

## **RESOLUTION #1**

### **AS ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2002**

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh affirms that we have received as a sacred trust the Faith once delivered to the saints. We believe that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for Salvation, that the Apostles and Nicene Creeds are sufficient statements of the Christian faith, and that the sacred Tradition of the Christian faith has been preserved for us in the Book of Common Prayer. We believe that it is our bounden duty and service, in obedience to Our Lord, that the Sacraments should be duly celebrated, and the Word rightly preached, until His coming again. Furthermore, we believe that the three-fold ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons, rightly ordered, is a sign and seal of apostolicity, and a precious inheritance to be guarded and passed on to the church throughout the ages.

Therefore, understanding that unity must be found in truth, WE RESOLVE THAT:

1. We will not use liturgies that depart from the Historic faith. We seek to preserve the inheritance of common prayer. Liturgies that substitute gender-neutral titles for the persons of the Holy Trinity threaten this inheritance, and often reflect notions that have been classically understood as heretical. If the law of prayer is the law of belief, this is a critical issue. It is not as much how we worship but who that is at stake.
2. We will not accept General Convention Resolutions condoning an unbiblical morality. Confessing our own sins, and in a spirit of deep humility, we stand with the Church throughout the ages in acknowledging the Scriptural witness that monogamous Christian marriage between a man and a woman is the only and appropriate context for sexual relations. We reject the divorce culture, promiscuity of every type, and all behaviors, which depart from the received Biblical norm. We do so, not in judgment, but because God in His goodness has given commandments to protect us from harm to body, soul and spirit. Rejecting certain behaviors as sin does not imply a rejection of persons. We condemn homophobia, or any behavior that violates our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being.
3. We will not accept coercive canons, which contradict the mind of the Anglican Communion. The decision of the 1976 General Convention to ordain women as priests was clearly intended as a permissive change. The Anglican Communion, at

its highest level (Lambeth) agreed, stating: "Those who affirm the ordination of women, and those who do not both hold a valid theological position in this Communion." The General Convention of 1997 ignored this Communion-wide mandate by passing overwhelmingly Canon III 8. 1, which requires the ordination of women in every diocese, thereby unchurching those bishops, priests, deacons and laypersons who believe what the Church has always believed. While rejoicing in the gifts that ordained women have brought to this church, we also stand in solidarity with those who do not believe the Episcopal Church can make such a change to received Catholic tradition.

This resolution is not intended as an exhaustive list. Rather, these three issues are singled out because General Convention already has taken, or has begun to take action on each of them that would seem to move the Episcopal Church in a direction more guided by special interests than by the mind of Christ. We recognize that we are not in a position to judge. We do not wish to be arrogant. Rather, we wish to be a witness to our conviction that revealed Truth is a given. It cannot be changed, voted on, nor amended. We are committed in every way to remaining a part of the Episcopal Church. We will witness to unity even as we witness to the higher calling of the Truth we have received.

Submitted by the clergy and vestries of [various churches, a list that grew longer over a period of months].