

## **219<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

### **Resolutions as Approved by Convention**

#### **1. Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Ezo**

**RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of Rhode Island expresses its gratitude to our Bishop Geralyn Wolf and Bishop John Zawo of the Diocese of Ezo in the Sudan for beginning the conversations necessary to form a Companion Relationship between our two dioceses; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of Rhode Island invites the Diocese of Ezo into a Companion Relationship which will nurture our relationship to each other and to the world in Christ; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of Rhode Island pledges assistance, whether spiritual or material, to the Diocese of Ezo as may be determined by appropriate leadership in each diocese; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Diocese of Rhode Island agrees to ratify this relationship for a period of three years, beginning with this Diocesan Convention, and that the relationship be evaluated and renewed as mutually agreed upon subsequent to that period of time;

**RESOLVED**, That the Companion Diocese Committee oversee and nourish this relationship with the Diocese of Ezo.

#### **2. Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Louisiana**

**RESOLVED**, That in recognition of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, and its lasting effects, the Diocese of Rhode Island ratifies our Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Louisiana; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That both dioceses pledge assistance and friendship to each other and to those most affected by the devastation for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2009 and renewed as mutually agreed upon subsequent to that period of time; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Companion Diocese Committee oversee and nourish this relationship with the Diocese of Louisiana.

#### **AMENDED**

#### **3. Mission Task Force**

**RESOLVED**, That this 219th Convention of the Diocese of Rhode Island invites a review of our diocesan mission priorities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a Mission Task Force be created to facilitate this process. This Task Force shall be composed of one priest and one lay person elected by the Standing Committee from its membership; one cleric and one lay person elected by Diocesan Council from its membership; and two people appointed by the Bishop. The Bishop's appointees shall not be employees of the Diocese. This Task Force shall be constituted by November 30, 2009; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the President of the Standing Committee shall set the time and place for the first meeting of the Task Force, to be held before December 31, 2009. At this first

meeting, the Task Force shall elect a chairperson from its membership and shall recruit at least six members, one from each deanery of the diocese, in addition to its original membership; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall devise a process in which the lay and clerical members of the Diocese may express their hopes and ideas regarding the future mission of the Diocese. The Task Force may request reasonable staff support from diocesan staff (e.g. mailings, electronic communication); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall report to the 220th Convention of the Diocese of Rhode Island with its findings, including a recommendation for mission priorities to be adopted or reaffirmed by the Diocese. The Task Force is encouraged to be in regular communication with the appropriate people and groups for the budgeting process, in the event that a revised budget is to be presented to the 220th Convention of the Diocese to match modified mission priorities.

#### **4. Support of Formation for Children, Youth, & College Students**

**RESOLVED** this 219th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of RI affirm its desire for the formation of children, youth and young adults of college age to be considered as among its chief mission priorities for the triennium ahead; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this diocese, including the appropriate leadership committees and Financial Officers, re-evaluate use of resources of money and personnel in the year ahead, to direct more resources toward this mission priority, including strengthened support for campus ministries; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this convention endorse the Charter For Lifelong Education\* approved at General Convention in July 2009 and disseminate it to every congregation for their study and implementation.

#### **5. Support ACI Prison Chaplaincy**

**RESOLVED**, That this 219th Diocesan Convention of The Diocese of Rhode Island recognizes the ACI Episcopal prison ministry and the population it serves as a program of the Diocese that undertakes conversion and Baptism, Christian formation, Reconciliation, Regular Sacramental Worship, and life-stage pastoral ministry in the context of ongoing community formation; and further be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Convention gratefully acknowledges that the ACI Prison Ministry fulfills a piece of our stated four-part diocesan mission vision that includes “outreach, advocacy, and service” and has a legacy of trust, support and volunteer access within the prison system that has been developed over many years.

#### **6. Endorse the Earth Charter and Conserve Resources**

**RESOLVED**, That this 219th Convention of the Episcopal Church, as urged by approved resolutions C065 and A045 of the 2009 General Convention, endorse *The Earth Charter* and encourage its study and implementation by congregations, offices, and groups of this diocese; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That this Convention urges congregations, offices, groups, and all Episcopalians individually to do all they can to reduce, where possible and appropriate, the use of commercially bottled water and of non-recyclable paper and plastic goods, as a way of practicing good stewardship of creation and conservation of the earth's scarce resources.

## **7. Affirmation of General Convention resolutions D025 & C056**

**RESOLVED**, That this 219th Convention of the Diocese of Rhode Island encourages every congregation to welcome all people into the Church, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we affirm Resolution C056 ("Liturgies for Blessings") and D025 ("Commitment and Witness to the Anglican Communion"), concurred in July 2009 by the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we join the General Convention, which in resolution D025 recognized "that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships 'characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God' (2000-D039)", and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we join the General Convention in affirming "that God has called and may call such individuals, to any ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church", and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we encourage, in the spirit of Resolution C056, in this Diocese, a "generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church" especially those who seek the Church's blessing of same-sex relationships, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we join General Convention in honoring "the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality".

## **8. Community Gardens**

**RESOLVED**, That each congregation is urged to take a fresh look at its property to discover if there is space that could be used for community gardens; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That congregations are urged to expand their outreach by supporting those in their midst who are willing to undertake this ministry of providing fresh produce for those in need.

## **9. Prayers for the Persecuted**

**RESOLVED**, That each congregation in this diocese is urged to pray regularly for people throughout the world who are persecuted on account of their religious beliefs, with special concern for the suffering of Christians.

## **10. Diocesan Convention Journals**

**RESOLVED**, That the Journals, Audits, Minutes, and Appendices related to Diocesan Conventions since the year 2000 be completed and be made available on the diocesan website and at Diocesan House by December 31, 2009.

## **2010-2012 BUDGET**

***RESOLVED:*** That the Budget of the Diocese of Rhode Island with an apportionment percentage of 17% for calendar year 2010 is hereby approved and adopted as presented; and that for purposes of Apportionment for fiscal year 2010, income of each parish, organized mission and congregation of the Cathedral Corporation shall be an amount equal to “Total Normal Operating Income”, as set forth in the report known as the Parochial Report for The Episcopal Church, less deductions approved by Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Rhode Island (“Income”) for the second fiscal year immediately preceding the applicable budget year.

***RESOLVED,*** That the proposed budget is amended for the year 2010 an expenditure of apportionment or other funds for ACI Prison ministry at the same rate as the 2009 budget.