

**R-2s: Establish the First Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

*Recommended for adoption as substituted by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the Diocese of Virginia dedicates the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday for a period of seven years (2012-2018), and that parishes and individuals are encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world with education and materials from our ERD coordinator(s).

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

## **R-5a: The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation**

*Recommended for adoption as amended by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia affirms that Christian faith formation in the Episcopal Church is a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ and to Christ; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation be made available on the Web site of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia as a teaching and planning resource for all deaneries, congregations and people; and be it further

**Resolved**, that we commend the Committee on Education for its work to assist all in implementing this Christian faith formation.

Submitted by the Very Rev. Kent Rahm, Trinity, Fredericksburg, on behalf of the Committee of Education

### **Background**

For the information of Council, the Charter reads as follows:

#### **The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation**

Lifelong Christian Faith Formation in the Episcopal Church is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

#### **I have called you friends... John 15:14-16**

Through The Episcopal Church, God **INVITES** all people:

- To enter into a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service.
- To hear the Word of God through scripture, to honor church teachings, and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, spreading the Good News of the risen Christ and ministering to all.
- To respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, as Jesus calls us, in ways that reflect our diversity and cultures as we seek, wonder and discover together.
- To hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the Gospel message.

**...You did not choose me,**

#### **but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit... John 15:14-16**

Through The Episcopal Church, God **INSPIRES** all people:

- To experience Anglican liturgy, which draws us closer to God, helps us discern God's will and encourages us to share our faith journeys.
- To study Scripture, mindful of the context of our societies and cultures, calling us to seek truth anew while remaining fully present in the community of faith.
- To develop new learning experiences, equipping disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully listening for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Christ.
- To prepare for a sustainable future by calling the community to become guardians of God's creation.

#### **...I am giving you these commands that you may love one another. John 15:17**

Through The Episcopal Church, God **TRANSFORMS** all people:

- By doing the work Jesus Christ calls us to do, living into the reality that we are all created in the image of God and carrying out God's work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace.
- By striving to be a loving and witnessing community, which faithfully confronts the tensions in the church and the world as we struggle to live God's will.
- By seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration in our contemporary global context.
- By holding all accountable to lift every voice in order to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Christian Faith Formation In The Episcopal Church Is A Lifelong Journey with Christ, In Christ, And To Christ.**

**R-6s: Domestic Violence Prevention**

*Recommended for adoption as substituted by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia, in keeping with General Convention Resolution D096, requests that the bishop appoint a taskforce to report to the Executive Board on how training to prevent domestic violence could be coordinated with and possibly integrated into other mandatory training in the Diocese.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

**Background**

For the information of Council, General Convention Resolution D090 reads as follows:

*Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention speak out clearly against the widespread practice of Domestic Violence; and be it further*

*Resolved, That members of General Convention covenant to pray for victims and their families; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we urge the appropriate interim bodies to review and recommend the utilization of existing training developed for Domestic Violence prevention, in order to counter the culture which sustains it; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the convention strongly encourage all Episcopal bishops and other clergy and lay leadership to participate in such training as may be available to them; and be it further*

*Resolved, That clergy take leadership in making such information and training available to their congregations and the community.*

## **R-7s: Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts**

*Recommended for adoption as substituted by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia affirms the Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 14-27 which “urges Anglicans everywhere to be bold in preaching reconciliation and facilitating peace-making dialogues in every situation of war and conflict.”

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

### **Background**

For the information of Council, Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 14.27 reads as follows:

Resolution 14.27: Peace-making Dialogues (from APJN)

*Resolved, 05.05.09*

The Anglican Consultative Council:

- a. urges Anglicans everywhere to be bold in preaching reconciliation and facilitating peace-making dialogues in every situation of war and conflict;
- b. supports the concept of healing through the processes of truth-telling, repentance, and restorative justice;
- c. urges all in provincial leadership positions, especially those in theological education, to implement programmes of conflict-resolution skills training as a contribution to developing effective and bold prophetic voices for God’s justice in all societies;
- d. commends to the Provinces of the Anglican Communion the educational resources on conflict transformation and reconciliation identified and promoted by the Anglican Peace and Justice Network on the ACO website.

## **R-8: Support for Sudan**

*Recommended for adoption by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Whereas**, our Episcopal Church colleagues in the Sudan, now over 4 million strong, face grave danger of resumed warfare in 2010 and 2011 as a secession referendum approaches and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) breaks down; and

**Whereas**, the 76th General Convention adopted Resolution D-007, asking dioceses and parishes to enter into partnerships with Episcopal Dioceses and bible translation projects in Sudan, which a number of our parishes have done with the support of our bishops; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, by the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia that:

1. Congregations are urged to make prayers for peace in Sudan and for the welfare of the Episcopal Church of Sudan a regular part of our public liturgies over the next two years, and for our clergy and laity to make such prayers a regular part of private devotions; and
2. Congregations, clergy and laity are urged to provide, as they are able, additional support for our bishops in their Sudan work and for our Episcopal colleagues in Sudan to spread the Gospel further and to help work for peace in Sudan.

Submitted by Russell V. Randle, Lay Delegate, Christ Church, Alexandria

### **Background**

For the information of Council, General Convention Resolution D007 reads as follows:

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention adopt the following objectives to guide our church's advocacy for peace in Sudan: (a) support for the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, settling the prior civil war between the north and south, (b) support for increased private investment for economic development in southern Sudan, as now permitted by U.S. law, (c) continued and increased U.S. government development assistance in southern Sudan and other areas affected by war in Sudan, and (d) an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, and assuring full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urge each diocese in The Episcopal Church (TEC) to consider, after careful consultation, entry into a Companion Diocese Relationship or other covenant-based link relationship with a diocese in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) or with an ECS-approved Bible translation project, as a means (a) to strengthen the proclamation of the Gospel in both the TEC and ECS, and (b) to further the cause of peace in Sudan. Each TEC diocese is requested to report the results of such consideration by July 1, 2010 to the Executive Council for posting on appropriate TEC websites after review by Executive Council; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request our Presiding Bishop to designate, after consultation with other interested denominations, a period of several weeks in 2010 as a Season of Prayer for peace in Sudan, where our churches are urged to include prayer for peace in Sudan in each public liturgy, and that such Season of Prayer culminate in a National Day of Prayer for peace in Sudan, including the celebration of relationships by TEC dioceses and churches with the ECS.

**R-9a: Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**

*Recommended for adoption as amended by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that this 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council express support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through actions including the following recommendations to congregations within the Diocese:

- a) that congregations facilitate studies and discussions of the difficulties currently facing the Jerusalem Diocese and the Christian population it serves,
- b) that prayers for the Jerusalem Diocese and the people it serves be included in “Prayers of the People” during worship services,
- c) that congregations provide financial and other tangible aid to the Jerusalem Diocese and its many outreach activities,
- d) that congregations, with assistance by the Diocese of Virginia, facilitate group visits to the Jerusalem Diocese; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council express support for the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council respectfully request our bishop to emphasize the Diocese of Jerusalem as a mission priority.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Paul J. Andersen, Christ Church Parish, Christchurch

The Rev. Abbott Bailey, St. Andrew's, Richmond

The Rev. Susan N. Eaves, St. Thomas', Richmond

The Rev. Bob Hetherington, St. James's, Richmond

The Rev. Randolph M. Hollerith, St. James's, Richmond

The Rev. Megan Holloway, Grace Church, Kilmarnock

The Rev. James A. Papile, St. Anne's, Reston

The Rev. Randall L. Prior, St. Andrew's, Burke, Dean, Region 7

**R-10a: Commending our Bishops**

*Recommended for adoption as amended by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia commends the Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston and the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones for their commitment to the global Anglican Communion.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Charles D. Alley, St. Matthew's, Richmond

The Rev. Mario Gonzalez, St. Matthew's, Richmond

Mr. Matt McDonald, lay delegate, St. Matthew's, Richmond

Dr. Lissa Power de Fur, lay delegate, St. Matthew's, Richmond

Endorsed by the Vestry of St. Matthew's, Richmond

**R-12a: Study and Report on the Proposed Anglican Covenant**

*Recommended for adoption as amended by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Resolved**, that the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia urges individuals and congregations to examine carefully and prayerfully the proposed Ridley-Cambridge draft of the Anglican Covenant, and to discuss it at the congregational level before the next Annual Council.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Christopher Agnew, Ph.D., St. Paul's, Nomini Grove  
The Rev. Charles Alley, Ph.D., St. Matthew's, Richmond  
The Rev. Bill Burk, Church of the Creator, Mechanicsville  
The Rev. Jim Cirillo, Grace, Casanova  
The Rev. Mario Gonzalez, St. Matthew's, Richmond  
The Rev. Geoff Gwynne, Christ the King, Harrisonburg  
The Rev. Christopher T. Hayes III, Retired  
The Rev. Cuthbert Mandell, Aquia, Stafford  
Matthew McDonald, lay delegate, St. Matthew's, Richmond  
The Rev. Jay Morris, Aquia, Stafford  
Lissa Power-deFur, lay delegate, St. Matthew's, Richmond  
The Rev. Robert W. Prichard, Ph.D., Virginia Theological Seminary  
Wanda Pritekel, lay delegate, The Church of Our Redeemer, Aldie  
The Rev. Jim Reed, Messiah, Chancellorsville  
The Rev. John Sheehan, Our Redeemer, Aldie

**R-13: Support for Haiti**

*Recommended for adoption by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Whereas**, the January 12, 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti, killed over 200,000 people and did great damage to the country and the Diocese of Haiti; and

**Whereas**, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston has repeatedly encouraged the people and congregations of the Diocese of Virginia to provide prayer and aid for Haitian relief; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Johnston has dedicated the offering from his investiture service to Haitian relief; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, by the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia that

- 1) We commend the January 21 letter from our Bishop about Haitian relief to all of our people and congregations and
- 2) We urge our people and congregations to pray regularly and give generously for Haitian relief during the current emergency and throughout the long period of reconstruction.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

**R-14s: Substitute for R-3, R-4 and R-11**

*Recommended for adoption as substituted by the Resolutions Committee.*

**Whereas**, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston stated in his pastoral address to the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia:

“I do regret that, in this address, some important matters in our common life will seem to be slighted while others are omitted, such as the several topics arising from the debate on sexuality. But I look for us to address these issues thoroughly in regional forums in 2010. It is unfortunate that some of the weightiest deliberations that come before us cannot be adequately and justly dealt with in the very short time allowed by Annual Council,” [verbatim transcript of the bishop’s pastoral address], and

**Whereas**, the necessary process will involve both the bishop’s regional forums, which will allow for broad individual contributions on these issues, and the drafting of proposed canons for the effective and consistent exercise of pastoral ministry should same-gender blessings be authorized; be it therefore

**Resolved**, the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia recognizes that:

1. Our clergy and people remain divided over the wisdom and theology of blessing same gender relationships, as well as how much weight to give to the views of others in the Anglican Communion about these issues, particularly to views from those with whom we are in mission partnership;
2. The growing differences between Christian and Civil understanding of marriage and relationships create immediate pastoral issues for our clergy and congregations;
3. There are numerous same-gender couples in our diocese engaged in long-term monogamous relationships who have engaged in productive and vital ministries for the proclamation of the Gospel. Many of these couples strongly desire the church’s blessing of their relationships;
4. These issues deserve to be collectively addressed in an orderly, careful, and deliberate way assisted by appropriate legal and canonical experts; and

Recommends that:

1. Our Bishop is asked to empanel a group of clergy and lay people, including attorneys admitted to practice in Virginia and recognized experts on canon law, as well as knowledgeable clergy and lay representatives of a variety of theological perspectives on the issue of blessing same-gender relationships.
2. Such panel shall recommend consistent standards to be written into diocesan canons so that, if services of blessing same-gender unions are authorized, our clergy and people have a clearly understood and enforceable set of rules to guide the application of clergy discretion in providing pastoral care to same-gender couples seeking such blessings.
3. In formulating these recommendations, the following issues may be addressed (based in part on General Convention Canon I.1.18 and I.1.19):
  - (a) Whether individual members of the clergy have the right, as a matter of theological principle, to decline to conduct any such service, without adverse disciplinary consequences or personnel action;
  - (b) Whether individual members of the clergy have the right to decline to conduct such a service for a particular same gender couple, without adverse disciplinary consequences or personnel action, similar to the current rule for clergy asked to conduct weddings;
  - (c) The age, capacity and degree of kinship, if any, of the parties;

- (d) The effect of prior marriages or unions blessed by a licensed clergy person or registered with civil authorities, the responsibility to any former spouse or partner in such union, and responsibility to minor children of any prior marriage or union;
  - (e) The appropriateness of advance medical screening, if any;
  - (f) The effect of any legal union or marriage entered into between the parties in another jurisdiction;
  - (g) The appropriate role of the Bishop for advanced review of any proposed blessing of a specific same-gender couple;
  - (h) Review of financial arrangements to protect the parties in the absence of state law presumptions governing married couples, presumptions intended to protect the weaker party from potential exploitation, oppression, or improvident action by the other party in the relationship;
  - (i) Other factors listed in the General Convention canons for marriage, Canons I.1.18 and I.1.19, including the baptismal status of the parties, the commitment to life-long union, the voluntariness of consent, the absence of coercion, fraud, mistake of identity of the other party;
  - (j) The minimum time line between notification of the clergy of a desire to obtain such a blessing and the performance of the ceremony;
  - (k) The number of witnesses and the record-keeping requirements for the clergy and any congregation involved;
  - (l) Any requirement for written affirmation by the couple that the commitment is to a life-long union;
  - (m) Any statement of the theological basis for the union to which the partners are to subscribe;
  - (n) Provision to address possible dissolution of a blessed same-gender relationship, including the considerations of factors enumerated in Canon I.1.19 to address marriages which are in distress or which have been terminated by a civil court, as well as the circumstances, if any, under which another same-gender relationship may be blessed where both partners to an earlier such relationship remain living;
  - (o) The restriction in the General Convention canon on marriage in the church to heterosexual couples;
  - (p) Whether any blessing service for same-gender union may be used in lieu of marriage for heterosexual couples under any circumstances, and if so, what those circumstances are;
  - (q) How these might apply to all members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans-gendered community;
  - (r) Any other factor deemed important by the panel.
3. If the Bishop appoints such a panel, the panel shall strive to deliver its report (including proposed canonical language) to the Executive Board by All Saints Day, 2010, in time for careful and orderly consideration of its recommendations by the 216<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese. The panel is not to opine on whether the blessings of same-gender unions should be authorized, but it is to set forth its canonical recommendations to govern blessing such relationships if such services of blessing are authorized.
  4. The consideration of any authorization for Virginia clergy to enter same gender unions should be deferred until after consideration of the preceding process.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee