

# JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION

of the Protestant Episcopal Church  
in the United States of America  
-otherwise known as

the episcopal church

*Held in Denver, Colorado, from September Ninth to Twentieth,  
inclusive, in the Year of Our Lord 1979*

1979

The General Convention  
Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Produced for the General Convention  
by Seabury Professional Services

1P/0680/2.2M

Sept. 11, 1979

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

amended by striking "Standing Committee" wherever it occurs and substituting in lieu thereof the words "Legislative Committee."

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Puerto Rico.

**The motion carried**  
HB Message #26

The Bishop of Central Florida, Chairman of the Committee on Structure, moved that the Committee be discharged from further consideration of B-26, since the Committee could not recommend its adoption.

The motion was seconded by Bishop Wood.

After discussion, the Bishop of Louisiana moved the previous question. The motion was seconded by Bishop Gosnell.

**Motion to discharge carried**

**Canons**

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution D-24, as amended.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Nebraska.

The Bishop of Newark moved for a minimum of 24 hours' delay on the vote on this resolution to give the Bishops time to counsel with their respective diocesan chancellors where litigation is currently in process.

The motion was seconded by Bishop Gibson.

**Motion to defer carried**

**Nominations**

The Bishop of Easton, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, requested the name of the Very Rev. Allen L. Bartlett, Jr., be removed from nomination to the Executive Council because he has already been elected to the Executive Council by his province.

The Bishop of Easton requested the name of the Rev. George C. Harris be removed from nomination to the General Board of Examining Chaplains because he is ineligible in the category in which his nomination occurs.

The Bishop of Easton requested the name of Mr. L. H. Bristol, Jr., be removed from nomination to the Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, said person being deceased.

**Adjournment**

Following announcements by the Secretary, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the House at 5:29 p.m.

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That to the end of encouraging and furthering mutual understanding between Episcopalians and Jews by way of biblical and theological enquiry and through friendly discussion, the Presiding Bishop's Advisory Committee on Episcopal-Jewish Relations initiate a study on the methodology for and substantive issues of Episcopal-Jewish dialogue in the next triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the report of the said Presiding Bishop's Advisory Committee on Episcopal-Jewish Relations, together with recommendations for implementation of the Dialogue, be made to the 67th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.*

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Ohio.

Resolution adopted  
HB Message #72

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution D-24, as amended:

*Whereas, the Episcopal Church is an hierarchical church, in which local parish churches are a part of, and are subject to, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which they are geographically present; and*

*Whereas, the Episcopal Church recognizes that local parishes have broad autonomy in the use of their property, so long as they act within the confines of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which they are geographically present; therefore be it*

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title I, Canon 6 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, be amended to add a Section 4 as follows:*

Sec. 4. All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Parish, Mission or Congregation is held in trust for this Church and the Diocese thereof in which such Parish, Mission or Congregation is located. The existence of this trust, however, shall in no way limit the power and authority of the Parish, Mission or Congregation otherwise existing over such property so long as the particular Parish, Mission or Congregation remains a part of, and subject to, this Church and its Constitution and Canons.

*And be it further*

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title I, Canon 6 be amended to add a Section 5 as follows:*

Sec. 5: The several Dioceses may, at their election, further confirm the trust declared under the foregoing Section 4 by appropriate action, but no such action shall be necessary for the existence and validity of the trust.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Vermont.

The Bishop of Kentucky moved that the Resolution be amended to make the Resolution effective upon enactment.

Sept. 13, 1979

HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Arizona.

**Motion to amend carried**  
**Resolution adopted**  
HB Message #76

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of the following Resolution, Report #13 (D-24):

Amend Title II, Canon 7 by adding a new Section 3, reading as follows:

Sec. 3. Any dedicated and consecrated Church or Chapel shall be subject to the trust declared with respect to real and personal property held by any Parish, Mission, or Congregation, as set forth in Section 4 of Title I, Canon 6.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Southern Virginia.

**Resolution adopted**  
HB Message #75

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution D-32 (Courts of Review):

*Whereas*, the decisions of two Provincial Courts of Review suggest the need for a uniform system of review and the desirability of considering the following questions regarding the suspension, removal and deposition of Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons:

- (1) The advisability of substituting for the several Provincial Courts of Review a single national Court of Review, similar to the Court of Review of the trial of a Bishop, which would hear appeals by Presbyters and Deacons from trials by the Ecclesiastical Courts of the Dioceses;
- (2) The advisability of instituting procedures whereby a Presbyter or Deacon, voluntarily or involuntarily suspended, removed, or deposed by the Ecclesiastical Authority without a trial, could receive a review of his sentence or the action taken on his application for remission of such sentence;
- (3) The advisability of providing Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons the necessary charges and expenses of their appeals and reviews in ways that are comparable to the current provisions for the charges and expenses of Courts of Review and Church Advocates; be it therefore

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the Joint Commission on Constitution and Canons be directed to study the advisability of (a) amending those portions of Title IV pertaining to the conduct of trials by the several Ecclesiastical Courts; (b) a national Court of Review to hear appeals from Presbyters and Deacons from trials by Ecclesiastical Courts of the Dioceses; (c) some uniform system of review (if requested) of the sentences of Presbyters and Deacons and the action taken on application for remission of such sentences by Ecclesiastical Authorities where there were no trials; and (d) some means of providing Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons with the necessary charges and expenses of their appeals and reviews; and be it further

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the said Joint Commission

complete its report and make its recommendations to the 67th General Convention.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of New Jersey.

Resolution adopted  
HB Message #73

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution A-9:

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title III, Canon 25, Sec. 4 be amended as follows:*

Sec. 4. In all matters relating to the conduct of the service, to the sermons or homilies to be read, and to proper dress or attire, the Lay Reader shall conform to the directions of the member of the clergy in charge of the Parish, Congregation or Mission in which he is serving, and, in all cases, to the direction of the Bishop.

He shall read only the offices or parts thereof as provided for in the Book of Common Prayer. He shall not deliver sermons or addresses of his own composition, unless, after instruction and examination, he be specifically licensed thereto by the Bishop.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop Coadjutor of Arizona.

Resolution adopted  
HB Message #74

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution A-8, as amended:

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That Title II, Canon 3, Sec. 1 be amended to read as follows:*

Sec. 1. The copy of the Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the use of the ~~Protestant~~ Episcopal Church, ~~in the United States of America,~~ together with the Psalter or Psalms of David, the form of making, ordaining, and consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, the form of consecration of a Church or Chapel, and an office of institution of Ministers and *historical documents of the Church, including the Articles of Religion, accepted by the General Convention of this Church, in the year of our Lord 1928, 1979,* and authenticated by the signatures of the Presiding Officers and Secretaries of the two Houses of the General Convention, is hereby declared to be the Standard Book of Common Prayer of this Church.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Nebraska.

Resolution adopted  
HB Message #77

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution D-101, as amended:

*Whereas*, in 1973 the General Convention amended Canon II.7 by the repeal of Section 1 thereof as it had been in effect since 1871 for the stated purpose of eliminating the prohibition against the consecration of Church property unless it is debt-free; and

*Whereas*, by the repeal of the entire section that General Convention also deleted the second clause thereof prohibiting the consecration of Church property unless the Bishop be sufficiently "certified" (sic) that such property is secured against alienation to those not affiliated with this Church, except with the approval of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee; and

*Whereas*, the legislative history of such action (1973 Journal: pp 327, 627, 277) indicates that the sole purpose of the amendment was to delete the first clause and that the deletion of the second clause was inadvertent; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That Canon II.7 be amended by the addition of a new Section 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. No Church or Chapel shall be consecrated until the Bishop shall have been sufficiently satisfied that the building and the ground on which it is erected are secured for ownership and use by a Parish, Mission, Congregation, or Institution, affiliated with this Church and subject to its Constitution and Canons.

And be it further

*Resolved*; the House of Deputies concurring, That Sections 1 and 2 of Canon II.7 be renumbered as Sections 2 and 3.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Northern Indiana.

**Resolution adopted**  
HB Message #78

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved concurrence with the amendment to the House of Deputies Message #10 (A-7), Title IV, Canon 4: Presentment of a Bishop. The amended resolution reads as follows:

That the word 'adult' in the fourth line of Section 3 be restored.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Vermont.  
(See pg. C-26)

**The House Concurred**  
HB Message #79

The Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved that the Committee be discharged from further consideration of Resolutions C-13 and C-16 (concerning Title IV, Canon 8 and Canon 10).

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Nebraska.

**Motion to discharge carried**

#### Greetings

The Bishop of West Missouri moved that the following greeting be sent to Pope John Paul II:

## CONCURRENT ACTIONS

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The Secretary reported the results of the vote by Orders (ballot #9) as follows:

<i>Lay</i>	<i>Clergy</i>
99 votes—50 necessary	96 votes—49 necessary
Yes 99	Yes 96

**Resolution adopted unanimously**

[Communicated to the House of Bishops in HD Message No. 225]

### STRUCTURE—Ownership of consecrated property

#### House of Bishops

On the sixth day, the Bishop of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, moved the adoption of Resolution D-101 as amended:

*Whereas*, in 1973 the General Convention amended Canon II.7 by the repeal of Section 1 thereof as it had been in effect since 1871 for the stated purpose of eliminating the prohibition against the consecration of Church property unless it is debt-free; and

*Whereas*, by the repeal of the entire section that General Convention also deleted the second clause thereof prohibiting the consecration of Church property unless the Bishop be sufficiently "certified" (sic) that such property is secured against alienation to those not affiliated with this Church, except with the approval of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee; and

*Whereas*, the legislative history of such action (1973 *Journal*: pp. 327, 627, 277) indicates that the sole purpose of the amendment was to delete the first clause and that the deletion of the second clause was inadvertent; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That Canon II.7 be amended by the addition of a new Section 1 to read as follows:

*"Sec. 1. No Church or Chapel shall be consecrated until the Bishop shall have been sufficiently satisfied that the building and the ground on which it is erected are secured for ownership and use by a Parish, Mission, Congregation, or Institution affiliated with this Church and subject to its Constitution and Canons."*

and be it further

*Resolved*, That Sections 1 and 2 of Canon II.7 be renumbered as Sections 2 and 3.

The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Northern Indiana.

**Resolution adopted**

[Communicated to the House of Deputies in HB Message No. 78]

#### House of Deputies

On the sixth day, HB Message No. 78 was referred to the Committee on Canons.

On the eighth day, the Committee on Canons presented its Report #33 on Resolution D-101 as amended in HB Message No. 78, and recommended concurrence.

**The House concurred**

[Communicated to the House of Bishops in HD Message No. 128]

*Clergy Deployment Office Board*

Elected for a six-year term:

The Ven. Robert N. Davis  
 The Very Rev. Gordon P. Charlton, Jr.  
 The Rev. Hays H. Rockwell  
 Verna J. Dozier  
 George Hodges Soule  
 William G. Ikard II

Elected for a three-year term:

The Rev. Henry P. Mitchell  
 Margaret D. Fitter

*Anglican Consultative Council*

On Lay delegate for a term of three successive meetings:

Charles R. Lawrence

One alternate Lay delegate for a term of three successive meetings:

Mrs. Carter C. Chinnis

The Chairman of Dispatch of Business moved that the House return to Item #10 on the tenth legislative day.

The Committee on Education presented its Report #3 on Resolution D-55, and requested to be discharged from further consideration since the matter had already been dealt with by the House.

**Committee discharged****Retention of Parish Property**

The Committee on Canons presented its Report #32 on Resolution D-24, and recommended concurrence with House of Bishops Messages #75 and #76.

**The House concurred**  
 (See pg. C-150)

**Ministry**

The Committee on Ministry presented its Report #4 on Resolution C-26 (Amend Title IV.9.1), as amended, and recommended concurrence with House of Bishops Message #117.

**The House concurred**  
 (See pg. C-26)

**Education**

The Committee on Education presented its Report #12 on Resolution B-41, and recommended concurrence with House of Bishops Message #138.

Deputy Ramshaw (Central New York) moved a substitute to refer B-41 to the Board for Theological Education. Deputy Bittsberger (Massachusetts) moved an amendment to add the General Board of Examining Chaplains for referral. The amendment was accepted by the mover of the substitute.

The question was called on the Substitute. A division was called with the following result:

Yes - 435

**Substitute carried**

## INDEX

To facilitate the use of this Journal, each section has its own set of folio numbers, or pagination, prefixed by a letter.

Section A contains introductory material and the Directory, including the current Officers of the General Convention, and the present members of Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Agencies, with their addresses.

Section B contains the Roster and Minutes of the House of Bishops at Denver, followed by Minutes of its prior meetings at Port St. Lucie and Kansas City.

Section C contains the Concurrences—the development of legislation which was enacted in both houses, arranged topically.

Section D contains the Roster and Minutes of the House of Deputies.

Section AA contains Appendices, including Statistics for the triennium, the Reports of the Recorder and the Registrar, and the Reports of all agencies of the Convention, together with their "A" Resolutions as originally published in the "Blue Book."

Only those sections of the Constitution and Canons dealt with at this Convention are included in this Index. A complete index to the canons is included in the 1979 edition of the *Constitution and Canons*, which is published as a supplement to this Journal, together with the Rules of Order.

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