

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1**  
Uganda Christian University Partnership

Whereas the five-year partnership with the Episcopal Church in the Province of Rwanda and Diocese of Shyira, adopted by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, has reached its end; and

Whereas the leadership of Uganda Christian University has invited the clergy and people of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to join with them in mission and ministry; and

Whereas the Uganda Christian University is working to become not only a leading Ugandan, but also a great pan-African university; and

Whereas the Uganda Christian University has completed all the requirements to be chartered by the government of Uganda, becoming this year, A.D. 2004, the first private university to be so chartered; and

Whereas the Reverend Dr. Stephen Noll, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, is entering this second term as Vice-Chancellor of Uganda Christian University; and

Whereas the Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi is present at this 139<sup>th</sup> Convention, both as Primate of the Province of the Church of Uganda and as Chancellor of Uganda Christian University; BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, that the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, on behalf of the entire diocesan family, embrace a special partnership for mission and ministry to the Uganda Christian University, including sponsoring students, capital projects and other initiatives that support Uganda Christian University's particular gifts to bear on behalf of the Anglican Province of Uganda and the nation of Uganda, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the initial period of this partnership be five years, A. D. 2005 to 2009.

James Forney, St. Stephen's, Sewickley  
Sarah Kwolek, St. Paul's, Kittanning  
Kimberly Payne, St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier  
Sherman White, St. Stephen's, Sewickley

**Proposed Resolution Anti-Racism #2**  
**Submitted September 14, 2004**

**RESOLVED:** That this annual convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh does now commit itself to work to become a church committed to ending institutional and other forms of racism in this diocese and that each congregation commit itself to the work of overcoming the sin of racism through dialogue and training offered by the Anti-Racism Commission, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the lay and ordained leadership of the Diocese of Pittsburgh including all ordained persons, professional staff and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards be required to take anti-racism training as provided by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Anti-Racism Commission; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That all parishes involved in search processes along with their vestries be encouraged to take the Diocese of Pittsburgh Anti-Racism Dialogue training; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Diocese of Pittsburgh commitment include but not be limited to increasing the recruitment and deployment of minorities as clergy and lay professional in the church.

**Explanation:** In 1991 the 73<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church urged all dioceses and congregations to conduct an audit and reduce the injury of institutional racism (A 199); additionally, the General Convention urged each diocese to implement and strengthen initiatives with congregations toward becoming a church of and for all races.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention in 2000 extended its anti-racism commitment for another nine years (A047). This same General Convention also recommended a resolution requiring anti-racism training at all levels. This resolution also required training and certification of all lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention in 2003 (A010) reaffirmed its historic commitment to eradicate racial injustice in the church and in secular society, and that the Executive Council continue the anti-racism program with appropriate staffing and budget, as approved by the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention (A047), and recommend the national dialogues on anti-racism methodology.

Submitted by:  
Nancy Bolden  
Chair, Commission on Racism

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3**

#### **Thanksgiving for Completion of Rwanda Partnerships**

Whereas the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh adopted and embraced a five-year partnership for mission and ministry with the Episcopal Church in the Province of Rwanda; and

Whereas the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention further adopted and embraced a special partnership for mission and ministry with the Diocese of Shyira in the Province of Rwanda; and

Whereas the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has been instrumental in sending Dr. Caleb and Dr. Louise King and their family as medical missionaries to head the work of rehabilitating and renewing the crucial role of Shyira Hospital for the people of Rwanda and of Central and East Africa; and

Whereas the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has been involved in literacy work at Ruhengeri through the fielding of missionary Sue McClain, and has contributed significantly to the construction of the Sunrise Boarding School; and

Whereas more than 800 orphans and genocide-scarred children across Rwanda have been sponsored through World Vision by congregations and households of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, sponsorships that will continue for years beyond the formal conclusion of the five-year diocesan partnership commitment; **BE IT THEREFORE**

**RESOLVED**, that this 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh express its thanksgiving to Almighty God for what has been accomplished through the relations and sacrifices of the partnership period, and expresses its gratitude to all those who were involved in visiting, serving, giving and praying for the partnership efforts; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention expresses its profound gratitude to Mrs. Theresa Newell and the Rwanda Committee, and to the leadership of World Vision for their continuing partnership in the gospel.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4**  
**On relationship to the Episcopal Church and Anglican Community**

Whereas the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh was created from the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1865, and altered geographically in 1910, by The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (The Episcopal Church); and

Whereas The Episcopal Church is an independent, autonomous province of the Anglican Communion over which no higher ecclesiastical authority exists; and

Whereas the Anglican Communion is comprised of many such independent, autonomous provinces mutually sharing in gospel of Christ and in certain instruments of union; and

Whereas the integrity and unity of such provinces is essential to the Anglican Communion and to each province's mission and ministries throughout the world; and

Whereas the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is an integral and inseparable component of The Episcopal Church, having made unqualified accession to its constitution, and only as such is or can be within the Anglican Communion; and

Whereas the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has no intention or ability to separate from the Anglican Communion or from The Episcopal Church;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- 1) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh recognizes that it is a constituent and inseparable part of The Episcopal Church; and
- 2) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh recognizes that it is, and can only be, thereby within the Anglican Communion; and
- 3) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, notwithstanding any action to the contrary, accepts that it is bound by, and will operate according to, the constitution and canons of The Episcopal Church.

*Sponsored by:*

**John Koepke, St. David's, Peters Township, PA**  
**Cathie Koepke, St. David's, Peters Township, PA**  
**Nancy Lapp, Christ Church North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Mary Roehrich, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, PA**  
**Conrad Seaman, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, PA**  
**Jennie Leghart, Christ Church North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Jno Hunt, Christ Church North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5**  
**Episcopal Relief and Development**  
Submitted May 21, 2004

**Whereas**, at a time of fraction and tension in our churches, let us not forget those whose very survival depends upon our willingness to act, be it therefore

**Resolved**, that the Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh affirm and embrace the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that pledge to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental stability; and
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

And be it further

**Resolved**, that this Convention, recognizing that funding for nutritional, education, health care, and development programs is essential to achieve not only the Millennium Development Goals, but also for recognizing the dignity of all human beings, reaffirm the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention's Resolutions A001 and D003 and resolution D006 of the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention, challenging all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international outreach efforts and development programs like Episcopal Relief and Development of others; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this Convention encourage all parishes to report their own progress in achieving this funding objective one month before the next Convention to the Diocesan Coordinator; so this information can be included in the next Convention report; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the United States government, as one of the 191 national signatories to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, be encouraged to abide by its commitments to fund international development aid at 0.7% of US Gross National Product (GNIP), and provide appropriate leadership and resources toward international efforts to implement these and other internationally agreed development goals; and be it further

**Resolved** that the Secretary of this Convention convey the above resolution to the appropriate government officials and that individual Episcopalians contact their elected representatives, urging them to support the US government's commitment to funding international development aid at 0.75 of US GNP.

Submitted by: Mary Sweeney, Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6**  
**In Support of Women Priests**

**Whereas** the Episcopal Church in the United States of America has recognized women's ministry since 1850, when the Right Reverend William Rollinson Whittingham, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland from 1840-79, "set apart" two deaconesses; and

**Whereas** women have been ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Communion since the historic priesting of the Reverend Dr. Florence Li Tim-Oi in 1944 and regularly so since the ordination of women to the priesthood was re-established in 1971 by the Diocese of Hong Kong; and

**Whereas** this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of events leading the Episcopal Church to recognize women's ordination to the priesthood; and

**Whereas** the Diocese of Pittsburgh was among the first to ordain women to the priesthood following the 1976 General Convention, when the Right Reverend Robert Bracewell Appleyard, fifth bishop of Pittsburgh, priested the Reverend Beryl T. Choi on 8 January 1977; and

**Whereas** the Diocese of Pittsburgh has encouraged and ordained women called to the priesthood while respecting those who have not come to this same theological position; and

**Whereas** the Diocese of Pittsburgh now has taken a leadership role in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion and is working closely with a number of dioceses and provinces of the Communion that have not yet experienced the gifts brought to the Church through women's ministry as priests;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved**

That the Diocese of Pittsburgh commends women clergy in the diocese; affirms its intent to continue raising up, ordaining, and supporting women as priests in this diocese; and commits to witnessing to the benefits of women's ministry to those who have not yet experienced the grace and gifts brought to the Church by women priests.

**Rationale:** Approximately 20 per cent of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are women. They serve as rectors, priests-in-charge, chaplains, and in a variety of specialized ministries. One serves as the Canon Missioner for the diocese, another as Provost of the Cathedral. The diocese has been blessed by the faithful ministry of the ordained women in our midst. Twenty-two of the 39 provinces of the Anglican Communion now recognize women's ordination to the priesthood; and two more ordain women as deacons. Eleven have declared that women may serve as bishops in their province. Although the Diocese of Pittsburgh has been ordaining women as priests for twenty-seven years, it has done so while respecting the consciences of those within the diocese who do not support women's ordination. Thus the diocese is especially well positioned to help lead others to the realization that God has called both men and women to the priesthood through its example and testimony. In doing so, it will show its recognition of the ways the diocese has been blessed by the grace of God flowing through the work of ordained women.

The effect of this resolution would be to recognize women priests for the work they have done, and to remind the diocese that we have a role to play in the encouragement of women to enter the priesthood. It commits the diocese to doing no more than continuing its current practice of ordaining women. "Witness" means to give testimony. The resolution asks that the diocese be willing to tell other good news about the effects of women's ministry, not to tell others what they should do.

Submitted by:

Name: Joyce Magee

Name: John Rogers

Name: The Reverend Les Martin

Name: The Reverend Cynthia Bronson Sweigert

Name: The Reverend Michael Ruk

Name: Linda Getts

Parish: Christ Church, Indiana

Parish: St. Mark's, Johnstown

Parish: St. Martin's Monroeville

Parish: Church of the Redeemer

Parish: Trinity Cathedral

Parish: Church of the Good Shepherd

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7**  
**Amendment of Canon XV, Section ii**

**Whereas**, Currently Section 11 of Canon XV, Of Parishes, reads as follows;

*Section 11.* The Vestry shall consist of baptized members of the Church, and, wherever practicable, of confirmed members of the Church, and, when possible, of actual communicants in the Parish. Vestry membership shall not be restricted with regard to sex.

Therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that Section 11 is amended to read as follows:

Section 11 The Vestry shall consist of baptized {Christians, who are confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church who are members and actual communicants in the Parish.} ~~members of the Church, and, wherever practicable, of confirmed members of the Church, and, when possible, of actual communicants in the Parish.~~ Vestry membership shall not be restricted with regard to sex.

Note: The underlined words in bracket are to be added, the words with double crossed lines are to be deleted.

**Explanation for the proposed modification**

The Vestry of the church is the group of people, elected by the Parish's communicants in good standing, which is responsible to conduct the secular affairs of the Parish (See Section 10). Members of the Vestry are members of the Parish who agree to serve in leadership position and provide support to the Rector or Spiritual Leader in-charge. Section 11, as it is currently written, is opened to the misunderstanding that any person, regardless of their standing in the Church, could be elected to become a member of the Vestry. The change of words specifically clarifies that there are a minimum of requirements a person has to fulfill in order to be considered a candidate to become a member of the Vestry: i.e., they are Christians, they are members of the Episcopal Church and they are communicants in good standing of the Parish they are being elected to represent.

**Proposed By**

The Rev. Vicente Santiago, St. James, Penn Hills

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8**  
**Prayer and work for Revival in North America**

**Whereas**, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is a member of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, and

**Whereas**, Anglican history and heritage includes such great revivals as the Great Awakening, the Second Great Awakening, the Prayer Revival of 1858-59, and the East African Revival that brought many souls to faith in Christ,

**Be it resolved** that the 139th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh declares afresh that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life and that a revival of true repentance and faith in Christ is needed in North America; and further be it

**Resolved**, that congregations and communicants of the diocese pray and work toward such revival.

Proposes

The Rev. Joseph Martin, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw

The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt, Shepherd's Heart, Pittsburgh

The Rev. Patrick Dominguez, St. Stephen's, Sewickley

The Rev. Gary D. Miller, Holy Innocents, Leechburg

The Rev. Dal Femeyhough, St. Luke's, Georgetown

The Rev. Canon John A. Macdonald, Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Leslie P. Fairfield, Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler, St. Stephen's, McKeesport

The Rev. John Heidengren, Prince of Peace, Hopewell

The Rev. Ruth Correll, Ed.D, St. Francis, Potomac MD

The Rev. Vicente Santiago, St. James, Penn Hills

David Sadd, Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry

The Revs. Larry and Barbara Knotts, Christ Church, Greensburg

Torn Hendrickson, Christ the King, Beaver Falls

The Rev. Paul Henry, All Saints', Brighton Heights

The Rev. Jack Gabig, Kings College, Oxford UK

The Rev. David Wilson, St. Paul's, Kittanning

The Rev. Dan Crawford, St. Thomas in the Field, Gibsonia

The Rev. James Bauer, St. Mary on the Mount, Red Bank

Carol Bauer, Lay Deputy, St. Mary on the Mount, Red Bank

Kathy Walzer, Lay Deputy, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw

Doris Neiger, Lay Deputy, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw

Jeff Acquafondata, Vestry, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw

Ann Tefft, Fox Chapel Church, Fox Chapel

The Rev. Paul Sutcliffe, Church of the Atonement, Carnegie

The Rev. Gordon Green, Church of the Resurrection, Cranberry



**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9**  
**Anti-Violence and LGBT Individuals**  
Submitted August 15, 2004

**Whereas** the majority of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) individuals live in the approximately eighty countries, mostly in the Global South, that persecute them through their penal codes with punishments ranging from imprisonment and mutilation to death; and

**Whereas** state-sponsored violence against LGBT persons so pervades these societies that Christians come under attack for being associated with institutions that offer support to LGBT persons; and

**Whereas**, for these millions of persons, preserving their life and liberty is their daily concern, and properly the concern of all Christian people; and

**Whereas** the 1998 Lambeth Resolution (I.10) on human sexuality commits Anglican bishops “to listen to the experience of homosexual persons” (c) and “while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialization and commercialization of sex” (d); and

**Whereas** the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has extended its support on numerous occasions to the people and churches throughout the world, but particularly in the countries noted above,

**Therefore be it resolved that:**

- 1) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh condemns any violence, hatred, or persecution shown towards LGBT persons;
- 2) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh calls upon Christians in the Global South to stand courageously against their cultures by opposing any violence, hatred, or persecution shown towards LGBT persons or persons who provide support to them; and
- 3) The Episcopal diocese of Pittsburgh particularly calls upon the Anglican primates of the Global South to embrace all elements of the 1998 Lambeth Resolution on human sexuality by speaking out against persecution of and violence towards LGBT persons; and
- 4) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh affirms its commitment to listen to the experiences of LGBT persons and to minister pastorally and sensitively to all persons irrespective of sexual orientation, and calls upon all parts of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion do to likewise; and
- 5) The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh calls upon the nations of the world to uphold the

dignity and to protect the rights of all persons, and to reject those matters of law or custom that do otherwise,

### **Rationale**

Having suffered persecution for many centuries, Christians should be particularly concerned to oppose persecution wherever it is found, whether of themselves or others. They should oppose persecution even when it is shown against those who live or worship in ways many Christians do not countenance. They must not allow any element of Christian faith or tradition to be perverted to a justification for showing violence or hatred towards anyone.

This is not always an easy world in which to be a Christian, It is also not an easy world in which to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Particularly in the Global South, the situations of people in either group, or in both, can be fraught with especial danger. Here is a partial list of countries and their maximum penalties for LGBT activity:

Bangladesh – Life in prison  
Botswana – 10 years in prison  
Ceylon – 10 years in prison  
Jamaica – 10 years prison  
Kenya – 14 years prison  
Mozambique – 3 years hard labor  
Nigeria – 14 years prison  
North India – Life in prison  
Pakistan – 100 lashes/death  
South India – Life in prison  
Sudan – death  
Tanzania – 14 years in prison  
Uganda – Life in prison

In some, but not all, of these countries – and in others not listed here – being a Christian or proselytizing for the Christian faith carries similar penalties. Also, even in countries whose constitutions offer full protection for human rights, LGBT people, and people of religious faith, are all too frequently subjected to the most violent forms of discrimination, including violations of the right to life.

When Christians anywhere speak in favor of tolerance for LGBT activities, Christians in these contexts can be subject to persecution – which is intolerable. However, when Christians speak out against LGBT activity, they exacerbate homophobic tendencies in state and society, often with murderous results. These are also intolerable. Those who, by conviction, believe LGBT activity to be contrary to the will of God therefore have a particular obligation to ensure that such convictions do not fuel violence or hatred towards LGBT persons. Likewise, those who, by conviction, believe LGBT activity to accord with the will of God have a particular obligation to ensure that such convictions do not fuel violence or hatred towards Christian persons in homophobic societies.

The spiral of violence and hatred towards LGBT persons – and to Christians in societies that persecute LGBT persons – readily escalates. Because people fear guilt by association, they try to demonstrate their position by ever-increasing homophobic comments and actions. In fear of their own lives, they can find themselves driven to extreme acts to demonstrate they that are not “tainted.” The murderous consequences of this to LGBT persons are obvious and a present reality.

Unguarded remarks from some Global South bishops who have said LGBT people are “dogs” or “worse than beasts,” inflame an already explosive situation. In many places, homosexuals are seen as subhuman and killing them is seen as a purifying act. In some cultures, new popular songs encourage the murder of homosexuals. Parallels can be readily drawn with the persecutions shown to Christians in empires ranging from Rome to Hitler’s Germany or Mao’s China – and to LGBT persons in the latter two instances.

Historically, LGBT persons have been invisible victims, along with those with learning difficulties or mental illness and with the chronically-sick elderly, and have been amongst the first to be swept away in times when democracy is weak or totalitarian regimes hold sway. They have also been among the last to see persecution acknowledged and liberties restored.

LGBT people often hear from Christians that they are loved, and that it is only their sinful sexual practice that is at fault. It is up to Christians to show that love in a practical and positive way to stop their suffering.

By means of its continued and increasing support for the Global South, this diocese has an influence that could save many lives. For it to do otherwise is to make itself complicit in crimes against humanity.

Sponsored by:

Jane Waidron Banning, St. Thomas’s, Oakmont

Susan Boulden, St. Thomas’s, Oakmont

Kathleen Connor, Saint Andrew’s, Highland Park

Lionel Deimel, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon

The Reverend Lynn Chester Edwards, ret., Diocese of Pittsburgh

Joan Gundersen, Church of the Redeemer

Wanda Guthrie, Church of the Redeemer

Nancy Lapp, Christ Church, North Hills

The Rt. Rev. Walter Righter, Calvary Church, ret. (canonically resident in the Diocese of Iowa)

Linda Shadgett, St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park

Jennifer Sinclair, Calvary Church

Christopher Wilkins, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon

Cynthia Bronson Sweigert, The Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

William P. Smith, St. Stephen’s, Sewickley

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10**  
**District Non-Geographical Province**  
**Submitted August 14, 2004**

**Whereas**, recognizing that innovations outside the traditional Anglican understanding of human sexuality as previously defined by the 1998 Lambeth Conference were promulgated by the 2003 ECUSA General Convention, therefore be it

**Resolved**, The Diocese of Pittsburgh calls for the establishment of a non-geographical province consisting of those churches that in good conscience can not follow such innovations and to freely permit parishes to affiliate with said province instead of their geographic province.

**Sponsors**

The Rev. Jay Geisler, St Stephen's, McKeesport

The Rev. Stan Burdock, Christ Church, Brownville

The Rev. Dan Crawford, St. Thomas In-The-Fields, Gibsonia