

DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
Forty-first Annual Convention
JANUARY 30, 2010

RESOLUTIONS

R – 1

Title of Resolution: Celebrating the Life and Ministry of William F. Herlong, Jr.
Presenter: The Reverend Jay Lambert, St. James Church, Leesburg
Date: December 12, 2009

RESOLVED: That this 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida gives thanks for the faithful life, Christian witness, and service to this Diocese by William F. Herlong, Jr.; and directs the officers of this Convention to memorialize the same to his wife, Marg, and family.

R – 2

Title of Resolution: Addition of The Reverend H. Baxter Liebler to *Holy Women, Holy Men*
Presenters: The Reverend Canon George Conger
Mrs. Susan Shannon
The Reverend Edward A. Weiss
The Reverend Danielle Morris
The Reverend Richard Bordin
The Reverend Carolyn Petersen
The Very Reverend Timothy Nunez
Date: December 8, 2009

RESOLVED: That this 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida nominates the Reverend Harold Baxter Liebler, Missionary to the Navajo, for inclusion in 'Holy Women, Holy Men' and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Diocesan Board of the Diocese of Central Florida forward this nomination with the appropriate testimonials to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church.

R – 3

Title of Resolution: An Affirmation of the Covenant
Presenter: The Very Reverend Eric W. Turner
Date: December 22, 2009

BE IT RESOLVED: The 41st Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida affirms the final draft (December 2009) of the Anglican Communion Covenant which will both deepen and protect the integrity of our global Anglican Communion and common witness to the apostolic faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Diocese of Central Florida will listen carefully to the continuing discernment of the Communion regarding the adoption, meaning, and role of the Covenant in our common life, and will actively work to pattern our life together as a Diocese on the moral, doctrinal and relational commitments as they have been and continue to be discerned and articulated.

R – 4

Title of Resolution: A Response to General Convention 2009

Presenter: The Very Reverend Eric W. Turner
on behalf of the Diocesan Board and
endorsed by the Standing Committee

Date: September 17, 2009

BE IT RESOLVED: The 41st Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida affirms the positions and commitments made by its Bishop, the Right Reverend John W.

Howe, in signing “The Anaheim Statement” in response to the divisive actions of the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we reaffirm the teaching of the Anglican Communion, including matters of human sexuality, and all that the Communion has asked of The Episcopal Church with the goal of re-establishing the bonds of affection broken by the actions, or lack thereof, of The Episcopal Church.

R – 5

Title of Resolution: Disaffiliation with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Presenters: The Reverend Canon George Conger
Mrs. Susan Shannon
The Reverend Edward A. Weiss
The Reverend Danielle Morris
The Reverend Elizabeth Myers
The Reverend Robert Lewis
The Reverend Jonathan French
The Reverend Richard Bordin
The Reverend Carolyn Petersen
The Very Reverend Timothy Nunez

Date: December 8, 2009

RESOLVED: The Diocese of Central Florida hereby dissociates itself from the affiliation of The Episcopal Church by the Executive Council with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), and directs the Secretary to forward notice of this disassociation to the Executive Council and the RCRC.

R – 6

Title of Resolution: Response to the Election in Los Angeles

Presenter: The Rev. Loren Fox

Date: December 15, 2009

RESOLVED: That this 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida shall understand that, if the consecration of Mary Glaspool as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles proceeds in light of Lambeth 1:10, in light of the Windsor Report, in light of the Scriptures, and in light of the Anglican Covenant, those bishops who participate in that consecration will have walked apart from those of us who remain in The Episcopal Church and remain committed to the Faith proclaimed in the Scriptures, received by the one holy catholic, and apostolic Church, and affirmed by the Anglican Communion of which we remain a part.

R – 7

Title of Resolution: Acceptance of Strategic Planning Commission Report

Presenters: The Reverend Doctor Robert C Lord
The Reverend Richard Bordin

Date: January 21, 2010

RESOLVED: That this 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida accept and endorse the Report of the Strategic Planning Commission.

R – 8

Title of Resolution: Response to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music Re C056

Presenter: The Very Rev. Charles Holt and The Rev. Phyllis Bartle

Date: January 26, 2010

Resolved: The Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida issues the following statement of response to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music request related to General Convention Resolution C056:

As our Prayer Book acknowledges, marriage was instituted and established by God in the beginning of creation as between a man and a woman. (See Genesis 1-2) Our Book of Common Prayer receives this definition: “Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God.”(BCP 422) While human beings have been tinkering and readjusting the Lord's simple blueprint ever since the establishment of marriage to accommodate a variety of relational choices and combinations, we have always done so at odds with our Creator's will and ultimately to our own consequence and detriment.

A large movement within the secular political sphere seeks to provide a “right to marriage” for alternative relational commitments and partnerships. Even if such efforts are successful (and in some places they have been), they will not necessarily be beneficial to our society or to those who exercise the new legal "right". As Paul writes, "Not all that is lawful, is beneficial." There are many examples that can be provided where something that is legal is not necessarily beneficial, and thus to be sanctioned by the Church. For example, abortion is a legal "right" in our country, but it is not only mortally destructive to human life, but also morally, emotionally and spiritually destructive to the mothers and fathers who exercise the "right".

The Holy Scriptures commends marriage in and of itself to be honored by all people. (Hebrews 13:4). While voices within our society and the Church membership are calling for a broader definition of marriage, that does not exempt us from the responsibility to honor marriage *as God has defined it*. As Jesus taught: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot." (Matthew 5:13)

The Christian Church's responsibility is at times to speak and live counter-culturally if needed; this is what it means to be the "salt of the earth". While we recognize the theological and pastoral challenges that many of our fellow Episcopalians face in dioceses where secular legal definitions of marriage now include homosexual partnerships, we call our brothers and sisters in Christ to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world.

While the Diocese of Central Florida does not see the theological justification for broadening the definition of marriage to simply “two persons”, we are very much aware of the need to offer a generous pastoral response to those who experience homosexual self-identity, orientation or attraction.

The Christian ethic of sexual purity and holiness of life calls all members regardless of sexual identity, orientation or attraction to abstain from sexual relations outside of Holy Matrimony. When members of the Church fail in that call to personal holiness the liturgical resources of the Reconciliation of the Penitent (BCP 447) provide the appropriate pastoral office. For those desiring accountability, qualified Christian counselors and support groups are extremely helpful.

Our recommendation is that we currently have, within the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, all of the needed liturgical resources at our disposal to minister to all of our members with respect to marriage and human sexuality.