

Resolutions with Debate

Resolution 7 Companion Diocese Relationship

Resolved, That the 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton—in seeking to identify opportunities for collaborative mission and ministry between dioceses within the worldwide Anglican Communion and recognizing the work thus far of the Companion Relationship Committee established by the 139th Diocesan Convention—continue working to establish a formal companion relationship with another diocese under the auspices of The Episcopal Church's (TEC) Companion Diocese Program.

Resolved, That the 140th Convention ask Bishop Shand to appoint members to the Companion Relationship Committee to further this endeavor.

Resolved, That the Companion Relationship Committee report its findings and recommendations regarding establishing a Companion Diocese Relationship to the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton.

Explanation: During the interim between the 139th and 140th Conventions of the Diocese of Easton, the Companion Relationship Committee spent nine months familiarizing itself with the mechanics and ecclesiology of TEC's Companion Diocese Program, as well as setting goals and expectations for such a relationship and undertaking prayerful due diligence of various provinces and dioceses within the Anglican Communion. In July 2007, the Committee recommended to Bishop Shand four dioceses for consideration. In December 2007, the diocesan bishop and other representatives from the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (NECA), within the Church in the Province of the West Indies, visited our diocese to ascertain their interest. In February 2008, the Diocese of Easton sent a delegation to visit the Diocese of NECA at the invitation of Bishop Brooks. Once passed, this resolution will enable our Diocese to continue building a relationship with another diocese within the Communion and to work towards formalizing that relationship at NECA's Diocesan Synod in the summer of 2008 and at the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton.

Financial impact of resolution: Budget line for 2009 is \$7,000.

Submitted by: The Companion Relationship Committee: Mrs. Sally Breul, Emmanuel, Chestertown; the Rev. Bryan Glancey, St. Andrew's, Hurlock; the Rev. Frieda Malcolm, St. Alban's, Salisbury; the Rev. Gordon Morrison, St. Peter's, Salisbury; the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, Christ, St. Michaels, *Committee Chair*; the Very Rev. Charles Osberger, Wye Mills; the Rt. Rev. James Shand; Ms. Julie Waterhouse, St. Mary Anne's, North East; Mr. Carl Widell, Christ, St. Michaels

Resolution 8

Vacation Clergy Cottage

Be it Resolved, That this 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton call upon Diocesan Council, or a committee Council may designate, to issue a report on the financial history (since 2000) and the current status (as of 12/31/07) of the fund designated for the support of clergy vacations. Said report shall be mailed to all active and retired clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Easton by no later than June 30, 2008.

Explanation: Rosalie Tilghman Shreve died on September 8, 1920. In her will she gave the Diocese of Easton a house in Ocean City and specified that it was to be used “as a vacation clergy house.” The original building was sold in 1979 and a new “clergy cottage” was purchased.

At the 1998 Diocesan Convention, a last-minute resolution proposed that the clergy cottage be sold and the proceeds used to purchase one or more condominiums in Ocean City. When it was noted that the clergy (active and retired) had not been consulted, the resolution was referred back to committee with a recommendation that the users of the facility be consulted. At the 1999 Convention, a new proposal was presented which recommended making the necessary repairs to the cottage, renting out the ground floor at the commercial rate, and retiring all debts on the facility. This motion was adopted by a wide margin. However, on May 9, 2000, Diocesan Council voted to sell the clergy cottage and use the proceeds to support clergy vacations.

Since 2000 there has been a noticeable lack of any reporting to the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Easton on the stewardship of these funds. However, the diocesan auditors in their report on fiscal year 2006 did state the following: “The Diocese uses timeshares for the purpose of clergy vacations. The timeshares are located in various states and are carried at cost. Clergy using the properties reimburses (sic) the Diocese for the annual timeshare association dues. Depreciation is not taken on these properties. The Diocese has decided to start selling the timeshares. In 2006, it was determined that the cost basis exceeds the fair market value and an estimated \$80,000 impairment loss was recognized.”

If this resolution is adopted, Diocesan Council (or a designated committee) will issue a comprehensive report to all clergy on the past stewardship and current financial status of the clergy vacation fund. A candid report such as this is now normative for our Diocese.

Financial impact of Resolution: report to be sent to approximately 80 clergy canonically resident in the Diocese will cost not more than \$75 from funds already budgeted for clergy mailings.

Submitted by: the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, St. Philip’s, Quantico

Resolution 9

Maryland Constitutional Amendment on Gambling

** Note: Wording in this resolution was changed at the Southern Convocation meeting on Feb. 11 from its originally published form. **

Resolved, That this 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton express its ~~support for~~ opposition to the proposed addition to the Maryland Constitution, a new Article XIX - Video Lottery Terminals, as adopted by the Maryland General Assembly and to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland in November 2008.

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Explanation (taken from the proposal submitted to the General Assembly): “An act concerning Video Lottery Terminals – Authorization and Limitations, for the purpose of adding a new article to the Maryland Constitution to authorize video lottery terminal gaming in the State for the primary purpose of providing funds for public education; limiting the number of licenses that the State may issue to operate video lottery terminals; limiting the number of locations at which video lottery terminal facilities may be located; limiting the number of video lottery terminals that may be authorized in the State; providing that the statutory addition or expansion of forms of commercial gaming by the General Assembly is prohibited except as provided by this Act; defining a certain term; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.”

Financial impact on the Diocese: \$0. Financial impact on big companies which operate slot machines: loss of millions of dollars in profit.

Submitted by: the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, St. Philip’s, Quantico

Resolution 10
2006 Resolution 10, 2007 Resolution 6

Resolved, That this 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton express its gratitude to our Diocesan Council for its comprehensive report as requested by Resolution 10 as adopted by the 138th Convention of the Diocese of Easton and the Chapter of Trinity Cathedral for its comprehensive report as requested by Resolution 6 as adopted by the 139th Convention of the Diocese of Easton; and be it further

Resolved, That these two reports be included with the mailing of the Minutes of the 140th Convention by the Secretary.

Financial impact of resolution: \$57.50 in additional postage from funds already budgeted for mailings.

Submitted by: the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, St. Philip’s, Quantico

Resolution 11
Captain John Smith 2008 Commemoration

Purpose of the Resolution: To raise awareness of the John Smith 2008 Commemoration, a remarkable historic event which will take place in the Diocese of Easton.

Purpose of the Commemoration: To bring Christian history alive and connect the line between one thousand-six hundred-eight and the legacy of the Eastern Shore *anno domini* 2008. May God be glorified in this endeavor.

Whereas, August 2008 marks the 400th anniversary of Captain John Smith’s putting ashore on the Sassafras River in what is now the Parish of Shrewsbury and the Diocese of Easton; and

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Whereas, at that time Smith was greeted by members of the Tockwogh Tribe with whom he read a psalm and said prayers, thus making this the first recorded religious event in what is now the entire state of Maryland; and

Whereas, it is altogether appropriate to honor and recall to memory how the Good News of Jesus Christ first was heard upon these shores; therefore be it

Resolved, that we the 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, noting with approval the planning of this celebration and reenactment, encourage all people to acquaint themselves with the history of the Christian movement on the Eastern Shore and to be supportive of the events of the weekend of August 8, 9, and 10 at Shrewsbury Parish.

Financial impact of resolution: None.

Submitted by: the Rev. Thomas R. Hughes, Jr., Shrewsbury Parish, Kennedyville

Resolution 12 St. Andrew's Draft of a Proposed Anglican Covenant

1. *Resolved*, That this 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton acknowledge the publication by the Covenant Design Group, appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, of the St. Andrew's Draft of a proposed Anglican Covenant; and be it further
2. *Resolved*, That this Convention encourage our Bishop to appoint a Task Force to:
 - a. study and reflect upon the St. Andrew's Draft;
 - b. offer educational presentations to the Convocations as may be scheduled by our Bishop and the Convocational Deans;
 - c. submit a final report by no later than December 31, 2008, for consideration by the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton; and be it further
3. *Resolved*, That the time necessary at the Convocation meetings for any presentation by the Task Force and the time allotted for discussion of such presentation be more or less equal in length; and be it further
4. *Resolved*, That this Task Force be empowered to offer such resolutions for debate to the 141st Convention as it may deem appropriate; and be it further
5. *Resolved*, That the Report of the Task Force be distributed to all delegates to the 141st Convention at least one week before the start of Convention and be allocated at least 30 minutes on the Agenda of the 141st Convention; and be it further
6. *Resolved*, That this Task Force be authorized to address any other related issues under the guidance and direction of our Bishop.

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Explanation: The original proposal for an Anglican Covenant was initiated by the Lambeth Commission in what has come to be known as *The Windsor Report* published in October 2004. This initiative was subsequently endorsed by the Anglican Primates and the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Archbishop of Canterbury appointed nine persons to the Covenant Design Group, two of whom are members of the Episcopal Church: the Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb (faculty, Virginia Theological Seminary) and the Rev. Dr. Ephraim Radner (canonically resident in the Diocese of Colorado and currently on the faculty of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto). The CDG produced a first draft in January 2007 (the “Nassau Draft”) which was sent to the Provinces, Churches, and Commissions of the Anglican Communion for consultation, reflection, and response.

The CDG then met a second time (January 28 to February 2, 2008) at St. Andrew’s House, London, to consider the response from these various entities. Draft II of the proposed Anglican Covenant was published on February 5, 2008. The CDG stated in its Communiqué (introduction):

“The current draft – known at the St Andrew’s Draft – will now be offered for reflection in the Communion at large, and in particular by the Lambeth Conference, which has been convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury to meet in his see City of Canterbury, England, between 16th July and 3rd August of this year. The CDG hopes that bishops will study the present draft in their preparations for the Conference, consulting in their dioceses and sharing their reflections at the Conference.”

Thus, the purpose of creating a Task Force on the St. Andrew’s Draft of an Anglican Covenant as called for in this resolution is two-fold. First, it will create a group of clergy and lay persons, appointed by our Bishop, with whom he may consult on this issue as he prepares to attend the Lambeth Conference later this year.

Second, it is more than likely that the St. Andrew’s Draft Covenant, either in its present form or as it may be amended in response to subsequent consultations and responses, will come before the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church for legislative action. The report of this Task Force and the response it engenders at our 2009 Diocesan Convention will provide our elected Deputies to the General Convention with some understanding of the views and opinions of Episcopalians in the Diocese of Easton on this vitally important issue.

However, it is important to note that any attempt to “instruct” our elected Deputies (four clergy and four lay) on how to vote on any issue at General Convention would be inappropriate. They are Deputies, not Delegates. Each one is free to cast a conscientious vote. But a process such as outlined above will surely assist our Deputies in hearing the views of those fellow Christians who have elected them to their position.

The text of “St. Andrew’s Draft Covenant” can be accessed at http://www.aco.org/commission/covenant/st_andrews/draft_text.cfm

Financial impact of resolution: There may be some meetings in diocesan facilities and perhaps a mailing or two via the Postal Service. It is also possible that some educational materials may become available over the next nine months. An estimated cost to the Diocese would be less than \$300 to be debited to budgetary allocations already present in the diocesan budget.

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Submitted by: Ms. Sally Breul, Emmanuel, Chestertown; the Rev. Charles E. Osberger, Wye Mills; the Rev. Dr. David R. Green, Christ Church, Kent Island; the Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, St. Philip's, Quantico

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