

# ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

## ***REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS***

1  
2 The Resolutions Committee presents the following resolutions. In line with our charge,  
3 we have made comments and recommendations. The resolutions are presented without  
4 prejudice. That is, the members of the Committee did not choose to make a recommendation  
5 on the merits of the content, but have found these resolutions to be technically in order  
6 and will move them for consideration. The Finance Committee has added a financial impact  
7 statement at the end of each resolution, as is required by Rule of Order 23. Please note  
8 that there may be a few memorial and courtesy resolutions presented on the floor  
9 of the Convention.

10 There will be an open hearing on resolutions as part of the Orientation and Hearings that  
11 will take place on the opening day of Convention, Friday, January 27 at 3:00 p.m.

### **RESOLUTION # 1 – ON THURGOOD MARSHALL**

12 Submitted by Julian Tait, delegate, and Janet Eberhardt, alternate delegate, on behalf  
13 of the Vestry and Clergy of St. Augustine's, DC; the Very Rev. William S. Pregall,  
14 the Rev. John T. Talbott, the Rev. Michael Marrett, the Rev. Martha K. Clark  
15 and the Rev. Bruce A. Eberhardt.  
16

17 **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
18 of Washington ask the 2006 General Convention to include Supreme Court Justice  
19 Thurgood Marshall in the book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, and be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention ask the Bishop of Washington to declare May 17,  
21 the date of the decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, to be a day to commemorate  
22 throughout the Diocese of Washington the Christian witness of Justice Marshall.

23 Explanation: Thurgood Marshall was the grandson of a freed slave who fought in the Union  
24 army and later ran a grocery store in Baltimore, Maryland. His father was a Pullman car  
25 porter and worked in a country club whose membership was restricted to whites. Thurgood's  
26 mother graduated from college and was a school teacher in the Baltimore school system.  
27 Born in Baltimore in 1908, Thurgood attended Baltimore public schools and then attended  
28 Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. In order to send Thurgood to law school at Howard  
29 University in Washington, DC, his mother pawned her engagement and wedding rings.

30 Thurgood Marshall had wanted to attend law school at the University of Maryland  
31 but was denied entrance because he was a Negro. The indignity would not be forgotten.  
32 In 1935 Thurgood successfully sued the University, causing it to open its doors to minority  
33 students. For a short while following graduation from Howard, Thurgood was in private  
34 practice in Baltimore. In 1936 Charles Hamilton Houston, chief counsel for the NAACP,



80 of the United States and the cause of equal rights and justice for all persons.” Before he died,  
81 Thurgood joined John Glenn as the only living Americans to have a clerestory window  
82 dedicated to them at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

83 Delegates and all other members of the Diocese are urged to see the information about  
84 Thurgood Marshall on the diocesan website [www.edow.org](http://www.edow.org), which contains a more  
85 comprehensive biography along with testimony from within the church regarding his service  
86 to the Episcopal Church.

87 Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this resolution.

88 Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.

89 **RESOLUTION # 2 – ON NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHRISTIAN UNITY**

90 Submitted by the Rev. D. Thomas Andrews, Rector of Holy Trinity, Diocesan Ecumenical  
91 and Interfaith Officer, and chair of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries Commission.

92 **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
93 of Washington is mindful of Christ’s call of his disciples to unity, and recognize  
94 our Full Communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
95 and our growing ecumenical relationships with the Moravian Church, the United  
96 Methodist Church, and other Christian Churches; and be it further

97 **RESOLVED** that the Convention affirm the 2007 National Workshop on Christian  
98 Unity, which will be held for the first time in Washington, DC, hosted by Episcopal  
99 Bishops Chane of Washington and Lee of Virginia, Lutheran Bishop Schneider  
100 of Washington, Roman Catholic Cardinal McCarrick of Washington and Bishop Loverde  
101 of Arlington, Virginia, and leaders of other Christian Churches; and be it further

102 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention commend the workshop to the Diocese,  
103 and support its expenses up to \$5,000.00.

104 Explanation: The invitation to host this event came from our local Lutheran Episcopal  
105 Coordinating Committee. The National Workshop is a gathering of 400-500 laity, clergy,  
106 and seminarians, anyone interested and/or involved in ecumenical work from all over  
107 the country, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists,  
108 Moravians, Orthodox. They come together to learn, share and spread the word about  
109 ecumenical work. Part of the \$5,000 donation will include scholarships for Episcopal  
110 seminarians. Every jurisdiction, group and local Church is being asked to provide financial

111 support for the expenses, including program arrangements, communications, public  
112 relations, worship, and local transportation. This gathering, at the Key Bridge Marriott  
113 will be an exciting event for the ecumenical community of the greater Washington area,  
114 and we hope that everyone will mark their calendars and plan to attend.

115 Budget Impact: This resolution asks for \$5,000. If passed, the Finance Committee will work  
116 with the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer to put adequate funds into the line item  
117 for this Commission in the 2007 Budget.

118 Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.

119 **RESOLUTION # 3 – ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

120 Submitted by the Rev. Stephen Huber, Priest-in-Charge, St. Columba's; the Rev. Jeffery  
121 MacKnight, Rector, St. Dunstan's; the Rev. Paul Abernathy, Rector, St. Mark's (DC);  
122 and Patricia Snowden, delegate, St. Dunstan's, on behalf of the Environment Committee  
123 of the Commission on Peace.

124 **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
125 of Washington recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health  
126 and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods  
127 of our neighbors around the world; and be it further

128 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation  
129 the work of Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative  
130 that helps congregations, religious institutions and others in the Washington area work  
131 for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation; and be it further

132 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention encourage each parish in the Diocese  
133 of Washington to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Greater Washington  
134 Interfaith Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs  
135 of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased  
136 efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable  
137 resources; and be it further

138 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention encourage each parish in the Diocese  
139 of Washington to designate a lay or clergy liaison to the Environment Committee

140 of the diocesan Commission on Peace for purposes of communications and outreach;  
141 and be it further

142 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention approve the following resolution for consideration  
143 at the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church:

144 ***A Resolution Regarding Environmental Stewardship***

145 *Submitted by the Diocese of Washington.*

146 **RESOLVED**, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that the 75th General Convention  
147 of the Episcopal Church recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public  
148 health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives  
149 and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further

150 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention affirm that our Christian response to global  
151 warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further

152 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention reaffirm Resolution 1991-A195, adopted  
153 by the 70th General Convention, declaring that Christian Stewardship of God's created  
154 environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from  
155 the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further

156 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention reaffirm Resolution 2000-A048, adopted  
157 by the 73rd General Convention, encouraging all members, congregations, dioceses,  
158 and other church institutions to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources;  
159 and be it further

160 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation the work  
161 of *Interfaith Power and Light*, a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious  
162 institutions and others work for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation;  
163 and be it further

164           **RESOLVED**, that the Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses,  
165           and other church institutions to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Interfaith  
166           Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs  
167           of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased  
168           efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable  
169           resources.

170   Explanation: The direct health effects of fossil fuel combustion are well known – whether  
171   the emissions come from the tailpipes of cars or the smokestacks of power plants.  
172   The skyrocketing incidence of asthma among young people, especially in urban areas,  
173   the pulmonary damage caused by urban smog, and acid rain are examples of these effects.  
174   It is also increasingly clear that humanity’s use of fossil fuels is causing the world  
175   to warm. Climate changes are already apparent, and the increased intensity of hurricanes  
176   is one predicted effect. These changes in many cases are having direct and harmful impacts  
177   on the two-thirds of humanity who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

178   As each of us is responsible for the use of fossil fuels through transportation and electricity  
179   consumption, each of us must consider how to ameliorate the damage we are causing  
180   to our environment and our neighbors. The Environment Committee of the Commission  
181   on Peace is encouraging each parish to consider this issue with thought and prayer, to reduce  
182   its energy use – in ways that save parish funds without affecting comfort – and to purchase  
183   renewable energy. St. Columba’s is purchasing all of its electricity from landfill gas,  
184   at an incremental cost of less than 10 percent. Other parishes can do the same through  
185   a local initiative called Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light ([www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org)).  
186   This is part of a larger national Interfaith Power and Light network, originally called  
187   Episcopal Power and Light, which was founded by the Rev. Sally Bingham of Grace  
188   Cathedral, San Francisco. Washington National Cathedral has agreed to be a partner  
189   with Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, as have Christ Church, Georgetown;  
190   St. Columba’s; and St. Mark’s, Capitol Hill.

191   By adopting this resolution, the Diocesan Convention will be calling on the parishes  
192   of the Diocese to choose and use their energy wisely, and it will endorse an extension  
193   of that call to the 75th General Convention of the Church in 2006.

194   Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this resolution.

195   Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.

196           **RESOLUTION #4 – ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE WINDSOR REPORT**

197   Submitted by: Mr. Bradley Hutt, delegate, Christ Church, Clinton; Richard Best, delegate,  
198   St. Paul’s, K St; Mr. David Bickel, delegate, All Saints’, Chevy Chase.

199           **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
200           of Washington call upon the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church USA  
201           and the House of Bishops to conform to its own constitution, canons, and Prayer Book  
202           identity, declaring itself and acting as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion,  
203           to “walk together” and comply with the recommendations of the Windsor Report  
204           and the Lambeth Commission Primates Communiqué, particularly with its clear  
205           affirmation that the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10, as an expression of scriptural  
206           teaching, is the Anglican position on issues of human sexuality and has been accepted  
207           as such by the overwhelming majority of the bishops of the Anglican Communion;  
208           and be it further

209           **RESOLVED**, that we commit this Diocese to walk the path of reconciliation  
210           and remain in unity with the wider Anglican Communion, including the creation  
211           of The Anglican Covenant; and be it further

212           **RESOLVED**, that diocesan staff mail a copy of this Resolution within 90 days after  
213           convention to all Primates of the Anglican Communion, all ECUSA Bishops and all 75<sup>th</sup>  
214           General Convention Chairpersons.

215           Explanation: This Diocese is and always has been a constituent body of the Episcopal Church  
216           USA (ECUSA), which in itself is and always has been a constituent member of the Anglican  
217           Communion. Recent actions of the General Convention have brought into serious jeopardy  
218           ECUSA’s commitment to remain a part of the Anglican Communion. This resolution  
219           expresses the mind of this Diocese that it wishes always to be a part of the Anglican  
220           Communion and in fellowship with the Christian Community.

221           As set forth in commendable detail in the Windsor Report 2004, within Anglicanism  
222           “scripture has always been recognized as the Church’s supreme authority, and as such ought  
223           to be seen as a focus and means of unity.” (§53). For God commanded us to be one in the  
224           body of Christ. That is why we say in the Nicene Creed that we are part of the one, holy,  
225           catholic, and apostolic church, and why that language is in our constitution. The BCP prayers  
226           we do for unity in church each Sunday are not just to other Episcopalians and Anglicans,  
227           they are to all Christians. Moreover, the 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution 1.10,  
228           as an expression of scriptural teaching, is the Anglican position on issues of human sexuality

229 and has been accepted as such by the overwhelming majority of the bishops of the Anglican  
230 Communion and is the overwhelming consensus of the Christian community.

231 The Lambeth Commission's Windsor Report 2004 represents an exhaustive treatment  
232 of these issues and a realistic path towards reconciliation of the ECUSA with our brothers  
233 and sisters in the Anglican Communion. This resolution accepts the Windsor Report's  
234 key findings and recommendations on these critical points.

235 This resolution also accepts the findings set forth in the February, 2005 Newry Communiqué  
236 from the Primates of the Anglican Communion regarding our church's appropriate response  
237 to the Windsor Report, and urges ECUSA to accept the requests made in that Communiqué.

238 The Windsor Report offers a way forward for The Episcopal Church and the entire Anglican  
239 Communion. The issues and recommendations of the Report are time-critical. The support  
240 of the Diocese of Washington, combined with that of other dioceses, will encourage  
241 our General Convention, House of Bishops and Presiding Bishop to make a speedy and  
242 supportive response to Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission Primates Communiqué.

243

***ATTACHMENT:***

244

**Lambeth Conference 1998: Resolution 1.10 Human Sexuality**

245

This Conference:

246

1 commends to the Church the subsection report on human sexuality;

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2 in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman  
248 in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;

249

3 recognises that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual  
250 orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral  
251 direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering  
252 of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we  
253 wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful  
254 persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;

255

4 while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to  
256 minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn  
257 irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and  
258 commercialisation of sex;

259

5 cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same  
260 gender unions;

261

6 requests the Primates and the ACC to establish a means of monitoring the work done on the  
262 subject of human sexuality in the Communion and to share statements and resources among us;

263

7 notes the significance of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Human Sexuality and the concerns  
264 expressed in resolutions IV.26, V.1, V.10, V.23 and V.35 on the authority of Scripture in matters  
265 of marriage and sexuality and asks the Primates and the ACC to include them in their monitoring  
266 process.

267 Budget Impact: There would be approximately \$500 worth of mailing costs in addition  
268 to staff time.

269 Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.

270 **RESOLUTION # 5 – ON DOMESTIC WORKERS**

271 Submitted by the Rev. Luis León, Rector of St. John’s, Lafayette Square and Chair  
272 of the Latino Ministry Committee.

273 **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
274 of Washington support legislative and other initiatives to address the needs  
275 of all domestic workers within Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles and St. Mary’s  
276 counties and the District of Columbia, specifically including protections from  
277 discrimination, exploitation and trafficking.

278 Explanation: Domestic workers are part of our economy but are not covered by labor laws  
279 in the way that other laborers are. Some household workers labor under exploitative  
280 conditions, and are isolated in the workplace. A bill under development in Montgomery  
281 County seeks to address these conditions. Should the District of Columbia or the other  
282 counties in our diocese move to address these concerns, this resolution would enable  
283 our people throughout the Diocese to advocate for domestic workers on behalf of the Diocese  
284 of Washington.

285 Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this resolution.

286 Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.

287 **RESOLUTION # 6 – ON FULL INCLUSION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PERSONS**

288 Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose, Rector, St. Thomas’, DC, on behalf of the Vestry  
289 of St. Thomas’. Other sponsors are: the Rev. Joan Beilstein, Priest-in-Charge, All Souls’;  
290 the Rev. Dr. Anne Gilson, Rector, Nativity; Mr. John More, delegate, St. John’s, Lafayette  
291 Square; Ms. Polly Donaldson, member, St. Margaret’s; Mr. Terrence Doyle, member,  
292 St. George’s, Glenn Dale.

293 **RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Eleventh Convention of the Diocese  
294 of Washington reaffirm its commitment to live out the commandment to “love our  
295 neighbors as ourselves,” and in particular our beliefs in the goodness of creation  
296 and that all are welcome to share the feast at God’s table; and be it further

297 **RESOLVED**, that the Convention encourage the parishes and dioceses  
298 of the Episcopal Church to develop and adopt same-sex blessing rites which honor  
299 and address the pastoral needs of gay and lesbian couples; and be it further

300           **RESOLVED**, that the Convention support its Bishops, John Chane  
301           and Barbara Harris, in inviting all people of faith: to gather at God’s table;  
302           to end the divisiveness within the Anglican Communion; to authorize the ordination  
303           and consecration of clergy and bishops regardless of their sexual orientation  
304           or their living together in committed same-sex relationships; and to heal the hurt  
305           that has been suffered by our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters through actions  
306           taken against them by the church.

307    Explanation: Last Spring, our Vestry approved a resolution in support of the election  
308    of Gene Robinson. Following various discussions this year within the parish regarding  
309    the reactions within the Anglican Communion to action taken by General Convention  
310    in support of the election of Gene Robinson and the blessing of same sex unions, the Vestry  
311    decided that St. Thomas’ Parish should propose a resolution to the Diocesan Convention  
312    in support of Gene Robinson and Bishop Chane’s work to incorporate the blessing of same  
313    sex unions in our liturgy. Our parish believes that it is an important part of our witness  
314    to the Gospel to proclaim our support of actions that include, rather than exclude, members  
315    of our communion from full participation in the life of our church. We believe that most  
316    of the parishes in our diocese agree with the sentiments expressed by this resolution.  
317    We also believe that it is important to have voices of equality and compassion expressed  
318    as loudly as possible, so that the world does not hear only the voices of exclusion  
319    and suppression. We propose this resolution in order to provide a means for our diocese  
320    to have its voice of reason, justice, compassion and equality heard.

321    Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this resolution.

322    Recommendation: The Resolutions Committee recommends this resolution for consideration.