RESOLVED: that this 40th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Central Florida commends the work of the Communion Partners as an effort to ensure the continuing witness to the historic faith of the Church within The Episcopal Church, and to sustain and build connections between parishes and dioceses and the wider Anglican Communion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this Convention commends the commitments and strategies outlined in the founding statements of the Communion Partner Bishops and the Communion Partner Rectors.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this Convention thanks and commends Bishop Howe for his leadership in this effort.

EXPLANATION:

Following are the above referenced statements.

Communion Partners Formed: Statement of the Organizing Bishops

Written by: Communion Partners
Saturday, May 31st, 2008

COMMUNION PARTNERS

In the context of discussions about the Episcopal Visitors concept announced by the Presiding Bishop at the House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans, we the undersigned have considered a need to maintain and strengthen

- our ties with the Anglican Communion
- our commitment to the observance of diocesan boundaries within The Episcopal Church
- and our exercise of our office as a focus of unity.

We believe such ties will provide the opportunity for mutual support, accountability and fellowship; and present an important sign of our connectedness in and vision for The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion as we move through this time of stress and renewal.

PURPOSE:
Communion Partners is intended to
- provide for those concerned a visible link to the Anglican Communion
Many within our dioceses and in congregations in other dioceses seek to be assured of their connection to the Anglican Communion. Traditionally, this has been understood in terms of bishop-to-bishop relationships. Communion Partners fleshes out this connection in a significant and symbolic way.

- provide fellowship, support and a forum for mutual concerns between bishops. The Communion Partner bishops share many concerns about the Anglican Communion and its future and look to work together with Primates and Bishops from the wider Communion. In addition, we believe we all have need of mutual encouragement, prayer, and reassurance. The Communion Partners will be a forum for these kinds of relationships.

- provide a partnership to work toward the Anglican Covenant and according to Windsor Principles
  The Communion Partner bishops will work together according to the principles outlined in the Windsor Report and seek a comprehensive Anglican Covenant at the Lambeth Conference and beyond.

SCOPE:
Communion Partners
- is a relational fellowship
- are committed to honoring diocesan boundaries
- will be governed by mutual respect
- and will proceed by invitation and cooperation

PARTICIPANTS:
- Communion Partner Bishops (William H. Love, Albany; John W. Howe, Central Florida; James M. Stanton, Dallas; Russell E. Jacobus, Fond Du Lac; Michael G. Smith, North Dakota; Edward S. Little, Northern Indiana; Geralyn Wolf, Rhode Island; Mark J. Lawrence, South Carolina; John C. Bauerschmidt, Tennessee; Don A. Wimberly, Texas; Gary E. Lillibridge, West Texas; James M. Adams, Western Kansas; D. Bruce MacPherson, Western Louisiana)
- Clergy and congregations who share Communion Partner commitments
- Other interested Bishops of The Episcopal Church

TRANSPARENCY:
Communication of activities with
- the Presiding Bishop of TEC,
- the Archbishop of Canterbury,
- the Meeting of Primates, and
- the Anglican Communion Office, and therewith the Anglican Consultative Council

Communion Partners Formed: Statement of Participating Rectors

Written by: Communion Partners
Saturday, May 31st, 2008

Communion Partner Rectors
As a fellowship of Communion Partner Rectors, we welcome and support the release of the Communion Partner Bishops’ Statement. As this initiative moved forward, we felt it crucial to have the support of a growing group of rectors from Episcopal parishes throughout the United States and we will form a counterpart to Partner Bishops and Partner Primates. We believe it important that we are a broad partnership, extended across dioceses of various levels of Communion commitment.

We pledge our prayers and support to one another and to the Bishops and Primates working together to form a clear Communion identity within the Episcopal Church. We are excited and very encouraged by the mission and Gospel commitments of the wider Communion and hope to bring that reality into our parishes in whatever form is available and acceptable to the people, and the Bishops, we serve. We are clearly committed to working within the charitable guidelines of the released Communion Partner Bishops Statement.

We appreciate the serious challenges of this present season in our greater Communion and The Episcopal Church, and we understand that for some conservative constituents, another path may have been chosen. But we pledge our prayers, our concern and hope that the Partners Plan will be a movement of keen Communion allegiance both within the Episcopal Church and the greater Anglican Communion at a time when the Episcopal Church (USA) will be considering its role within the wider Communion. In brief, we are a group of rectors who share a common commitment to the authority and traditional interpretation of Holy Scripture, the creedal and historic faith, orthodox theology with an evangelical fervor to faithfully live and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are also firmly committed to remain in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, respecting and honoring the proper authority of our Bishops and working in concert with them to strengthen our voice within the Church.

We wish to be on record in our enthusiasm for the Windsor and Covenant way forward, as the best means to extend and further the Communion as God has thus far blessed it throughout the world. We will announce forthcoming visits of Partner Primates and Partner Bishops as we complete our plans for their visits, and we will soon promote a gathering of Partner Rectors, Bishops and Archbishops as these arrangements are solidified. For more information or to become a Partner Rector, please contact us via CPRectors@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

We are mindful of our Lord’s desire and prayer that all who follow Him would be "one," (John 17:21) and His affirmation within that same prayer that His followers be ".brought to complete unity to let the world know that You have sent me, and have loved them even as You have loved me," (17:23). We believe this imperative for unity, nor our Lord’s prayer, is not limited to simply the members of the parishes we serve, a Diocese or even a Province, but to the whole of our Anglican Communion, and even more so, the entire Body of Believers. We believe the Partners initiative to be a faithful piece of this unity and will be a building block toward establishing stronger relationships with one another and all those who follow Christ. Toward that ultimate end, we remain;

The Reverend Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.
Rector
Communion Partners Representative
on behalf of the Communion Partner Rectors