

**DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
226TH CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 14, 2009**

R - 4

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DIOCESAN ANGLICAN COVENANT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: The Diocese of Pennsylvania shall engage in an intentional process of study, conversation and comment of the Anglican Covenant proposed in the most recent text of the Covenant Design Group (the “Ridley Cambridge Draft”) as well as any successive drafts.

RESOLVED: In order to facilitate this process and in keeping with the spirit and intent of DO20, Convention resolves to authorize the Bishop to immediately form a Diocesan Anglican Covenant Committee, whose primary responsibility will be to “engage in a process of inviting congregations to consider the Anglican Covenant proposed draft as a document to inform their understanding of and commitment to our common life in the Anglican Communion.” This committee to be representative of clergy and laity from each deanery within the diocese

RESOLVED: The Diocesan Anglican Covenant Committee is to prepare and deliver a report of their study, finding and recommendations to the 2010 Diocese of Pennsylvania Convention and the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION: In 2006, the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church passed resolution A166, which supports the participation of the Episcopal Church in the development of an Anglican Covenant. Since then, the Covenant Design Group (CDG) has produced several drafts, culminating in what the members of the CDG believe is the final product of their work, the Cambridge-Ridley Draft.

The 75th General Convention also passed resolution A159, which affirms not only our commitment to interdependence in the Anglican Communion, but a desire to live in "the highest degree of communion possible."

In 2009, the 76th General Convention passed resolution DO20 calling all congregations and dioceses to engage in an intentional process of dialog, discussion and debate as to how the Anglican Covenant is to inform and order our common life within the Anglican Communion.

Acknowledging that “bonds of affection” within the Anglican Communion have been severely strained, it seems appropriate that we, the Diocese of Pennsylvania, give prayerful consideration to the Cambridge-Ridley Draft in the context of discerning more fully the nature of our identity as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion of churches.

REFERENCES:

Resolution D020: http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation/view_leg_detail.aspx?id=954&type=Final

Resolution A166: http://gc2006.org/legislation/view_leg_detail.aspx?id=207&type=CURRENT

Resolution A159: http://gc2006.org/legislation/view_leg_detail.aspx?id=200&type=CURRENT

Cambridge-Ridley Draft: http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/ridley_cambridge/draft_text.cfm

**Submitted by:
Jeff Moretzsohn, Church of the Good Samaritan**

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R - 5

COMPANION DIOCESE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE OF GUATEMALA

RESOLVED: The Convention of the Diocese of Guatemala concurring, the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Guatemala enter into a sixth three-year term of our companionship relationship for the years 2011-2013.

EXPLANATION: The year 2010 marks the third and final year of the fifth three-year term in the companion relationship with the Diocese of Guatemala. Fifteen parishes in the Diocese of Pennsylvania presently maintain active and ongoing relationships with twenty-six congregations in the Diocese of Guatemala. Other congregations in Guatemala are seeking companion relationships.

In addition the Companion Diocese Committee is presently undertaking wellness initiatives based on data gathered by The Epiphany Medical Mission to Guatemala from 2007-2009. These primary prevention initiatives are currently focused on the provision of water-filtration equipment and health education programming to rural communities in an effort to reduce the significant morbidity, mortality and attendant suffering of vulnerable individuals (especially infants and young children) that result from the consumption of contaminated water.

When the last extension was requested it was done with the expectation that our companion relationship would be extensively reviewed for the meeting of this convention. This has not happened. We think such a review should next take place when new leadership is in place. Meanwhile we highly recommend that this work, so beneficial to so many people here and there, continue to grow and flourish with the support of the diocesan and parochial resources as they are made available.

Both the Assisting Bishop of Pennsylvania and the Bishop of Guatemala have indicated their approval of the continuation of the relationship for an additional three years.

The Mission of the Companion Diocese Relationship:

Through the love of God we are all made one family in Christ. As companion dioceses, we covenant to walk together on our common journey, learning from each other as we share our spiritual, human and material resources at all levels. As companions on the journey, we will encourage and pray for one another and inspire each other in the work we are given to do as Christ's agents in the world about us.

REFERENCES: The minutes of the Companion Diocese Committee

Submitted by:
*The Rev. & Mrs. David B. Rivers, Co-Chairs
Companion Diocese Committee, Diocese of Pennsylvania*

**RESOLUTION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE
DIOCESAN MISSION PLANNING COMMISSION**

RESOLVED: That this Convention request the Bishop and Standing Committee appoint a Diocesan Mission Planning Commission, broadly representative of the Diocese, to review Christ's mission and ministry through the people of the diocese of Pennsylvania; engage and consult diocesan leadership groups in an evaluation of these ministries, make recommendations for the future, and begin a process of reconciliation to help us move forward together in Christ;

RESOLVED: That the core work of the Commission will include:

1. Continuing a process of Christian reconciliation that would allow all members of the Diocese to move together into a new future;
2. Continuing the process of evaluating current missions and ministries and congregations, with appropriate recommendations for affirmation, reconfiguration, or redevelopment;
3. Examining demographic, financial, and cultural trends and their potential impact on future congregational mission and sustainability;
4. Envisioning creatively what new structures and ministry models Christ might lead us to in the future, including the establishing of new ministries, missions and congregations;
5. Reporting the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Commission to the 227th Diocesan Convention.

RESOLVED: That the Bishop, the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council allocate up to \$50,000¹ in order to establish and fund a temporarily restricted account specifically for the work of the Commission. Additional gifts received for the work of the Commission will provide supplemental funds as necessary.

EXPLANATION:

The Diocese of Pennsylvania has in recent years gone through a difficult time with some internal conflicts and the Inhibition and Trial of the Bishop, a process whose length is proving difficult to predict under canons new to the Episcopal Church. Some relationships have been severely tested, but by and large, congregations and ministries within the Diocese have continued faithfully and in many cases prospered. A number of diocesan groups have sought to give leadership and support to the people of the Diocese during this time, in various ways such as the Standing Committee's hearings, the Council of Deans' retreat for clergy, the Diocesan Convention's small group discussions, the Urban Strategy Task Force, the 2020 Committee's analysis of trends, and the Mission Strategy Committee's work with congregations facing challenges.

We, the signatories, as well as many others in Diocesan leadership, believe it best that the Diocese of Pennsylvania move forward together in order to address our needs for reconciliation, strengthening our many fine ministries, and to look with open eyes and hearts to the future toward which Christ calls us. By passing this resolution, Convention will provide the structural mechanism for the consolidation and continuation of the good work and energy which has already begun.

This resolution is intended to launch a wide-ranging, in depth look at what is going on in this strong diocese, in the Church at large, and in the wider society. The work of this Commission will focus primarily on a process of information gathering and data assessment. The results of this effort will be used to provide a foundation for

¹ Amount subject to revision pending consultation with The Episcopal Church, the Alban Institute and the Hartford Institute regarding probable costs for the scope of consultant(s) and other work required to engage the work described in the resolution.

prayerful vision-casting; dreaming and articulating what might be the Church of the future—grounded in the particular gifts the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pennsylvania have to offer. It should be noted, this resolution is offered with the expressed intent of providing both findings and recommendations at the 2010 Convention. Finally, and more immediately, the resolution asks the new Commission to oversee and consolidate the continued process of reconciliation within the Diocese, possibly involving other leadership, acknowledging that such reconciliation may not be complete for some years. This major effort, which assumes some large meetings, several consultants, and clear reporting to the Diocese, will need substantial funding as referenced in the resolution.

God will resolve the question of Episcopal leadership here in God's good time. We are blessed presently with a full time Assisting Bishop committed for the years immediately ahead. It seems appropriate to deal with the present, plan for these years, and allow ourselves to seek to envision where Christ might be calling us in the future.

REFERENCES:

1. At its meeting on May 9, 2009, the Diocesan Council unanimously requested that the 2020 Committee prepare a Diocesan Council resolution for the 2009 Diocesan Convention that would ask the Diocese of Pennsylvania to undertake a vision and mission development process utilizing consultants and data collection.
2. At a meeting on June 25, 2009, convened by The Rt. Rev. Allen Bartlett and comprised of representatives of various Diocesan leadership bodies, including the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, Finance and Property, the Church Foundation and the Mission Strategy Committee, it was recommended that a resolution be developed for the 2009 Diocesan Convention that would ask the Assisting Bishop to appoint a Commission to continue the process of reconciliation in the Diocese and move forward with visioning and mission development utilizing the skills and expertise of various consultants and data-gathering.

Submitted by:
Diocesan Council
The Standing Committee
The Council of Deans
The Rt. Rev. Allen Bartlett
The Rt. Rev. Rodney Michel
Diocesan Council Diocesan Mission Strategy Committee

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R - 7

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMIT TO THE CREATION OF AN ANTI-RACIST DIOCESE

RESOLVED: That the 226th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania strongly endorse the work of the Antiracism Team, which has been called into being by the diocesan Antiracism Commission, and which has been commissioned at said Convention to carry forward the antiracism work of the Diocese, including the transformation of all racist structures, practices, and policies that are barriers to the full inclusion and full access to power by persons of color at every level of the life and ministry within and beyond the Diocese.

RESOLVED: That the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and every congregation and constituent body within the Diocese recommit themselves with time, conscientious attention, and material resources to the vital work of antiracism in our Diocese and in the region, with the full acknowledgment that this grievous sin continues to afflict and bedevil our common life as the body of Christ.

EXPLANATION: The budget of The Episcopal Church (TEC) for the 2010-2012 triennium, passed at General Convention 2009, was reduced to \$140.8 million from the \$163.9 million budget of the 2007-2009 triennium, representing a 14% cut. Among the ministries most drastically affected was Antiracism, Racial Justice, and Gender Equality, reduced from \$1.98 million to \$1.19 million (40%). The Presiding Bishop expressed to the church her hope and prayer that those ministries being cut back at the level of the Episcopal Church as a whole could be taken up with renewed vigor and attention by provinces and dioceses. As we in the Diocese of Pennsylvania can expect much less support and guidance from the central structures of The Episcopal Church, we must assume the additional material and spiritual responsibilities required for the work of antiracism if our vision of the Diocese of Pennsylvania as an antiracist structure is to be realized.

In light of the momentous political events of the last two years in the United States, some have been pleased to wonder if American society has not entered a “post-racial” time in its history. And yet, at the same time, the worst economic recession since the Great Depression has revealed the continuing and systemic “racial divide” in our nation when it comes to the distribution of poverty and wealth, and of opportunity and access. In the current recession, people of color suffer disproportionately: “Black unemployment is now at 15.1 percent, compared with 8.9 percent for whites. . . . By 2010, according to Lawrence Mishel of the Economic Policy Institute, 40 percent of African-Americans nationwide will have endured patches of unemployment or underemployment” (Ehrenreich & Muhammad, 2009). As always happens during times of economic distress, divisions of class and race become more pronounced. Despite the residence of an African-American family in the White House, systemic racism continues to flourish in American society. As followers of Christ in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, we are called to reinvigorate our efforts to eradicate this pernicious evil.

REFERENCES:

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Muhammad, Dedrick, “The Recession’s Racial Divide,” *The New York Times*, September 13, 2009.

The Episcopal Church, *Budget 2010-2012*, distributed at the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, California, July 8—July 17, 2009.

**Submitted by:
The Antiracism Commission
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**

YOUTH VOICE

RESOLVED: That this Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, in concurrence with Resolution D065 of the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, encourage all congregations, deaneries and diocesan bodies to actively cultivate and solicit the voice of youth, ages sixteen to eighteen.

RESOLVED: That each parish and deanery be encouraged to include opportunities, for the voice of youth, ages sixteen to eighteen, to be heard on their governing bodies.

RESOLVED: That diocesan bodies and committees be encouraged to include opportunities, for the voice of youth, ages sixteen to eighteen, to be heard, especially in areas of mission planning and visioning for the future.

EXPLANATION: This resolution recognizes young people as full members of the Body of Christ, and acknowledges that through their baptism, confirmation and sharing in the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, they have many gifts to share with the church. It also continues the call to the church to “appreciate children's abilities and readiness to represent Christ and his church, to bear witness to him wherever they may be, and according to gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world, and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church. (Ministry of the Laity pg. 855 BCP)” from the Children’s Charter for the Church. It too recognizes that while there are certain issues where civil laws prohibit youth from fully participating in the decision making process, their perspective and voice is still valuable to the church.

Additionally, young people given this opportunity have found that their participation has been a transformative experience, in which their voices have been heard. This experience will help to give youth a sense of ownership in the church, while encouraging and preparing them to engage in church leadership in the future.

REFERENCES:

Resolution D065: “Youth Seat, Voice and Vote on Vestry” of the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

The Children’s Charter for the Church

**Submitted by:
Diocesan Youth Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**