

Amended R23-1 Religious Liberty: Diocesan Council Resolution

~~Resolved, the Diocese of Atlanta meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 10 and 11, 2023, acknowledge that the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves are foundational in our relationships as members of the Body of Christ. And be it~~

Further Resolved that the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church prohibit discrimination based on, among other things, sexual orientation and gender, gender identity/expression; And be it

Resolved, that this Diocese urge the Legislature of the State of Georgia to refrain from passing laws/legislation that conflict with or interfere with the religious liberty of Episcopalians to practice their faith; And be it

Further resolved, that copies of this resolution **and explanation** be sent to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, and the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia.

Explanation:

~~The Diocese of Atlanta meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 10 and 11, 2023, acknowledges that the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves are foundational in our relationships as members of the Body of Christ.~~

Recent legislation passed by the State Legislature violates the religious liberty of Episcopalians by discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression. We are entitled to

practice our religious beliefs according to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia, as well as our own Constitution and Canons. Legislation restricting the rights of parents regarding their transgender children violates those beliefs. Similarly, practicing discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression also violates those beliefs.

Submitted by Bruce Garner, Lay Delegate, All Saints' Atlanta