

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

48 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church urge dioceses, parishes, and Episcopalians to advocate for
49 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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