

Report of the Committee on Reference for the 182nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan



This document serves as notice of proposed resolutions for consideration by the clergy and lay delegates to the 182nd Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, October 21/22, 2016.

Resolution #1

Originator: The Rev. Ellis Clifton on behalf of Covenant 5

Subject: Enactment of General Convention 2015 Resolutions

Resolved, That the 182th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan encourages every congregation to enact one or more of the following resolutions adopted by General Convention 2015:

A011 Recommit to Criminal Justice Reform Study and Advocacy

A029 Protect Human Trafficking Victims on Indian Reservations in Montana and North Dakota

A049 Make Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women a Focus of Foreign and Church Aid

A051 Support LGBT African Advocacy

A091 Affirm Work for Food Ministries and Food Security

A092 Affirm Support for Government Entitlements

A093 Evaluate Defense Spending

A094 Support Income Tax Parity

A096 Affirm Relationship-Based Social Justice

A170 Develop and Continue Food System Advocacy

A182 Using Education, Community Dialogue and Internal Audit to Respond to All Forms of Racial Injustice

A183 Recommended Book Study of the Triennium: "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander (2010/2012)

B005 Quality Public Education for All

B008 Support Handgun Purchaser Licensing

- 29 **B013** Peacemaking Through Political Action
- 30 **B018** Support for Sudan and South Sudan
- 31 **C005** Decreasing Gun Violence
- 32 **C013** Facilitate Dialogue on Climate Change and Divestment Strategy
- 33 **C014** Commend Charter for Compassion
- 34 **C018** Pursue Justice, Peace and Security in the Holy Land
- 35 **C020** Ministry to People with Mental Illness and Their Families
- 36 **C045** Environmentally Responsible Investing
- 37 **C048** Increase the Minimum Wage
- 38 **D015** Encouraging Advocacy for Hunger Relief
- 39 **D028** Oppose Conversion Therapy
- 40 **D030** Establish Parental Leave Policy
- 41 **D032** Disability Advocacy in Criminal Justice Work of The Episcopal Church
- 42 **D034** Affirmation and Support of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990
- 43 **D041** Advocacy and Prayer for Syria
- 44 **D057** Re-Commitment to the Spirit of Sanctuary
- 45 **D068** Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline
- 46 **D069** Birthright Citizenship
- 47 **D073** Supporting Home and Community Based Services
- 48 **D074** Temporary Protective Status for Immigrants at Risk
- 49 **D077** Uniting Families
- 50 **D079** Education for Undocumented Families

51 the texts of which may be found at
52 <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/15664>; and be it
53 further

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55 **Resolved**, That each congregation communicate to Covenant 5 through the
56 Covenant 5 website (www.covenant5.org) or email address (Cov5@comcast.net)
57 on or before May 1, 2017, of its choice(s) of (a) General Convention resolution(s)
58 that it will pursue or, if a congregation determines not to choose a resolution, it
59 communicate to Covenant 5 that decision on or before said date; and be it further

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61 **Resolved**, That congregations which engage in this endeavor are invited to report
62 their work by June 30, 2017, to Covenant 5 (Cov5@comcast.net); and be it further

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64 **Resolved**, That Covenant 5 will compile for diocesan distribution the parish action
65 reports that it receives and that congregations which enact one or more General
66 Convention 2015 resolutions will receive diocesan-wide recognition.

67 **Rationale**

68 "Almighty God, who has created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly
69 to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may
70 reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in
71 our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name. . . ."
72 (BCP, p.260)

73 The 78th General Convention (2015) of the Episcopal Church has referred
74 resolutions adopted by both Houses of said Convention to dioceses for prayerful
75 study and appropriate action at the diocesan/diocesan committee/congregational
76 level.

77 Our Baptismal Covenant states that we will seek and serve Christ in all persons,
78 loving our neighbors as ourselves, and that we will strive for justice and peace
79 among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

80 We can live up to our Baptismal Covenant by beginning locally.

81 The texts of the General Convention resolutions are available at the Covenant 5
82 website

83 When there is interest by two or more congregations in the enactment of a
84 particular resolution, we encourage a collaborative effort. As well, one or more
85 deaneries might choose to enact a particular resolution.

86 ". . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
87 and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

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1 Resolution #2

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3 **Originator: Ian Ednie, Trinity, Monroe**

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5 **Subject: God is Not a Republican. or a Democrat.**

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7 **Resolved**, That the 182nd Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, in this
8 Presidential year, joins our Presiding Bishop and Primate in urging our brothers
9 and sisters of faith to vote on November 8; and be it further

10 **Resolved**, That we encourage those brothers and sisters to keep in mind the full
11 scope of our duty and obligation as people of God:

- 12 1. Casting one's ballot is not a one-issue decision; life is complicated,
13 citizenship is complicated, and our faith enters our decisions in all fields;
14 2. Jesus calls us, and, through Jesus, God calls us, to be peacemakers;
15 3. Through the charge to Adam, God has made us the stewards of God's
16 environment; eventually, we will be judged on how we carried out that
17 stewardship;
18 4. The entirety of the Scriptures emphasize caring for the poor, the
19 disenfranchised, and the marginalized; that emphasis constitutes an
20 important responsibility, to which we attach great weight;

21
22 and be it further

23 **Resolved**, That as we discern how to vote, we reject the American Triumphalist
24 attitude that God is on the side of the United States; that particular response
25 answers the wrong question; the question is not, "Is God on our side?" The
26 question is, "Are we on God's side?"

27 **Rationale**

28 We frequently hear that religious faith should have no place in determining a
29 political candidate or a political platform worthy of support. Presiding Bishop
30 Michael B Curry issued the following statement reminding us of our responsibility
31 as Christians:

72 common good. To participate in the process of making this a better
73 world. However you vote, go and vote. And do that as a follower of Jesus.

74 *The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry*
75 *Presiding Bishop and Primate*
76 *The Episcopal Church*

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79 Our Baptismal Covenant and the Five Marks of Mission can serve as the lens
80 through which our conscience guides our decisions on issues and candidates. Our
81 focus at the polls responds to how we live into these promises we make to...

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- 83 • continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
84 and in the prayers.
 - 85 • persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and
86 return to the Lord.
 - 87 • proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
 - 88 • seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.
 - 89 • strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of
90 every human being.

91
92 Finally, the answer to the question, “Are we on God's side?” is a resounding
93 “SOMETIMES.”