the groups scapegoated for the rise of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Current news from the United States, Europe, Latin America, and across the globe reveals this trend only worsening since October 7, 2023.

The Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations called for “A National Reckoning of the Soul” in December 2022. Our denomination has made varied attempts at such a reckoning for decades. When the 61st General Convention rejected the charge of deicide against the Jews in 1964, that resolution was greeted as “the strongest [statement] on the subject ever issued by a major Protestant body in this country” by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Yet it is only at the 80th General Convention that our denomination first considered authorizing use of alternative texts for the Good Friday liturgy (2024-A115) in light of historical links with anti-Jewish violence. “Establish a Task Force to Address Anti-Semitic Language in Common Texts” (2022-C030) passed at that same General Convention, but that task force was neither funded nor convened. A resolution explicitly rejecting supersessionism or the teaching of contempt has not been considered by any General Convention. There is more work to be done if The Episcopal Church truly wishes to amend our shared life and exorcise itself of antisemitic biases, and this resolution should be understood as only a starting point.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we commit ourselves to “striv[ing] for justice and peace among all people, [...] respect[ing] the dignity of every human being.” We cannot allow our Jewish neighbors to be an exception, cannot strive any less for justice and peace for their communities. We respect Jewish dignity when theological and practical guidance becomes common, and we embark on sustained efforts to engage in dialogue with the glorious polyphony of Judaism.

Support Documents:

[Christian-Jewish Relations Theological and Practical Guidance for Episcopalians](#)

[Relaciones judeo-cristianas Guía teológica y práctica para episcopales](#)

[Gods Unfailing Word Principles](#)

[La palabra inquebrantable principios](#)



Resolution Number: 2022-C012
Title: Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reject the nationalistic theology of Christian Zionism which provides the ideological basis for Christian Zionist leaders and politicians seeking to influence United States policy in Palestine-Israel; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention not only reject the theology of Christian Zionism which is inherently antisemitic but also, critically, condemn the political policy positions that it sponsors and financially supports, which include Israel's expansion across the entire land of Palestine Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people, including our indigenous Palestinian Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters; and be it further

Resolved, That, recognizing the extent to which the Prayer Book liturgy including prayers and the lectionary as well as the hymns contain frequent references to the Biblical land of Israel and the Israelites and that many Episcopalians confuse these with the current State of Israel, a conflation that reinforces the deceptive theology of Christian Zionism , the Episcopal Church commit to making clear in liturgy and in teaching the clear distinction between the current political situation and the Biblical past.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 763-764.



Resolution Number: 2022-C030
Title: Establish a Task Force to Address Anti-Semitic Language in Common Texts
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention establish a task force to address the anti-semitic, anti-Jewish or supersessionist impact of lectionary readings, especially for Holy Week, and develop proposals to mitigate that impact, which may include:

1. **Providing one or more optional, alternate lection or lections for any lection containing language that has been interpreted as antisemitic, anti-Jewish, or supersessionist and/or**
2. **Recommending a specific authorized Biblical Translation for any lection that has been interpreted as antisemitic, anti-Jewish, or supersessionist so that the lection is less likely to be heard and interpreted as antisemitic, anti-Jewish, or supersessionist, and/or**
3. **Providing pastoral guidance and commentary on the lection that can be made available whenever the lection is read publicly in worship**

And be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force be composed of two laypeople, two presbyters or deacons, and two bishops, in addition to a liaison who is a member of the SCLM, who collectively shall be knowledgeable in Christian-Jewish relations, liturgy, translation and Biblical interpretation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force consult with the Consultation on Common Texts as it does its work; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to allocate \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force will report to the 81st General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 908.



Resolution Number: 2018-A230
Title: Condemn Unjust Scapegoating
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention proclaims that the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement repudiates all political appeals and language rooted in the sin of scapegoating groups of human beings on the basis of race, language, culture, belief, economic and physical condition, immigration status, gender identification, and sexual orientation; and be it further
Resolved, That General Convention observes that such attacks have escalated alarmingly in the current political climate, including, but not limited to, the scapegoating of people of African descent in our cities—blamed for crime; non-white immigrants and asylum seekers from the Southern Hemisphere—blamed for stealing jobs; visitors and U.S. citizens from Arab Muslim countries—blamed for terrorism; indigenous peoples—blamed for a wide range of social ills and for thwarting energy independence; women and LGBTQ+ people—blamed for the de-masculinization and disintegration of society and families; the economically disadvantaged—blamed for being a burden on the wealthy and comfortable; the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated—condemned as irredeemable; and persons with disabilities—ridiculed, as in Jesus’s time, as outcasts. We recognize also that the sin of scapegoating occurs in virtually every nation in which The Episcopal Church ministers; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention repudiates the acts of violence that inevitably result from the rhetoric and tactics of political scapegoating; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention finds group scapegoating to be abhorrent to the heart of Christ and the soul of democracy. It offends against the rootedness of the best ideals of our government in the ethics respecting the dignity of individuals to which Christianity and all great faiths are pledged. It degrades politics by basing appeals for votes on fear and hate instead of hope and love. It invites comparisons to the darkest moments in human history, when race-based, clan-based, and other forms of scapegoating unleashed acts of genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention commends the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to such consultations as they deem fit with The Episcopal Church’s ecumenical and interfaith partners (including the National Council of Churches’ A.C.T. Now to End Racism initiative) with a goal of uniting people of faith and like mind and spirit behind a consolidated, comprehensive, and coordinated witness against an ungodly practice that pollutes and strains our common life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 610-611.



Resolution Number: 2015-A062
Title: Address Christian Anti-Judaism in Liturgical Texts
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue to collect, review, and disseminate materials to address Christian anti-Judaism expressed in and stirred by portions of Christian scriptures and liturgical texts.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 727.



Resolution Number: 2006-C001
Title: Develop Materials to Address Anti-Jewish Prejudice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to collect and develop materials to assist members of the Church to address anti-Jewish prejudice expressed in and stirred by portions of Christian scriptures and liturgical texts, with suggestions for preaching, congregational education, and lectionary use, and to report to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 417-418.



Resolution Number: 1997-D055
Title: Reaffirm Interfaith Dialogue and Acknowledge Prejudice Against Jews
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention reaffirm the Episcopal Church's commitment to interfaith cooperation and dialogue with our sisters and brothers of the Jewish faith; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the leadership it has given in this area and more particularly its 1994 Declaration to the Jewish Community ; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge, with regret, our acts of moral blindness and outright prejudice, throughout history and today, that have contributed to the abuse and mistreatment of Jews.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 216.