

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 145th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK

The Resolutions Committee met on December 10th, 2018 at Episcopal House in Newark to review and consider the resolutions submitted by the deadline of November 16, 2018. The texts of the resolutions are enclosed.

There will be hearings on all resolutions at the Convention on Friday, February 1, 2019 beginning at 5:15pm. Location will be announced in the Convention Registration Day Packets. The Resolutions are tentatively scheduled for debate during the afternoon business session on Saturday, February 2nd, 2019.

Members of the Resolutions Committee are:

Thomas Bisdale Esq., Grace Church, Westwood
The Rev. Kevin PJ Coffey, SCP, Church of the Atonement, Fair Lawn
Sandra Bonnick, Esq., St. Paul's Church, Englewood
The Rev. Deacon Deborah Drake, Deacon
The Rev. Joseph Harmon, Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange [Chair]
The Rev. Sylvester Ekunwe, St. Andrew's Church, Newark
Ms. Michele Simon, St. Paul's Church, Englewood
Ms. Christine Sinner, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Montville/Lincoln Park
Ms. Patricia Yankus, St. Paul's Church, Paterson

Diane Sammons, Chancellor [Ex-officio]
John A. King, Secretary of Convention [Ex-officio]

Resolutions for the 145th Convention:

On the consent calendar:

2019_AC145_01 • Moving the Convention of the Diocese of Newark toward a more Digital Future
2019_AC145_02 • Recognizing and Ending Domestic Violence in our Congregations

Resolution Offered to the Floor for Debate:

2019_AC145_03 • Supporting Transgendered People

1 **2019_AC145_01**2 ***Moving the Convention of the Diocese of Newark toward a more Digital Future***

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5 RESOLVED, That except as provided by The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of
6 Newark, The Rules of Order of the Convention, and by Statute, this 145th Annual Convention of
7 the Episcopal Diocese of Newark commit to working toward a fully digital Convention for all
8 future materials related to the business of the Convention, and, be it further

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10 RESOLVED, that within 30 days of the Annual Meeting at which a congregation elects deputies
11 to the annual Diocesan Convention, the congregation shall submit to the Secretary of
12 Convention contact information for each duly elected deputy. The form to provide this
13 information shall be available on the Diocesan website.

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15 *Submitted by the Secretary of Convention*

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17 **Supporting Information:**

18 The Annual Diocesan Convention annually generates a tremendous amount of paper. As technology has
19 changed, Convention has *slowly* evolved to provide materials in digital format to allow deputies the ability
20 to view materials on portable electronic devices. For the most part, this has been done in parallel to a
21 mass production of all materials in printed form which is increasingly redundant and a waste of money
22 and paper.

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24 The Cost of sending out pre-convention packets by mail also continues to increase. On average, it costs \$7
25 per congregation to mail materials to all the deputies. Again, as this is being done electronic versions of
26 the very same documents are available online for download at no cost. In keeping with the practice of the
27 Secretary of Convention's office, all costs for mailing or printing of materials for the deputies who need
28 hard copies will continue to be absorbed by the Convention budget.

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30 Some of these practices are necessary due to the wording found in the Rules of Order as well as the
31 Constitution and Canons. While those Rules and Canons need to be addressed by the Convention, this
32 resolution would allow electronic distribution to become the practiced norm while continuing to provide
33 printed copies to those who need or prefer that format. NJ State Statutes require written notification of
34 meetings, and we shall continue to abide by the notice of Convention being sent by postal mail.

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36 This resolution also provides an opportunity, should the need arise, to print materials for the entire
37 Convention regardless of the continuing trend of more digital distribution.

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39 The Resolutions Committee recommends the resolution be placed on the Consent Calendar.

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1 **2019_AC145_02**2 **Recognizing and Ending Domestic Violence in our Congregations**

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4 RESOLVED, That this 145th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark affirm the
5 action of the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in adopting resolution D031 by
6 affirming the following:

7 That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark continue to speak out clearly against all forms of domestic
8 violence as it has done in the past;

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10 *That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark encourage Episcopal clergy and congregations to educate*
11 *themselves on the widespread problem that domestic violence is in their churches,*
12 *neighborhoods and beyond;*

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14 *That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark urge clergy and lay leadership to familiarize themselves*
15 *with the international and multi-lingual resources provided by the National Coalition Against*
16 *Domestic Violence, White Ribbon, and other local resources, as well as existing trainings*
17 *developed for domestic violence prevention, and create procedures for supporting domestic*
18 *violence survivors in their dioceses and congregations; and*

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20 *That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark urge the Church at every level to examine its response to*
21 *domestic violence, especially its response to survivors of domestic violence.*

22 **Supporting Information:**

23 Domestic violence affects one in every four women. On average, nearly twenty people per minute are
24 physically assaulted by their partners in the United States. The statistics are staggering. It is doubtful that
25 anyone can say that domestic violence has never affected them or a family member or friend. It would be
26 statistically impossible to also say it has never affected every Episcopal Congregation at some point.

27 Yet, most congregations do not have procedures in place when it does affect their congregation. How
28 does one handle a restraining order against a member of the congregation? Should the parish be used as
29 a safe haven for the transfer of children from one parent to another? These are questions that most
30 congregations do not deal with until the crisis is upon them.

31 Understanding domestic violence means understanding all the aspects of domestic violence. Once the
32 physical violence stops, the other, little known, abuses continue. The emotional abuse, the economic
33 abuse, the threats, and the fear continue. At its heart, domestic violence is not about physical abuse. It is
34 about power and control. Power and control over the victim until they feel so helpless, so depressed, that
35 they accept their fate. It is one of the reasons one does not leave. The batterer controls everything, and
36 the domestic violence survivor feels they have nothing. It even continues in a congregational setting.
37 Batterers control the finances, and write the pledge. They control the survivor's movements, so they are
38 more likely to sit on committees and vestries. Abusers are more ingrained in the life of the church usually
39 than domestic violence survivors.

40 Congregations should create policies and procedures to deal with domestic violence in their congregation.
41 These policies and procedures should come from a place of caring for all parties, yet understanding the
42 dynamics of domestic violence. They should be supportive of the survivor, and not judgmental or worse,
43 not safe. Every congregation should plan for this, and in this planning should become more
44 knowledgeable on the widespread issue of domestic violence.

45 The language in this resolution is the same as the language of resolution D031, passed at General
46 Convention 2018.

47 Submitted by The General Convention Deputation of the Diocese of Newark.

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49 The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution be placed on the Consent Calendar

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2019_AC145_03

Supporting Transgendered People

RESOLVED, That this 145th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark affirm the actions of the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church regarding transgender rights, as adopted in resolutions C022 and C054, by the following:

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark reaffirms its support for the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal level that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one’s gender identity;

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark supports 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;

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark opposes all legislation that restricts public restroom, locker room and shower access for transgender and gender non-conforming people, recognizing that such bills disproportionately impact and contribute to a pattern of violence against transgender women and non-binary identified people;

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark urges parishes 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;

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark advocates for passage of legislation that protects transgender and gender non-conforming persons from discrimination; and

That the Episcopal Diocese of Newark affirms the following guiding principles for the inclusion of transgender and non-binary people in their parishes, missions, schools and camps:

Guiding Principles for the Inclusion of Transgender and Non-Binary People in Dioceses, Parishes, Missions, Schools and Camps:

We believe that all people are created in the image of God and that all people are beloved children of God. Because this is true,

1. We will protect the rights and respect the dignity of transgender and non-binary persons, refusing to reject, judge, abuse, belittle or in any way dehumanize them.
2. We will engage the complex realities for transgender and non-binary persons in our churches, schools, and camps, and not yield to the temptation to ignore those realities.
3. We will recognize and accept our responsibility to protect the privacy of transgender and non-binary persons.
4. We will make decisions about how to support transgender and non-binary minors in our schools and camps in sensitive and appropriate communication with their parents.
5. We will provide a safe environment for transgender and non-binary persons, for those who support them, and for those who do not understand our commitment to these principles.
6. We will stay flexible in response to the complex and changing ramifications of this work by being open to relevant stories, to emerging information, and to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

1 **Supporting Information:**

2 As taken from the original explanation of this resolution at General Convention:
3 This resolution reaffirms the support of The Episcopal Church for transgender people by calling
4 upon the General Convention to lift its voice in response to the rise of anti-transgender rhetoric,
5 legislation, and violence across the United States. It builds upon earlier General Convention
6 resolutions (2009-C048, 2009-D012, 2012-D022, 2015-D028) and public statements by the
7 Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies decrying this pattern, including the
8 recent legislative efforts in Texas and the declared ban on transgender people serving in the
9 military.

10 Building upon this foundation, this resolution calls us to recognize and respond to the lethal
11 violence against transgender people that has risen sharply over the last several years,
12 disproportionately impacting transgender women of color. It also challenges us to name how so-
13 called “bathroom bills,” which have likewise increased markedly in recent years, are part of that
14 same pattern of violence, impacting not only transgender people in general but more
15 specifically targeting transgender women and girls in a horrific pattern of transmisogyny. Finally,
16 this resolution calls upon Episcopalians to ensure that even as we direct our gaze and action
17 outward, we also take stock of the gender-specific activities and facilities of our own
18 congregations, making sure that they are fully accessible to people of all gender identities and
19 expressions, binary and non-binary.

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21 Founded on our baptismal vocation to persist in resisting evil, to strive for justice and peace
22 among all, and to respect the dignity of every human being, this resolution urges us onward in
23 building the beloved community.

24 These resolutions call upon the Episcopal Diocese of Newark to reaffirm their commitment to
25 transgender/non-binary people, just as The Episcopal Church has.

26 To follow is the full legislation passed by General Convention 2018:

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28 **C022 Supporting Transgender Access**

29 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal
30 Church reaffirm its support for the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal level that
31 prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one’s gender identity; and
32 be it further

33 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church support legislative, educational, pastoral, liturgical, and
34 broader communal efforts that seek to end the pattern of violence against transgender people
35 in general and transgender women in particular, calling attention especially to the rising
36 violence against transgender women of color and gender non-conforming people; and be it
37 further

38 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church oppose all legislation that restricts public restroom, locker
39 room and shower access for transgender and gender non-conforming people, recognizing that
40 such bills disproportionately impact and contribute to a pattern of violence against transgender
41 women and non-binary identified people; and be it further

42 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church ask dioceses and parishes to remove barriers to full
43 participation in congregational life by making their gender-specific facilities and activities fully
44 accessible to all, regardless of gender identity and expression; and be it further

45 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for
46 passage of federal legislation that protects transgender and gender non-conforming persons
47 from discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church urge dioceses, parishes, and Episcopalians to advocate for passage and enactment of similar legislation at the local and state level.

1 **C054 Inclusion of Transgender People**

2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention affirm the following guiding principles for the
3 inclusion of transgender and non-binary people and urge that the Dioceses of the Episcopal
4 Church prayerfully consider adopting and implementing the following guiding principles for the
5 inclusion of transgender and non-binary people in their parishes, missions, schools and camps:
6 Guiding Principles for the Inclusion of Transgender and Non-Binary People in Dioceses, Parishes,
7 Missions, Schools and Camps:

8 We believe that all people are created in the image of God and that all people are beloved
9 children of God. Because this is true,

- 10 1. We will protect the rights and respect the dignity of transgender and non-binary
11 persons, refusing to reject, judge, abuse, belittle or in any way dehumanize them.
- 12 2. We will engage the complex realities for transgender and non-binary persons in our
13 churches, schools, and camps, and not yield to the temptation to ignore those realities.
- 14 3. We will recognize and accept our responsibility to protect the privacy of transgender
15 and non-binary persons.
- 16 4. We will make decisions about how to support transgender and non-binary minors in our
17 schools and camps in sensitive and appropriate communication with their parents.
- 18 5. We will provide a safe environment for transgender and non-binary persons, for those
19 who support them, and for those who do not understand our commitment to these
20 principles.
- 21 6. We will stay flexible in response to the complex and changing ramifications of this work
22 by being open to relevant stories, to emerging information, and to the movement of the
23 Holy Spirit.

24 And be it further

25 *Resolved*, that materials to help promote the Guiding Principles of this resolution be developed
26 and curated by the Office of Formation through partnerships with organizations such as Integrity
27 and TransEpiscopal.

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29 Submitted by The General Convention Deputation of the Diocese of Newark.

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31 The Resolution Committee recommends this resolution for debate.

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