

Amended R23-2 Religious Liberty: General Convention Resolution

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, the 82nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, ~~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. 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~~

~~Further resolved, that The Episcopal Church~~ urge the United States Congress and the ~~state~~ Legislatures ~~of the several States~~ 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 a copy of this resolution be sent to the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Explanation:

~~We 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~~

~~We also acknowledge that the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church prohibit discrimination based on, among other things, sexual orientation and gender, gender identity/expression;~~

Recent legislation passed by various State Legislatures 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 in accordance with 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 the Diocese of Atlanta

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