

Resolutions with Debate

Resolution 9 **Memorial to General Convention** **Proposed Commemoration of Saints Andronicus and Junia**

Resolved, That this 141st Convention direct the Secretary of Diocesan Convention to forward the following resolution to the Secretary of General Convention on or before March 20, 2009:

Resolved, That this 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton memorialize the General Convention to add to the calendar of saints (otherwise known as *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*) of the Episcopal Church on a trial use basis the feast day of May 17 for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles, identified in Romans 16:7 and venerated for 1400 years in Eastern Orthodoxy and for over three decades in Anglican Churches in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Explanation: As written in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (16:7): "Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and prison companions; they are notable Apostles, and they were in Christ before me." These Apostle saints, who model a ministry of evangelism and building up local Churches, women and men working together in the Church, prison ministry and faithfulness despite persecution—all needs of the Church today, are suitable models in the Communion of Saints for all the baptized. This feast can function with these different emphases as supplementary and complementary for all people. Paul called them outstanding Apostles; it would be fitting for the wider church to honor them in like fashion.

Since 1984 some parishes in the Episcopal Church have celebrated this feast day, long hidden from our knowledge because of the mistranslation of Junia's name in Romans 16:7. (The evidence for the correct translation has now been well documented by Dr. Eldon J. Epp.) God the Holy Spirit gave both these saints gifts, and today the Spirit is giving men and women in our diocese gifts of ministry, an echo of their discipleship. They also represent our acceptance of the Spirit calling both men and women to all lay and ordained ministries in our Church.

Submitted by: The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, St. Philip's, Quantico

Resolution 10 **Covenant of Companion Relationship**

Resolved, that the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton—in seeking to engage in opportunities for collaborative mission and ministry between dioceses within the worldwide Anglican Communion and recognizing the work of the Companion Relationship Committee established by the 139th Diocesan Convention—endorse the formation of a Companion Diocese Relationship between this diocese and the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (NECA) in the Church in the Province of the West Indies, beginning on the 27th day of February 2009 and continuing until Diocesan Convention 2014 or terminated by mutual consent; and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop of Easton be empowered to appoint a representative Companion Relationship Commission to implement, nurture and monitor this relationship; and be it further

Resolved, that the Companion Relationship Commission work with representatives of the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba to endorse a similar resolution of relationship between these two dioceses at the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba's 2008 Diocesan Synod meeting; and be it further

Resolved, that upon passage of these resolutions by both parties' governing bodies, such resolutions be sent to the Partnership Service Officer in the Episcopal Church's Office of Anglican and Global Relations and to the Anglican Communion Office in London.

Explanation: In December 2007, the Diocese of Easton hosted a delegation from the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba. On the eve of the 140th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba hosted a delegation from our diocese. During the interim between the 140th and 141st Conventions of the Diocese of Easton, the Companion Relationship Committee spent time in deeper conversation with Bishop Errol Brooks and other representatives from the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (NECA), regarding potential opportunities for shared ministry and mission. Once passed, this resolution will commit our Diocese to building a deeper relationship with Bishop Brooks, his Diocesan Staff and the people of the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba in order to encourage and strengthen the people of both dioceses as they endeavor to spread the good news of Christ to all God's people within the two dioceses and throughout the world. (See also, the "Report of the Companion Relationship Committee to the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Easton," contained herein.)

Financial Impact of this Resolution: Diocesan operating budget line for 2009 is \$8,000.

Submitted by: The Companion Relationship Committee: the Rev. Bryan Glancey; the Very Rev. Samuel Hartman; the Very Rev. Frieda Malcolm; Ms. Julia Moore, *Diocesan Council Liaison*; the Rev. Gordon Morrison; the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, *Committee Chair*; the Very Rev. Charles Osberger; the Rev. Ed Pippin; the Rt. Rev. James Shand; Ms. Julie Waterhouse.