

EPISCOPAL CHURCH RESOLUTIONS on JUSTICE, WELCOME & INCLUSION

A Resolution is a proposed action or decision to be considered by a legislative body such as the House of Bishops or the House of Deputies at General Convention, or at a diocesan convention. Resolutions are passed at General Convention only when they are agreed to by both houses. Deputies are elected by their diocesan conventions; the direction the church takes regarding social issues is affected by those who are elected as deputies and Bishops. No official body of The Episcopal Church (TEC) may speak on behalf of TEC on any topic that has not been decided upon by General Convention. Even the Presiding Bishop is bound by resolutions. Well over 100 resolutions passed over many years affirm The Church's mission to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The official resolutions included here represent a historical review of where The Episcopal Church stands on social, cultural and civic issues including: Civil and Human Rights, the Death Penalty, Ethnic Equality, Women's Equality, Gender Equality and Immigration.

EQUITY & INCLUSION OF ALL PERSONS

The Episcopal Church opposes the death penalty and supports civil and human rights.

- 1979-D083: Support the Principle of Affirmative Action
- 2009-A066: Create a Toolkit for Culturally Sensitive Evangelism
- 2009-C048: Support Employment Non-discrimination Laws
- 2012-C078: Restore Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
- 2018-A056: Create a Task Force on the Theology of Social Justice Advocacy as Christian Ministry
- 2018-A057: Strengthen Grassroots Social Justice Advocacy and Multicultural Ministries
- 2018-A135: Examine the Cultural Homogeneity of the Canons
- 2018-D086: Urge the Church to Schedule Meetings for Inclusivity
- 2018-A143: Study the Career Development of Female and Minority Clergy
- 2022-A025: Add inclusivity in Forms and Information on the Website of The Episcopal Church and Related Organizations

ETHNIC EQUITY RESOLUTIONS

The Church is committed to resolving racial disparities and building a community based on love and justice. Absalom Jones was ordained the first Black priest in The Episcopal Church in America in 1804. In 1952 the General Convention Adopted the Resolution on Racial Discrimination that states: "We consistently oppose and combat discrimination based on color or race in every form, both within the Church and without, in this country and internationally." The first Black woman priest was ordained in 1977. In 2015 The Episcopal Church elected the first African American Presiding Bishop. In 2017 The first African American woman was elected Bishop Diocesan. The most recent equity resolutions include:

- 2018-A015: Direct Interim Bodies to Undergo Anti-Racism Training
- 2022-C032: Designate the Third or Fourth Sunday in Advent as a Day to Offer God Thanks for the Abolition of Slavery and to Ask God's Help in Assuring Always that Black Lives Matter
- 2022-C004: Inclusion of June 19th, "Juneteenth" in the Church's Liturgical Calendar in Recognition of the End of Slavery in the United States
- 2022-D063: Support for Truth to Confront Misinformation and Violence
- 2022-A127: Resolution for Telling the Truth about The Episcopal Church's History with Indigenous Boarding Schools
- 2024-A167: Advocate for indigenous and native people's rights involving just use and protection of water resources.

- 2024-D008: Advocate for indigenous and native people’s rights to safety, transparency, and restoration in cases where the U.S. government and/or its agencies and military forces threaten or damage clean water and other natural resources, especially in decommissioning and defueling of Red Hill Bunker.
- 2024-D054: Urge Congress to adopt reforms that would reduce the maternal mortality rate of Black women.
- 2024-D076: Reaffirm commitments to reparations for slavery, to community development, and to the role of the church in leading the nation towards racial reconciliation. Create and make available tools, comprehensive resources, and specific reparative capital vehicles so the church can do this work.
- 2024-AO15: Owning a Commitment to Reparations
- 2024-AO20: Establish a Standing Committee on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism
- 2024AO27: Increase recruitment, hiring, appointing, retention and representation of People of Color in church positions
- 2024-AO31: Translate Reconciliation Resources into Spanish
- 2024-AO34: Promoting Equitable Formation for Future Church Leaders through Dismantling Racism and Achieving Racial Justice and Healing Education in Seminaries and Schools of Theological Education
- 2024-AO35: Establish Model Policies for Anti/Racism/Racial Reconciliation Work
- 2024-AO36: Amend Canons to Use Approved Common Terminology to Describe Anti-Racism Work
- 2024-AO99: Task Force for Indigenous Justice to Increase Advocacy Groups Reflecting Creation Care and Ministries
- 2024-A127: Establish a Working Group to Update Biographies in Lesser Feasts & Fasts
- 2024-A148: Amend Canons to Underscore Support for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
- 2024-A167: Water Rights for Indigenous Communities and Lands
- 2024:C009: Petition of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland to become a Missionary Diocese
- 2024-CO11-12: Add Howard W. Thurman to the Episcopal Church Calendar
- 2024-D008: Protection of Water “Ola I Ka Wai – Water is Life”
- 2024-D015: Examine the disparity in treatment in the adjudication of Clergy under Title IV Disciplinary Process by Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation
- 2024-D016: Continued Funding of The Beloved Community
- 2024-D034: Support and Advocacy for Restorative Justice and a Moral Commitment to Abolition of Prisons and Policing
- 2024-D054: A Resolution to Address The Issue of Black Maternal Mortality Rate
- 2024-D059: Addressing Antisemitism in the Church and the World
- 2024-D074: Renouncing the Theology of Slavery held by the Rev. James Craik, 11th President of the House of Deputies

WOMEN’S EQUALITY RESOLUTIONS

- 1988-A112: Reaffirm Commitment to Affirmative Action
- 2018-D023: Create an Anti-Sexism Task Force
- 2022-A063: Create a Director of Women's Ministries

- 2024-D077: Celebrating and Continuing the Work and Witness of the Church of the Advocate, Site of the Ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven
- 2024-A089: Affirm and uplift ongoing efforts to educate and empower advocacy addressing violence against women and girls.
- 2024-DO42: Call for the end of child and forced marriage. Support state and national policies that advocate for the minimum age to marry be eighteen, without exception and eliminate parental consent as an exception to marriage. Support policies such as access to educational, social and economic opportunities for girls.

GENDER AFFIRMATION & CARE RESOLUTIONS

Years ago, the church expressed its stance on “gender affirming care: social, medical, or any other and at all ages as part of our Baptismal call to respect the dignity of every human being.” In 2003 Gene Robinson, the first openly gay priest, was Consecrated as Bishop of New Hampshire. In 2007 the Church called for the full legal equality of LGBTQ+ people. In 2015, the church's 78th triennial Convention passed resolutions allowing the blessing of same-sex marriages and approved two official liturgies to bless such unions. At the 80th Convention in 2022, resolutions were passed affirming non-binary gender identities and recognizing the need for support of transgender and non-binary people by the church.

- 1982-B061: Reaffirm the Civil Rights of Homosexuals
- 1994-C019: Reaffirm Resolution on Equal Protection Under Law for Homosexuals
- 1997-D011: Apologize for the Church's Rejection of Gays and Lesbians
- 2006-A167: Reaffirm Church Membership of Gay and Lesbian Persons
- 2009-D012: Support Laws that Prohibit Discrimination Based on Gender Identity
- 2009-A168: Refer a Resolution on Gender Parity in the Diocesan Report Form
- 2009-D090: Encouraged inclusive self-identification on all church forms to create flexible options for people to identify their gender, names, and preferred pronouns
- 2009-C048: Put the Episcopal Church on record in support of a fully transgender inclusive version of the Federal Employment Nondiscrimination Act
- 2009-D012: Put the Episcopal Church on record in support of fully transgender inclusive nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws at the local, state and federal levels
- 2009-D032: Declared that lay employees in the Episcopal Church are not to be discriminated against based on several demographic designations, including gender identity and expression
- 2009-D002: Added “gender identity and expression” to Canon III.1.2 re: nondiscrimination in access to discernment for the ordination process
- 2009-DO19: Amended Canon I.17.5 (aka “the Rights of the Laity”), clarifying that “No one shall be denied rights, status or access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of this Church” based on “gender identity and expression,” among several other demographic categories
- 2009-D022: Called for a church wide response to the epidemic of bullying based on a number of categories, including gender identity and expression
- 2012-D061: Adopt Statements on Threats Against Sexual Minorities
- 2015-A049: Prioritize Gender Equality Concerns in Foreign and Church Aid
- 2015-A051: Support LGBTI Advocacy in Africa
- 2015-D037: Amend Church Records to Reflect Name Changes

- 2015-D036: Add Name Change Rite to the Book of Occasional Services. This resolution called upon the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) to include a name change rite in its proposed comprehensive revision of the Book of Occasional Services. The rite was to be adaptable for various life and circumstances, including the name changes of trans people.
- 2015-D037: Amend Names in Church Records, Registries and Certificates. This resolution requested a study with recommendations to be brought to the 79th General Convention regarding the pastoral need to allow church records and registries to be changed and certificates to be reissued to reflect a person's new legal name. It called for several groups to be consulted as part of this process, including trans people.
- 2015-D028: Oppose Conversion Therapy. This resolution put the 78th General Convention on record in support of legislation banning state-licensed therapists from engaging in scientifically discredited and dangerous practices that try to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 2015-A051: Support LGBT African Advocacy. This resolution encourages parishes, dioceses, especially those with companion relationships in Anglican Africa, as well as advocacy groups, to build relationships with African Anglican scholars and activists who are working to advance generous understandings of the Bible that affirm the dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people."
- 2015-A075: Addendum to Resolutions A073 & A074 that called for an update of TEC's Model Policies & Resources for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse of Youth and Children, including "the creation of inclusive policy and practices in regard to LGBTQ and gender variant children, youth, participants, and leaders.
- 2018-A088: Develop Guidelines for Amending Name and Gender in Church Records
- 2018-C022: Support End of Discrimination Against Transgender and Non-Binary People
- 2018-C054: Adopt Guiding Principles for Inclusion of Transgender and Non-binary People
- 2018-D069: Collect Data on LGBTQ+ Clergy Deployment and Compensation
- 2018-A284: Added nondiscrimination protections on the basis of gender identity and expression to the context of *employment* in Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2.
- 2018-D069: Called for the gathering of statistical information and stories about employment and compensation for LGBTQ clergy.
- 2018-A143: Acknowledged "that there has not been adequate investment in the career development of women, transgender, non-binary, and racial/ethnic minority clergy at multiple levels" and "that an appropriate interim body be assigned the task to study these concerns and make a report, including analysis and recommendation for improvements, to the 80th General Convention."
- 2018-C022: Called upon Episcopalians to "support legislative, educational, pastoral, liturgical, and broader communal efforts that seek to end the pattern of violence against transgender people in general and transgender women in particular, calling attention especially to the rising violence against transgender women of color and gender non-conforming people." It further called congregations "to remove barriers to full participation in congregational life by making their gender-specific facilities and activities fully accessible to all, regardless of gender identity and expression."
- 2018-C054: Asked the Church to work with the Office of Formation in partnership with LGBTQIA+ organizations including TransEpiscopal to establish "Guiding Principles for

the Inclusion of Transgender and Non-Binary People in Dioceses, Parishes, Missions, Schools and Camps.”

- 2018-A088: Affirmed trans and nonbinary people, as well as cisgender people in various life circumstances, in our ability to have our names and gender markers amended in Church records and to have certificates such as baptism and ordination reissued. The guidelines for doing so were approved by the Executive Council in 2019.
- 2018-A218: Authorized the digital release of the portion of the Book of Occasional Service that includes a Name Change Rite.
- 2018-A068 authorized the beginning of a process of Prayer Book revision, with the use of inclusive and expansive language being a key part of that process. A task force was created to begin that process.
- 2018-B012 took an important step forward in ensuring that sacramental marriage equality is accessible across the whole church.
- 2022-A063 Created a new, fully-funded staff position at the Church Center: Director of LGBTQI and Women’s Ministries
- 2022-D029 "Affirming Non-Binary Access and Leadership" affirmed that non-binary as well as binary identified transgender and cisgender people are included in the phrase “gender identity and expression,” and that the provisions of the Canons of the Episcopal Church apply equally to people of all genders.
- 2022-D030 called for the development of resources and training for welcoming and supporting trans and non-binary people and our families
- 2022-D072 called for the official adoption of the SafeZone Project resource by the Episcopal Church, with a representative in each diocese to be trained to facilitate it
- 2022-D066 called for the Episcopal Church to advocate for access to gender affirming care in all forms (social, medical, or any other) and at all ages as part of our Baptismal call to “respect the dignity of every human being”
- 2022-A060 endorsed the Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language in prayer book revision
- 2022-D072 Resolution on Gender and Sexuality Training
- 2022-D026 Create a Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion
- 2022-D002 A Resolution to Promote Equity and Reduce differences in Health Outcomes
- 2022-D029 Affirming Non-Binary Access and Leadership
- 2022-D030 Develop Resources and Training for Welcoming and Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Persons and Families
- 2022-D063 Support for Truth to Confront Misinformation and Violence
- 2022-D066 Addressing restrictions on access to gender affirming care
- 2024-D066: Create a Task Force for Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Reconciliation for LGBTQIA+

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention celebrates the diversity of human experience, recognizing that we are all made in the image of God; and be it further...

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention calls for the Episcopal Church to advocate for access to gender affirming care in all forms; and be it further...

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention understands that the protection of religious liberty extends to all Episcopalians who may need or desire to access, to utilize, to aid others in the procurement of, or to offer gender affirming care; and be it further...

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention supports public policies at the local, state, and national levels in all our countries to support gender affirming care; and be it further be it...

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention celebrates the diversity of human experience, recognizing that we are all made in the image of God; and be it further...

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention calls for the Episcopal Church to advocate for access to gender affirming care in all forms (social, medical, or any other) and at all ages as part of our Baptismal call to “respect the dignity of every human being”; and be it further...

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention affirms that all Episcopalians should be able to partake in gender affirming care with no restriction on movement, autonomy, or timing

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention understands that protection of religious liberty extends to all Episcopalians who may need or desire to access, use, or aid others in the procurement of, or to offer, gender affirming care.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION RESOLUTIONS

The Episcopal Church has long stood with immigrants, including through refugee resettlement with Episcopal Migration Ministries. Our commitment to immigrants remains unwavering, and we hope you will join us in taking action. Following are the most recent Resolutions. To see all 60 Resolutions related to immigration dating back to 1962 go to:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/summary-of-episcopal-church-policy-on-immigration-and-refugee-issues-2/>

- 2018-A178 Denounce Inhumane Immigration Policies and Advocate on Behalf of Migrants.
- 2022-D045 On Supporting LGBTQ+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- 2024-DO26 Allocated \$200,000 to support Episcopal Migration Ministries
- 2024-CO31 Advocate for migration with dignity by promoting specific principles about migration that resonate with the teachings of Jesus and our baptismal promise to “respect the dignity of every human being.”
- 2024-CO35 Call for the end of labor trafficking of migrant youth. Advocate for comprehensive and enforceable policies at local, state, and national levels aimed at eradicating labor trafficking and protecting migrant youth.
- 2024-D037: Encourage All Ministries of The Episcopal Church to Assess Intersections with Migration.
- 2024-D067: The Church will advocate for the expansion of Temporary Protected Status.

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention, as people of faith who believe that all people are created in the image of God, advocate for Migration with Dignity, a statement of specific principles about migration that resonate with the teachings of Jesus and our baptismal promise to “respect the dignity of every human being”; and be it further

Resolved, That, acknowledging the increase of dehumanization of ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees in the midst of record migration across international borders, and that such dehumanization leads to grave and serious mistreatment of these persons, the 81st General Convention, consistent with previous resolutions of the General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, declare itself to be in support of Migration with Dignity for all migrants, including

refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and those who cross borders in search of opportunity, including the following human rights within the Migration with Dignity framework:

- A universal right of movement, including freedom to leave and return to one's country of origin, freedom of movement within one's country of origin or country of settlement.
- The right to be secure: from sexual violence including rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery, forced labor and arbitrary and abusive detention.
- The right of equality, to include: 1) equal treatment with no discrimination under the law based on color, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin; and 2) equal opportunity for upward mobility.
- Rights to a basic quality of life, including employment rights, housing rights and food rights.
- The right to access services such as health care, education and legal representation.
- Civil and political rights guaranteeing the right to identity, to use of one's language, and to freedom of speech and religion.

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention affirm Migration with Dignity as a framework to guide ministry with migrants, calling upon all Episcopalians, congregations, and dioceses to make urgent efforts through direct action to support arriving migrants' immediate needs for shelter, food, clothing, legal assistance, work permits, healthcare, transportation, etc. and to advocate for Migration with Dignity to local, state, national, and international governing bodies exhorting them to enforce existing laws and policies that uphold these principles on behalf of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and displaced persons, and by enacting new laws and policies guaranteeing their welcome, protection, and integration into our common human journey; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention call upon the Office of Government Relations and the church's UN Mission to affirm the Migration with Dignity framework as a tool to guide advocacy for incremental change toward a more humane and just immigration system, while continuing their efforts to support the Global Compact for Migration and other international frameworks, as well as previous General Convention resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to establish a Task Force on Migration with Dignity (MWD) to build on and expand migration ministries in The Episcopal Church and to develop a strategic plan for coordinated, global Episcopal ministry consistent with MWD principles for all migrating persons at all stages of migration. The task force will be instructed to:

- Inventory current assets and resources for serving and supporting migrants, church-wide
- Conduct a gap analysis to identify missing elements that could strengthen the church's response
- Recommend a coordinated whole-of-church strategy to strengthen our support for migrants, consistent with this resolution
- Assist with information and resource sharing across the Church; and be it further...

Resolved, That the Task Force on Migration with Dignity consist of no more than 14 members who have direct experience with migration and/or are actively involved in migration-related ministry in The Episcopal Church, and who represent all Provinces, especially those with dioceses outside of the U.S. A minimum of three Bishops shall serve on the Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force report to Executive Council annually during the Triennium and to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct Episcopal Migration Ministries, in collaboration with this Task Force, the Episcopal Migration Response Network, and other ministry partners, to develop and launch a churchwide Migration with Dignity formation program to help all Episcopalians live out their baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, love neighbor as self, work for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention establish an annual Migration with Dignity Sunday for The Episcopal Church during the season of Epiphany.

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESOLUTIONS

Since the 1970s The Episcopal Church has resolved to support the protection of women's health. At the General Convention in 2018 it called for "women's reproductive health and reproductive health procedures to be treated as all other medical procedures." The Convention declared "that equitable access to women's health care, including women's reproductive health care, is an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being." The Episcopal Church emphatically opposes abortion as a form of birth control or any other reason of convenience; but since 1988 but it has repeatedly affirmed that the decision to terminate a pregnancy should not be a matter of civil law. More recently, The Church has:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention recognizes that pregnancy and childbirth are dangerous undertakings that risk permanent disability and death for those who bear children; and be it further...

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church reaffirms that parenthood "should be initiated only advisedly and in full accord with this understanding of the power to conceive and give birth which is bestowed by God" (1988-C047); and be it further...

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church recognizes that access to abortion is a key element in preserving the health, independence, and autonomy of those who can bear children; and be it further...

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention affirms that all Episcopalians should be able to access abortion services and birth control with no restriction on movement, autonomy, type, or timing; and be it further...

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention understands that the protection of religious liberty extends to all Episcopalians who may need or desire to access, to utilize, to aid others in the procurement of, or to offer abortion services.

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention affirms that all Episcopalians should be able to access abortion services and birth control with no restriction on movement, autonomy, type, or timing; and be it further...

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention understands that the protection of religious liberty extends to all Episcopalians who may need or desire to access, to utilize, to aid others in the procurement of, or to offer abortion services.

- 1976-D095: Reaffirm the 1967 General Convention Statement on Abortion
- 1982-B009: Reaffirm the Church's Guidelines on the Termination of Pregnancy
- 1982-D016: Reaffirm the Right to the Use of Artificial Conception Control
- 1982-A065: Condemn Use of Abortion for Gender Selection and Non-serious Abnormalities
- 1982-A067: Approve Use of "In Vitro" Fertilization
- 1988-D124: Condemn Acts of Violence Against Abortion Facilities and Their Clients
- 1988-C047: Adopt a Statement on Childbirth and Abortion
- 1988-A089: Promote Use of Materials on Human Sexuality and Abortion for All Age Groups
- 1991-C037: Oppose Legislation Requiring Parental Consent for Termination of Pregnancy
- 1991-A096: Continue Discussion on the Use of Fetal Tissue for Research Use
- 1994-D105: Commend the Work of Pregnancy Care Centers
- 1994-D091: Deplore Practice of Forced Abortions and Sterilization in China
- 1994-A054: Reaffirm General Convention Statement on Childbirth and Abortion
- 1994-D009: Reaffirm Family Planning and Control of Global Population Growth
- 1997-D065: Express Grave Concern Over Misuse of Partial Birth Abortion
- 2018-D032: Affirm Equal Access to Health Care Regardless of Gender
- 2000-D104: Affirm Adoption and Support Legislation on Adoption Counseling
- 2022-D049: Support of Public Policies for Adequate Surrogacy Protections
- 2022-D083: Address the erosion of reproductive rights and autonomy