

Working for Equity, Support, and Protection of All LGBTQIA+ Anglicans

SPONSORS:

The Ven. J. Stannard Baker
The Very Revd Greta Getlein
Bill Kirby
Brenda Kirby
The Revd Lisa Ransom
Susan McMillan, DVM
Kit Roberts
Sylvia Knight
Dr. Jennifer Sisk
The Revd Christine Jones

Bob Wright
The Revd Sarah Ginolfi
The Revd Amy Spagna
The Revd Canon Lee Alison Crawford
Betsy Emerson
Jane Van Lamingham
The Revd Rachel Field
Cynthia Rubin
Hannah Hansen

CONTACT PERSON: The Venerable J. Stannard Baker; sbaker@stpaulscathedralvt.org; (802) 324-7871

RESOLVED, That the 190th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church meeting in 2024:

RESOLVED, That the 81st General Convention embolden the bishops of The Episcopal Church to open opportunities for engagement and to work actively for change in the Anglican Communion with regard to treatment of LGBTQIA+ persons; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, That the bishops of The Episcopal Church, if necessitated by adverse actions and statements of the Archbishop of Canterbury related to the full inclusion and protection of LGBTQIA+ Anglicans in all activities and provinces of the Communion, refuse to participate in the Lambeth Conference in any form, including all governance and consulting bodies, until such a time as a) there is absolute equity in all aspects of the Lambeth Conference, including the process of invitations; b) Lambeth Resolution 1.10 is declared to be invalid; c) hatred and violence against LGBTQIA+ persons in every Anglican diocese around the world is publicly decried by every Anglican primate; and d) the Anglican Communion Office, governance and consulting bodies, and the Lambeth Conference pledge to work actively against hatred and violence toward LGBTQIA+ persons; and, be it further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the 81st General Convention direct The Episcopal Church's Executive Council to inform the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Communion Office that, until such time as Lambeth 1998 Resolution 1.10 is declared no longer normative for the Communion, The Episcopal Church will withhold the proportion of The Episcopal Church's contribution to the Anglican Communion that represents the percentage of the Communion's budget that is allocated to support the Lambeth Conference, and instead direct those funds to The Human Dignity Trust (www.humandignitytrust.org); and be it further~~

RESOLVED, That the General Convention, mindful of the failings of this Church to promote the dignity of every human being, stand ready, in a spirit of mutual confession and repentance, to work for reconciliation with other member churches of the Communion so that the injustices and violence of our several institutions against LGBTQIA+ persons be ended, both in our churches and in the larger society.

EXPLANATION

This resolution is the result of a year's study, including three online forums, of a resolution and a substitute resolution brought to the floor of Diocesan Convention last fall. Discussion of the two resolutions was tabled to give time for more thought and study. The process was fruitful and resulted in the revised resolution presented here.

The Anglican Communion, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, did, at the Lambeth Conference in 2022 commit deliberate acts of exclusion and oppression against gay and lesbian members of The Episcopal Church by:

- intentionally choosing not to invite the legal spouses of lesbian and gay bishops while inviting the legal spouses of heterosexual bishops;
- making a public statement in a letter to the bishops at the Lambeth Conference “affirming the validity” of the 1998 declaration that “homosexual practice” is “incompatible with scripture” and a sin;
- and refusing to call out the sin of Anglican bishops who do not actively work against hatred and violence toward LGBTQIA+ persons in their own dioceses and support, through their silence, or active approval (e.g., the Archbishop of Uganda and others), the arrest, torture, and killing of such persons.

Acts and statements that demean LGBTQIA+ persons and ignore the sin of those who hate them are deliberately harmful, prejudicial, and cannot be construed in any way as being founded in love or a spirit of unity or brotherhood within the Anglican Communion. As Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry oft proclaims: “If it’s not about love; it’s not about God.” It is time for The Episcopal Church to take a firmer stand against an organization that treats The Episcopal Church’s clergy and laity, and all LGBTQIA+ persons with such contempt. All members of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement are urged to follow the 5th step of *The Way of Love*: “GO,” to tell their stories of relationship and listen to the stories of others [see end note].

[End note] **GO: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus** - Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” – John 20:21 Send them into the world in witness to your love. – Book of Common Prayer, 306. As Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles & comfort, to witness to the love, justice, & truth of God with our lips & with our lives. We go to listen with humility & to join God in healing a hurting world. We go to become Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with God & one another. “How will you build into your life a commitment to cross boundaries, listen carefully, and take part in healing and reconciling what is broken in this world?”