

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D066
Title: Creating a Task Force for Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Reconciliation for LGBTQIA+
Proposer: Litzenberger, Dr. Brian
Topic: Discrimination, LGBTQ, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D026 Create a Task Force on LBGTQ+ Inclusion
2006-A095 Reaffirm Support of Gay and Lesbian Persons
2006-A163 Affirm Pastoral Care for All Members of the Church
2006-A167 Reaffirm Church Membership of Gay and Lesbian Persons
2000-A009 Identify "Safe Spaces" for Lesbians and Gays
1997-D011 Apologize for the Church's Rejection of Gays and Lesbians
1988-D106 Refer a Resolution on a Staff Officer for Gay and Lesbian Ministries (Referred)
1976-A069 Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals
1976-A071 Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law

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

2022-D045 Support the Protection of LGBTQI+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
2022-D060 Support LGBTQ Persons Facing Additional Discrimination During COVID-19
2015-A054 Authorize Trial Use of Marriage and Blessing Rites in "Liturgical Resources I"
2012-A050 Create a Task Force on the Study of Marriage
2012-D018 Urge Repeal of Federal Laws Discriminating Against Same-Sex Marriage

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](#).

D066 - Creating a Task Force for Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Reconciliation for LGBTQIA+

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Litzenberger, Dr. Brian

Endorsed by: Murray, Mr. Alan, Shumate, The Rev. Gavin

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$60,000.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

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 Episcopal Church recognize, repent, and atone for the harm it has caused to LGBTQIA+ people through actions, participation and support of homophobic/heterosexist and shaming cultures and systems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church recognize, repent, and atone for the ways that these actions, positions, and for participating in limiting the ability of The Church's people to fully manifest the love of God and live into their baptismal covenants, sharing their gifts and authentic selves fully with the church and the world; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a result of these actions, a group of the ordained and laity within the church have been dissuaded of their calling and biased in their ordination processes. Some ordained and lay have been forced to remain closeted, and others still were deposed from ministry; and be it further

Resolved, that the 81st General Convention authorize the establishment of a Task Force for Truth-Telling, Reckoning, and Reconciliation for LGBTQIA+ for the purpose of helping the Church engage in truth-telling, confession, and reconciliation regarding discrimination, harassment, violence, and all harmful behaviors against LGBTQIA+ in all their forms including but not limited to those who were deposed from ministry, barred from discernment/ordination processes and excluded from full participation of all ministry of the baptized by those in power within the Church; 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 collaboration and consultation with the Gender Justice Officer, be composed of 12 members - 5 lay people (at least 4 of whom identify as LGBTQIA+), 4 priests or deacons members (at least 3 of whom identify as LGBTQIA+), and 3 bishops members (preferably at least 2 of whom identify as LGBTQIA+). The overall composition of this task force shall include people of color and reflect regional diversity. The overall composition of this task force shall include at least 5 members who have experienced LGBTQIA+ discrimination, harassment, and or violence and including experts in church jurisprudence and psychology; and be it further

Resolved, This Task Force shall report its progress to the 82nd General Convention on the following tasks:

- To develop a survey on discrimination, harassment, and violence against LGBTQIA+ in all their forms (truth-telling and reckoning) as we understand these sins, including but not limited to spiritual, and emotionally abusive behavior, and oppression based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This survey should be distributed widely in the Episcopal Church for access by both laity and clergy no later than spring of 2025, said survey being available primarily on-line, and with adaptations made as determined by the task force to enable responses by those members of the general Church who may not have ready and easy access to the internet;
- To conduct a review of survey responses and data regarding discrimination, harassment, and violent behavior that has been experienced by those who identify as LGBTQIA+ and the impact of this treatment on lay and ordained persons, their ministries, and the ministry of The Episcopal Church;
- To create a Truth and Reconciliation process to guide churches, dioceses, provinces, and churchwide as they develop their own paths for reconciliation and restoration; recognizing a one-size-fits-all process will not be helpful given the diversity of our Church, and to plan a service of Lament, Apology and Reconciliation at the 82nd General Convention which serves as a liturgical model to be used across The Episcopal Church and beyond.

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that Executive Council allocate \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Explanation

The Episcopal Church has taken many steps over the course of the last fifty years to include LGBTQIA+ people as full and equal members, with full access to community, to the sacraments and to holy orders. In 1976, both houses of the GC acknowledged “homosexual persons are children of God and have a full and equal claim... upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the church.” In 1994, “sexual orientation” received non-discrimination status in the canons for ordination. In 2003, the ordination of Gene Robinson was the first consecration of an openly gay bishop. In 2009, the GC passed a resolution confirming equal access to the episcopate for LGBTQ+ people. In 2012, the General Convention passed a resolution clearing the path to ordination for transgender individuals. In 2015 and 2018, steps were taken that approved the administration of the sacrament of marriage to same-sex couples. A great deal has been accomplished to promote and to secure the full participation and protection of the rights and lives of the LGBTQIA+ members of The Episcopal Church. (<https://www.hrc.org/resources/stances-of-faiths-on-lgbt-issues-episcopal-church>)

These accomplishments notwithstanding, there continue to be struggles within the church to fully embrace and to behave according to these canonical changes. Biases against LGBTQIA+ people have deep roots, are connected to socioeconomic forces, are part of larger systems of discrimination that continue to subjugate, to sideline, and to diminish the lives and the offerings of people across the breadth of The Episcopal Church. We, as a church, have collectively taken a stance against such practices and beliefs. These changes we have made have changed and saved lives.

Lives have been changed but our work is not done. It continues to be, for example, that LGBTQIA+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. Although full access to the sacraments has been written into our canons, this is not true in all of our churches. There is more work to be done as these underlying dynamics continue to affect the lives of LGBTQIA+ people seeking to walk in love as full and equal members of our congregations.

In addition to the impact of current dynamics that contribute to depression and isolation and limit the manifestation of God’s realm on earth, we are also living under the shadow of the past that we have sought to correct. Prior to the passing of each of the aforementioned resolutions, people were suffering under the conditions that these resolutions were designed to correct. The very lives of LGBTQIA+ people who were called to ordination were threatened with violence and death. People were forced to sequester and to hide their identities for fear of retaliation or discrimination. Others who did disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity and *were* ordained faced Title IV processes and deposition of ministry, solely because of their sexual orientation and or gender.

Psychological theory is replete with examples of how the past influences the present and future. Without addressing previous injury, its threats and implicit sanctions remain present. We can make assumptions about our collective responses to that which has been done and undone but without directly and overtly addressing this, we are left to question the veracity of current reforms. The shadows of our previous actions, when unaddressed, remain, as a trauma in a family that is never discussed. We are called to shine light into darkness and offer God’s healing, restorative love.

This resolution addresses our previous missteps and injuries. By acknowledging the harm previously foisted upon members of our LGBTQIA+ community, we invite the conversation and truth telling that ultimately has the power to lead to healing. By naming our offenses, we can begin to understand, to uncover, and to correct the dynamics that perpetuated them in the first place and to create the perspective to identify them in their present forms. By reaching out to those whose ministries were cut short, we acknowledge their callings and offer healing love. For those who are now deceased, we amend the narratives of their histories and work to restore the legacies of their holy callings. All in all, by addressing and speaking what has been silent and avoided, by passing this resolution, we speak the truth and work to repair, to heal, and to respect the dignity of all people.



Resolution Number: 2022-D026
Title: Create a Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That it is the intention of The Episcopal Church to continue our becoming “The Beloved Community;” a charism of which is a church that functions with equity and care for the whole body, including its LGBTQ+ members; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint jointly a Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion, consisting of not more than 14 people, to include 2 bishops, 6 priests or deacons and 6 lay people, who represent the diversity of the LGBTQ+ members of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force initiate a churchwide audit of how The Episcopal Church has lived into its 1976 commitment to provide full and equal claim to the love, acceptance and pastoral concern and care of the Church to its LGBTQ+ members; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force begin the process of creating an archive of the history of the work for LGBTQ+ inclusion in The Episcopal Church; 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 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 General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for the implementation of this resolution, \$30,000 to be allocated to the first triennium and the remainder to the second.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 776.



Resolution Number: 2006-A095
Title: Reaffirm Support of Gay and Lesbian Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm The Episcopal Church's historical support of gay and lesbian persons as children of God and entitled to full civil rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm the 71st General Convention's action calling upon "municipal council, state legislatures and the United States Congress to approve measures giving gay and lesbian couples protection[s] such as: bereavement and family leave policies; health benefits; pension benefits; real-estate transfer tax benefits; and commitments to mutual support enjoyed by non-gay married couples"; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention oppose any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 704.



Resolution Number: 2006-A163
Title: Affirm Pastoral Care for All Members of the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the centrality of effective and appropriate pastoral care for all members of this Church and all who come seeking the aid of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to the ongoing engagement of and sensitive response to the request and need of all the people of God – in particular, but not exclusively, those who agree and those who disagree with the actions of this body, those who feel isolated thereby, and gay and lesbian persons within and without this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention recognize the agonizing position of those who do not feel able to receive appropriate pastoral care from their own bishops, and urges the members of the House of Bishops to seek the highest degree of communion and reconciliation within their own dioceses, using when requested in good faith the Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) process detailed in the March 2004 statement of the House of Bishops, “Caring for All the Churches;” and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention urge continued maintenance of historic diocesan boundaries, the authority of the diocesan bishop, and respect for the historical relationships of the separate and autonomous Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 356.



Resolution Number: 2006-A167
Title: Reaffirm Church Membership of Gay and Lesbian Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm that gay and lesbian persons are by Baptism full members of the Body of Christ and of The Episcopal Church as “children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church” (GC1976–A069); and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reiterate its apology “on behalf of The Episcopal Church to its members who are gay or lesbian, and to lesbians and gay men outside the Church, for years of rejection and maltreatment by the Church,” and recommit to “seek amendment of our life together as we ask God’s help in sharing the Good News with all people” (GC1997–D011); and be it further

Resolved, That, in evidence of that apology, The Episcopal Church pledge to include openly gay and lesbian persons on every committee, commission or task force developed for the specific purpose of discussing issues about sexuality and request the same of our sister churches in the Anglican Communion and Anglican Communion bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention reiterate that “our baptism into Jesus Christ is inseparable from our communion with one another, and we commit ourselves to that communion despite our diversity of opinion and, among dioceses, a diversity of pastoral practice with the gay men and lesbians among us” (GC2003–C051).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 669-670.



Resolution Number: 2000-A009
Title: Identify "Safe Spaces" for Lesbians and Gays
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Executive Council establish a formal process for congregations to identify themselves as "safe spaces" for lesbians and gays and others who understand themselves to be part of a sexual minority, to tell their stories and be heard with love, care, and assurance of appropriate confidentiality; and be it further
Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop's staff work with counterparts within the Anglican Communion to encourage similar "safe spaces" within the Communion.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 245.



Resolution Number: 1997-D011
Title: Apologize for the Church's Rejection of Gays and Lesbians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That, while acknowledging the diversity of opinion among the Bishops and Deputies of this Convention on the morality of gay and lesbian sexual relationships, the 72nd General Convention apologize on behalf of the Episcopal Church to its members who are gay or lesbian, and to lesbians and gay men outside the Church, for years of rejection and maltreatment by the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church shall seek amendment of our life together as we ask God's help in sharing the Good News with all people.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 278.



Resolution Number: 1988-D106
Title: Refer a Resolution on a Staff Officer for Gay and Lesbian Ministries
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolution Referred. See Legislative History.

Citation:



Resolution Number: 1976-A069
Title: Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.



Resolution Number: 1976-A071

Title: Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That this General Convention expresses its conviction that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens, and calls upon our society to see that such protection is provided in actuality.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-109.