

Resolutions with Debate

155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton

Resolutions submitted for consideration by the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton

Resolution #5 - Commemoration of Harriet Ross Tubman

The Resolution was Approved & Adopted

Resolved, That this 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on March 4, 2023, at St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, MD, acknowledges Resolution C007 (copy below) as adopted by the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That Bishop Santosh Marray be commended for his Pastoral Directive, issued on December 7, 2022, in response to Resolution C007, which directed "all parochial clergy and lay leaders in charge of parishes to make provisions in the new year 2023 and beyond to include the above-named commemoration [C007] of March 10th as Harriet Ross Tubman Memorial Day. Furthermore, parishes are directed to include her commemorative distinction in the Sunday worship service annually within the octave or Sunday closest to March 10th. In 2023, March 10th falls on a Friday which means the diocese should observe Harriet Ross Tubman Memorial Sunday on Sunday, March 12th." and be it further

Resolved, That Trinity Cathedral be commended for its outstanding leadership in planning for a community-wide service (in cooperation with other local communities of faith) in Easton on Sunday afternoon, March 12, 2023, featuring the Bay Hundred Covenant Choir.

Submitted by:

Mrs. Sandra Bjork

The Very Rev. Mark S. Delcuze

The Rev. Mary P. Friel

Mrs. Charlotte Meyer

The Rev. Canon Charles E. Osberger

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce

Mrs. Kathleen Wise Ridley

The Rev. Frank S. St. Amour, III

Mr. Thomas Shuster

Mr. C. Eddie Vance

Anticipated cost of implementing this resolution: \$0.00

Explanation

Here is the text of Resolution C007 submitted by Province III as amended and adopted by the 2022 General Convention (see especially the last Resolved clause):

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 80th General Convention authorize for trial use the date of March 10 on the Calendar of the Church Year (BCP pp. 19ff.) to commemorate Harriet Ross Tubman, who was commemorated with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer and Sojourner Truth on July 20; and be it further

Resolved, That the Propers for the commemoration of Harriet Ross Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer and Sojourner Truth on July 20 be authorized for trial use for the commemoration of Harriet Tubman on March 10, with appropriate changes from plural to singular; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music review the Propers for the commemoration of Harriet Ross Tubman and propose suitable amendments to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention encourage **all dioceses and parishes**, in cooperation with other judicatories and local communities of faith, to honor Harriet Ross Tubman on the 110th anniversary of her death (March 10, 2023) in a worship service on or close to that date.

Province III, comprised of thirteen mid-Atlantic Episcopal dioceses, has encouraged all thirteen Dioceses to collaborate with other local communities of faith, especially African-American churches, in sponsoring local observances on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

By way of further background, in 1994 our General Convention added four women to our liturgical calendar on July 20: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman. Edward Brodess, Harriet's owner, was a communicant in good standing of Great Choptank Parish, Christ Church, Cambridge.

Thus, after Harriet's addition to our Calendar of Saints (1994 was the first reading and the second and final reading came in 1997), a celebration of Saint Harriet was held on February 18, 1995, at Christ Church, Cambridge. Bishop Martin G. Townsend presided.

In September 2022 a statue of Harriet Ross Tubman was dedicated on the grounds of the Circuit Courthouse in Cambridge, MD (directly across the street from Christ Episcopal Church).

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton
The Committee recommends that the resolution be approved.

Resolution #6 - Addition to our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

The Resolution was Approved & Adopted

Resolved, That this 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on March 4, 2023, at St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, MD, gives thanks for the weekly ministry of our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, especially for the opportunity it gives all of us to share together in our thanksgivings for the various ministries which serve the people of our Diocese and beyond; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourages the annual inclusion of Province III along with its Coordinator and the elected Provincial Deputies from this Diocese in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That the Sunday immediately prior to the first Monday of May be given consideration as a possible date for this thanksgiving, that being the Sunday immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Province III Synod.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Mary P. Friel

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce

Mrs. Kathleen Wise Ridley

Mr. C. Eddie Vance

Anticipated cost of implementing this resolution: \$0.00

Explanation

There are 13 Dioceses in Province III. Almost all of them remember the ministry of our Province in their own Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. If this resolution is adopted and implemented, we will add our Diocese of Easton to that list of Provincial prayer partners.

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton

The Committee recommends that the resolution be approved.

Resolution #7 - Appreciation for the Financial Rebate from Province III

The Resolution was Approved & Adopted

Resolved, That this 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on March 4, 2023, at St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, gives thanks for the rebate of \$1,309 provided by Province III (40% of our apportionment of \$3,272 actually paid in 2022); and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention send a copy of this resolution to the Treasurer of Province III: Canon Judith Gregory, c/o The Episcopal Church in Delaware, 913 Wilson Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, by no later than April 30, 2023.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Mary P. Friel
The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce
Mrs. Kathleen Wise Ridley
Mr. C. Eddie Vance

Anticipated cost of implementing this resolution: \$1.00 (the cost of sending the letter)

Explanation

The leadership of Province III became aware that many dioceses were facing a challenging financial situation in 2023. Some of the anticipated expenses in the Province's 2022 budget, such as the cost of a presence and reception at the recent General Convention, were not utilized. Consequently, the Provincial Council voted to send each diocese a rebate of 40% of the actual apportionment paid in 2022. For the Diocese of Easton that sum came to \$1,309. If adopted, this resolution would acknowledge that rebate and a copy of this resolution would be sent to the Treasurer of Province III expressing our appreciation.

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton
The Committee recommends that the resolution be approved.

Resolution #8 - The Importance of an Annual COLA Increase for All Diocesan Employees

The Resolution was Disapproved and Defeated

Whereas, the Social Security Administration announced in November 2022 that all beneficiaries would receive an 8.7% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2023; and

Whereas, the Church Pension Fund of The Episcopal Church announced on December 9, 2022, that all beneficiaries, including retired clergy, would receive a COLA of 8.7% in 2023; and

Whereas, the proposed 2023 budget for the Diocese of Easton, presented at the Convocation meetings on December 14, 2022, included only a 5.9% COLA increase for our compensated staff; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on March 4, 2023, at St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, MD, hereby affirms the importance of an adequate annual Cost of Living Adjustment for our compensated staff; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urges the Department of Finance and our Diocesan Council to give careful, prayerful consideration in the future to providing our compensated staff a COLA equal to or greater than the adjustment implemented each year by the Social Security Administration and our own Church Pension Fund.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce

Anticipated cost of implementing this resolution is difficult to specify, without knowing the total amount of compensation involved (and related items, such as pension payments), and the actual differential between the Social Security COLA and the COLA budgeted by the Diocese in any given year.

Explanation – A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) simply **maintains the purchasing power** of an employee's salary. **For example**, if your salary is \$30,000 per year, and if the SS COLA is 10%, *i.e.*, the inflationary pressures have increased your everyday expenses by 10%, and if your employer gives you only a 5% COLA, in effect the purchasing power of your compensation has been **reduced** by 5%, *i.e.*, a \$1,500/year **reduction**.

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton
The Committee recommends that the resolution be disapproved.

Resolution #9 - On the Appointment of Mr. C. Eddie Vance to the JSCN

The Resolution was Approved & Adopted

Resolved, That this 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton, meeting on March 4, 2023, at St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, MD, congratulates Mr. C. Eddie Vance, Senior Warden of Christ Church, Denton, a Deputy to the 80th General Convention, and a member of the Province III Council on his recent appointment by the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, and Ms. Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies, to the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations for the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention send a copy of this resolution to the Wardens of St. Mary's Parish, Christ Episcopal Church, PO Box 428, Denton, MD 21629-0428, by no later than April 30, 2023.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce

Anticipated cost of implementing this resolution: \$1.00 (the cost of sending the letter)

Explanation

The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations (JSCN) screens all nominees for all elected positions to be considered by the 81st General Convention except for the office of Presiding Bishop. This appointment is a distinct honor which deserves recognition by our Diocese.

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton
The Committee recommends that the resolution be approved.

Resolution #10 - Resolution of Appreciation for Art Kendall

The Resolution was Approved & Adopted

After many years of exemplary service as Financial Administrator for the Diocese, Art Kendall has retired as of the end of 2022. Art has shown continuous dedication and commitment to the support, not only to the bishop and the several committees responsible for guiding Diocesan financial matters. Also, has provided ongoing and willing, cheerful assistance to the many parish administrators, vestry, and clergy seeking his guidance. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this Convention, on behalf of the entire Diocese of Easton, extends its congratulations on his retirement, along with deep appreciation and gratitude to Art for his work. We, together, wish Art the best of health, prosperity, and happiness as he enters the next adventure of his life.

Submitted by:

Mr. Fred Welsh, Department of Finance, Chair

Cost of implementing this resolution: \$1.00 (the cost of sending the letter)

Report of the Resolution and Debate Committee to the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton
The Committee recommends that the resolution be approved.