

# 2012 General Convention Resolutions on the Anglican Covenant Proposed as of April 19, 2012<sup>1</sup>

*The following resolution has been submitted by Executive Council based on the August 23, 2011, [report from the D020 Task Force](#).*

## *Resolution*

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That this 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention express its profound gratitude to those who so faithfully worked at producing the Anglican Covenant; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church commit itself to continued participation in the wider councils of the Anglican Communion and to continued dialogue with our brothers and sisters in other provinces to deepen understanding and to insure the continued integrity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recommit itself to dialogue with the several provinces when adopting innovations which may be seen as threatening to the unity of the Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church is unable to adopt the Anglican Covenant in its present form.

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<sup>1</sup> Minor formatting changes have been made to keep the resolutions as uniform as possible.

***The Following resolution has been submitted by Bishops Ian T. Douglas, C. Andrew Doyle, and Michael B. Curry ([source](#)).***

Resolution BXXXX: Ongoing Commitment to The Anglican Covenant Process

Proposer: The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut  
The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas  
The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Bishop of North Carolina

Date: 2 April 2012

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**RESOLUTION TEXT**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention express its profound gratitude to those who so faithfully worked at producing the Anglican Covenant; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church commit itself to continued participation in the wider councils of the Anglican Communion and to continued dialogue with our brothers and sisters in other provinces to deepen understanding and to ensure the continued integrity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recommit itself to dialogue with the several provinces when adopting innovations which may be seen as threatening to the unity of the Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, that as a demonstration of The Episcopal Church's dedication to the unity of the Anglican Communion, the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention embraces the affirmations and commitments of the "Preamble," "Section One: Our Inheritance of Faith," "Section Two: The Life we share with Others; Our Anglican Vocation," and "Section Three: Our Unity and Common Life" of The Anglican Communion Covenant; and be it further

*Resolved*, the Convention asks the Presiding Officers to appoint a task force of Executive Council to consult with The Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, at least one church historian, and The Episcopal Church's members of the Anglican Consultative Council in order to: monitor the ongoing development of The Anglican Covenant with particular attention to the interpretation and practice of "Section Four: Our Covenanted Life Together;" document specific changes that would need to be made to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church in order to adopt the covenant; analyze how those changes may alter the identity and polity of The Episcopal Church; and consider other such matters helpful to The Episcopal Church's continued unity with the other churches of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council Task Force on the Anglican Covenant report its findings and recommendations to The Executive Council, and through the Council, to the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

## EXPLANATION

The first three resolves are the same as those offered by the Executive Council and the D020 Task Force. The fourth resolve substitutes “an embrace” of the Preamble and first three Sections of The Anglican Covenant for the Executive Council’s resolve that The Episcopal Church “is unable to adopt The Anglican Covenant in its present form.” The final two resolves call for a task force of Executive Council, as outlined in the Executive Council’s August 2011 report on The Anglican Covenant, to study and report back to the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention with respect to The Episcopal Church’s ongoing participation in The Anglican Covenant process. The resolution affirms that The Episcopal Church is still in the process of adopting The Anglican Covenant and thus maintains our “participation in the decision making of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion or of the Instruments of Communion.” (The Anglican Covenant 4.2.8)

***The Following resolution has been submitted by bishops of Communion Partners, as listed at the end of the resolution ([source](#)).***

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention express its profound gratitude to those who have worked faithfully on the Anglican Covenant as an expression of mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Body of Christ (Toronto 1963); and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church reaffirm its own historic commitment to constituent membership in the Anglican Communion (Preamble of Constitution of TEC); and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recommit itself to living in a Communion of Churches with autonomy and accountability (Anglican Covenant 3.1.2), by acknowledging our interdependent life (3.2) and seeking a shared mind with other Churches (3.2.4); and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church therefore affirm the Anglican Covenant and commit itself to adoption of the Covenant in order to live more fully into the ecclesial communion and interdependence which is foundational to the Churches of the Anglican Communion (4.1.1); and be it further

*Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recognize that such mutual commitment does not represent submission to any external ecclesiastical jurisdiction (4.1.3) and can only be entered into according to the procedures of The Episcopal Church's own Constitution and Canons (4.1.6; cf. 4.1.4); and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Convention ask its Presiding Officers to appoint a task force to assist the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons in the preparation of whatever changes may be needed in order to make the Covenant constitutionally and canonically active and effective, accompanied by a historical and theological study guide and whatever other teaching materials may be deemed useful; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Task Force on the Anglican Covenant and the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons complete their work in time for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention to take whatever appropriate action may be required.

#### Explanation

This resolution builds upon The Episcopal Church's pivotal role in bringing the Anglican Communion into being through its own formation as a Church and its ongoing role in the development of the Lambeth Conference and other Communion structures, several of which are the fruit of the call for "mutual responsibility and interdependence" at the 1963 Anglican Congress in Toronto. The resolution affirms the Covenant as a whole and commits The Episcopal Church to it, recognizing that the commitment to seeking a shared mind with other Churches requires some process by which that common mind may be discovered, hence that the procedures outlined in Section Four of the Covenant, "Our Covenanted Life Together," are in keeping with and implied by the affirmations of the first three sections. Finally, the resolution

charts a course for adoption of the Covenant according to The Episcopal Church's own constitutional and canonical procedures, as called for by the Covenant.

Proposed by: John Bauerschmidt, Bishop of Tennessee

Endorsed by: Daniel Martins, Bishop of Springfield; Michael Smith, Bishop of North Dakota; James Stanton, Bishop of Dallas; Ed Little, Bishop of Northern Indiana; Russell Jacobus, Bishop of Fond du Lac; Paul Lambert, Bishop Suffragan of Dallas; Gary Lillibridge, Bishop of West Texas; Bill Love, Bishop of Albany; David Reed, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas; D. Bruce MacPherson, Bishop of Western Louisiana.