

RESOLUTIONS – 140AC-R04

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 140th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK

The Resolutions Committee met on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at Episcopal House in Newark to review and consider the resolutions submitted by the deadline of November 15, 2013. The texts of the resolutions are enclosed.

Members of the Resolutions Committee will introduce the resolutions at each of the three pre-convention meetings in January (listed below). There will be hearings on all resolutions (except those on the Consent Calendar, unless removed) at the convention on Friday, January 24, 2014.

Consent Calendar: It is recognized that certain resolutions may not require full debate prior to action by Convention. Accordingly, the Committee on Resolutions may propose that certain resolutions be included on a "Consent Calendar". Exclusion of any resolution on the Consent Calendar requires agreement of any three congregations to remove it, and the Secretary of Convention must receive exclusion requests before the start of the first business session in writing, signed by at least two lay deputies from each of three congregations and at least three clergy listed on the roll of Clergy entitled to vote in the Convention. Any resolution included on the "Consent Calendar" shall not be subject to amendment or debate, except that the sponsoring deputy or his/her designee may speak to the resolution for a period not to exceed one minute.

Members of the Resolutions Committee are:

The Rev. Deborah Drake, St. Agnes', Little Falls
The Rev. Joseph Harmon, Christ Church, East Orange
Ms. Patrice Henderson, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange (Chair)
Ms. Lorraine Jones, Church of the Epiphany, Orange
Ms. Dianne Nelson, Christ Church, Hackensack
Ms. Chris Sinner, Transfiguration, Towaco
The Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye Wilson, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange
Ms. Patricia Yankus, St. Paul's, Paterson
Ms. Diane Sammons, Chancellor

Please note: The *Call to Convention* that you received in October had incorrectly transposed the dates of the pre-convention meetings on the driving directions page (page 2). The correct dates are listed elsewhere and as follows:

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – Christ Church, East Orange (7:00pm)
Thursday, January 9, 2014 - St. Elizabeth's, Ridgewood (7:00pm)
Saturday, January 11, 2014 - Church of the Saviour, Denville (9:30am)

1 RESOLVED, that the 140th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark express its
2 disagreement with the finding and conclusion of the Task Force on Closure of Developmental Centers;
3 opposing the closing of the Woodbridge Developmental Center (WDC) and North Jersey Developmental
4 Center (NJDC) as vital and valuable resources and that all seven state-operated developmental centers
5 should be kept in operation for the benefit of its residents, employees and the state in which they provide
6 service; And be it further
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8 RESOLVED that the Secretary of Convention send certified copies of this Resolution to Governor Chris
9 Christie, all State Senators and Assemblymen and Assemblywomen that represent all the Districts within
10 the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.
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13 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:
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15 The State has decided by a Task Force report to close the only two Developmental Centers in Northern
16 New Jersey. All the Centers that would remain open are in central and far southern NJ making a hardship
17 and in some cases an impossibility for the parents and guardians of these mentally and disabled residents
18 the ability to visit them. A Federal mandate states that the individual States in the U.S.A. must give a
19 choice to remain in a Center or be placed in a community home which is privately operated. The mandate
20 does not state that Centers need to be closed. It has been reported a higher mortality rate and high
21 employee turnover at these private facilities without the immediate medical care that many of these
22 residents need would be detrimental to these residents. It has been reported there are as many as 8,000
23 people on a waiting list in New Jersey to get placement in one of the State Developmental Centers.
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26 Submitted by Mr. Gary Yacono, St. James' Ridgefield, Ms. Cheryl Yacono, St. James' Ridgefield, Ms. Diane
27 Pollock, St. James' Ridgefield, The Reverend Mariano Gargiulo, Rector, St. James' Ridgefield.
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1 RESOLVED, that this 140th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark urge the
2 governor and the legislative houses of the state of New Jersey to move forward on the
3 establishment of state-run exchanges for the comparison and purchase of health insurance as
4 established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. And be it further
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6 RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Convention send a letter to the aforementioned governmental
7 authorities to this effect.
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10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:
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12 New Jersey is one of 36 states that decided to leave the running of the insurance exchanges
13 required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) to the federal government.
14 The much publicized "glitches" and problems with the federal set up are well-known and seem
15 to be partially caused by the sheer volume generated by the fact that most states have avoided
16 establishing their own marketplace. (New Jersey did sign on to the Medicaid expansion portion
17 of the ACA).
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19 However, most of the 14 states that took on the task of setting up their own exchanges are
20 faring much better in providing affordable and comprehensive health insurance to their citizens
21 — many of whom report that, for various reasons, they have not been covered for years.
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23 According to online reports, between Oct. 1 and Nov. 7, 2013, about 77,000 people in the state
24 of Washington have successfully purchased health or Medicaid insurance through that state's
25 web site (68,532 through Medicaid expansion, and 9,230 through the exchange).
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27 And, as of November about 16,400 persons had purchased coverage through New York'
28 exchange and 35,364 persons in California. One of the best known state exchange success
29 stories has been in Kentucky, where more than 40,500 have enrolled for coverage from both
30 private insurers and Medicaid through the state's Kynect exchange.
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32 Healthcare is a necessity that no one should have to go without and it seems that the best way
33 to move forward at this point would be to establish a New Jersey exchange.
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35 Submitted by: Mr. Bob Bogert, St. Paul's, Montvale
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1 Resolved, that this 140th Annual Convention of Episcopal Diocese of Newark call upon the Bishop to appoint a
2 Task Force to develop a policy to address the bullying, harassment and abuse of clergy by lay persons, and
3 report its findings to the 141st Annual Convention.
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6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:
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8 Harassment and bullying are forms of abuse. Abuse is 'a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by
9 any other person or persons'. (*Promoting a Safe Church*)
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11 A person who is bullied may suffer emotionally, psychologically, physically, socially and spiritually. It is not well
12 understood that the impact of bullying can be life long and affect the person, their relationships and their
13 capacity for ministry. Effects of bullying on ministry can include: loss of coping skills; disillusionment; inability
14 to concentrate; loss of motivation; decreased productivity and competence; bad decision-making and poor
15 judgment; loss of faith or crisis of vocation; difficulty trusting others; diminished employability; and premature
16 desire to cease employment. Bullying also leads to reputational damage for the wider church, and the
17 individual congregation as well as for the clergy person.
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19 Bullying, harassment, and abuse do not necessarily happen face-to-face; they may be inflicted by written
20 communications, email or phone or conducted through third parties. Some of the most damaging behaviors
21 include spreading malicious rumors to third parties.
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23 The Church is required by God to foster relationships of the utmost integrity, truthfulness and trustworthiness.
24 Yet bullying, harassment, and abuse of clergy are well documented. We believe it is of vital importance that
25 the Diocese of Newark send a clear message that these behaviors directed toward clergy will not be tolerated.
26 All complaints of bullying, harassment and abuse should be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.
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28 Currently there is no disciplinary canon governing laypersons. While the Title IV Disciplinary Canons address in
29 detail policies and procedures for bullying, harassment and abuse *by* clergy, there is no policy or procedure to
30 address complaints of the bullying, harassment and abuse *of* clergy.
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32 References:
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34 The Archbishops' Council (2008) *Dignity at Work* can be found online at
35 <http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1167938/dignity%20at%20work%20booklet.pdf>
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37 [Bullying in the Church](#): A free Workshop for United Church Ministers concerned for their own ministries, for
38 their clergy colleagues and for the well-being of the Church, *at* clergy-united.ca/bullyworkshop.pdf
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40 Submitted by: The Rev. Dr. Cathy L. Deats, The Rev. Kathryn L. King, The Rev. Dr. Allison Moore, The Rev. Janet
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