

**DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
227TH CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 6, 2010**

R-7-2010

A RESOLUTION REGARDING DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

RESOLVED: That the 227th Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania express its belief that the Rt. Rev. Charles Bennison does not have the trust of the people and clergy of the Diocese of Pennsylvania to continue to serve as their Bishop; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the 227th Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania express its desire that the Rt. Rev. Charles Bennison resign immediately as the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

EXPLANATION: In its Final Judgment, the Court for the Trial of a Bishop wrote the following: “The tragedy of this conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy is exacerbated by the fact that, during the trial of the case, Appellant (*Charles Bennison*) testified that, upon reflection on his failure to act, he concludes that his actions were “just about right.” They were not just about right. They were totally wrong. Appellant’s testimony on this subject revealed impaired judgment with regard to the conduct that is the subject of the First Offense and that is clearly and unequivocally conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy.” (page 25 – *Charles Bennison added for clarity*)

Bishop Bennison has yet to acknowledge and respond to the unanimous opinion of a Review Committee, a Trial Court, and the Court of Review for the Trial of a Bishop that his actions constituted conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy. His insistence that his actions were “just about right” stands in sharp contrast to our belief that the protection of the vulnerable among us, particularly children, was of paramount importance to Jesus, and so also to us.

Submitted by:

The Executive Committee of the Merion Deanery:

The Very Rev. Michael Pearson (Dean), George Vosburgh (Dean’s Warden), Richard J. T. Lerch (Treasurer)

Clergy of the Merion Deanery:

The Rev. Frank Allen, The Rev. Dr. William Duffey, The Rev. Mary Laney

Other co-sponsors:

The Rev. C. Reed Brinkman, Margaret A. Carter, Constance Clinefelder, The Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Wissler, The Rev. Alexander McCurdy III, Ph.D., The Rev. Sunny Hallanan