

**The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina
The 97th Diocesan Convention**

Recommendation from the Committee on Resolutions

A Resolution entitled: *Supporting the Youngest Among Us*

Committee on Resolutions Recommendation: Reject this resolution.

First, we are concerned by the judgmental and negative presumptions about pregnant women (and pregnant children) in this proposed resolution indicated in the following phrases [emphasis is by the Resolution Committee]:

- “whereas adoption is the kind, loving choice for **everyone** involved in an unwanted pregnancy”
- “to support pregnant mothers who **do not wish to care for** their unborn children”

Also, these presumptions are not in keeping with the position established by TEC, which is expressed as follows:

From the TEC website: “In a series of statements over the past decades, the Church has declared that ‘we emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience.’ At the same time, since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them.”

Second, we are concerned that funding for this resolution is based on the complete defunding of projects we have supported for many years through the 0.7% Sustainable Development Funds. Supporting this resolution would be an outright rejection of mission projects we have shared with people with whom we have developed relationships over many years in Haiti and Ecuador.

Third, we are concerned that changes to the SOM which so adversely impact historic missions of our diocese are more appropriately made through the SOM process so the appropriate Commission can evaluate all requests at once and determine priorities as appropriate to diocesan goals of making, equipping and sending mature disciples of Christ.

Finally, we believe it is inappropriate to direct diocesan funds to un-specified “non-governmental organizations that offer adoptive services to pregnant women” because some of these organizations in our state withhold services based on prejudicial view about adoptive parents that The Episcopal Church finds completely unacceptable.

A Resolution entitled: *Feast of William Alexander Guerry*

Committee on Resolutions Recommendation: Adopt with friendly amendment

Change the date from the third Sunday in June to June 9 which is the date of Guerry's death. Other than for special days (Pentecost, Christmas, e.g.) the Sunday Propers can be replaced only under extraordinary circumstances and with the approval of the Bishop.

Standing Resolution Relating to Age of Adulthood

Committee on Resolutions Recommendation: Adopt this resolution



PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The 97th Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina
 Christ Church
 Greenville, South Carolina
 November 8-9, 2019

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Date: August 8, 2019

Offered by: The Reverend James Neuburger

Name of Church: The Episcopal Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, Irmo, SC

Subject: Supporting the Youngest Among Us

Whereas:

As the pinnacle of creation, God created human beings in His image to enjoy Him forever, and at our baptisms God adopts us into Christ's family as his brothers and sisters;

and whereas the National Council for Adoption reports that in 2014 there were 18,329 domestic adoptions in relation to 1.1 million unwanted pregnancies;

and whereas U.S. adoption providers estimate there are over 1 million couples currently waiting to adopt in the United States;

and whereas adoption is the kind, loving choice for everyone involved in an unwanted pregnancy;

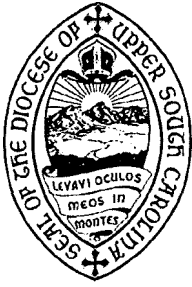
Be it Resolved:

That this Diocese affirms and offers God's love for each human life by committing, beginning in 2021, to support pregnant mothers who do not wish to care for their unborn children by providing financial support to non-governmental organizations that offer services to pregnant women that facilitate the adoption of their babies.

The amount of the financial support committed will be at least 0.7% of EDUSC's projected annual income. The funding for this support will come from eliminating from the 2021 and all future diocesan Statement of Missions the MDG funding directed in 2005 under the standing resolution adopted by 83rd Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina and reported by the Commission on Mission in the EDUSC Statement of Mission and applying such funding to this support.

Such financial support will be provided annually and will continue until either 2030 or until terminated by resolution of a future diocesan convention, whichever comes first.

Further, this Diocese encourages the Commission on Mission, as part of the Statement of Mission request process, to identify the non-governmental organizations that offer adoptive services to pregnant women in South Carolina to whom support will be distributed, and to report annually through its Statement of Mission request submission the amount of such aid and the organization(s) to receive the distribution of such aid.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**The 97th Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina
CHRIST CHURCH
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 8-9, 2019**

Please return completed forms on or before September 9, 2019

Proposals received after the deadline, other than resolutions originating in a Convocation meeting, will be treated as "special" resolutions which are subject to being accepted by the Convention before being considered.

Completed forms may be submitted via:

Fax: 803-799-5119

Email (completed, scanned forms): convention@edusc.org

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Date: August 1, 2019

Offered by: Race and Reconciliation Committee (drafted by the Rev. Canon Alan Bentrup)

Standing Resolution: Feast of William Alexander Guerry**Whereas**

William Alexander Guerry, native of South Carolina, was born in 1861, served as the bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina from 1907 to the time of his death in 1928. He had an illustrious career as a parish priest and bishop and as Chaplain and Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at the University of the South.

Whereas in 1909, the second year of his episcopate, Bishop Guerry, addressing a meeting of provincial church leaders in Birmingham, Alabama, explained his belief about the breadth and depth of the Christian community: "We should strive for unity, not uniformity. Uniformity is mechanical, barren, unfruitful, and unprofitable. Unity is organic, living, and capable of endless growth. If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within the communion every living human soul."

Whereas Bishop Guerry's theology of the broadness of the church led him to propose, in 1914, the election of a black suffragan bishop for South Carolina to be responsible for the ministry to black Episcopalians, and to ensure that all people, regardless of race, were part of the community of Christ in the diocese. The alternative, which unfortunately prevailed, was to separate the African American community into a "Missionary Church for Negroes," an arrangement that continued until the mid-20th century when that segment of the Christian community was finally given an equal place in the community.

Whereas the bishop's life on earth ended on June 9, 1928, five days after he was shot in his office at St. Philip's Church, Charleston, by a priest who had attacked the bishop's position on advancing racial equality in South Carolina, and especially on his proposal to install a black suffragan bishop in the diocese. The priest who shot the bishop had written that the bishop, given his way, would root out the principle of white supremacy in the south. So, overtaken by hatred, he fired the shot that killed the bishop and then turned the gun on himself, taking his own life;

Whereas, in its call to revise Lesser Feasts and Fasts, "General Convention emphasized the importance of the local recognition of sanctity. As we look across the Church's broad history, this is, in fact, the predominant level on which sanctity has been identified" (Great Cloud of Witnesses, page x). Local feasts are encouraged under Days of Special Observances in The Book of Common Prayer (pages 17-18); and

Whereas, the Episcopal Church in South Carolina recognizes the third Sunday of June each year as the Feast of William Alexander Guerry, and has developed the associated readings and collect; now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

1. that the 97th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina adopt June 9th of each year ~~the third Sunday of June each year~~ as the Feast of William Alexander Guerry, Bishop, Reformer, and Martyr;
2. that the readings assigned for this day shall be:
Isaiah 61:1-4
Psalm 116:1-8
Acts 7:54-60
Luke 12:2-8; and
3. that the collect for this day shall be:
God of truth and sacrifice, we give thanks for your servant William Alexander Guerry, who, like the church's first martyr, gave witness to your liberating gospel and echoed Christ's healing words of forgiveness. May we also seek your truth as we offer ourselves in obedience to the same. All this we pray through him who is forever the bishop and reformer of our souls, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Date: July 1, 2019

Offered by: The Committee on Constitution and Canons

Standing Resolution Relating to Age of Adulthood

WHEREAS, Convention has previously adopted the following Standing Resolution:

RESOLVED, that any person serving in an elective or appointed position which may cause that person to be an adult before the laws of the State of South Carolina while acting on behalf of the Church shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing and shall have reached his/her age of majority as defined by the laws of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing Standing Resolution be, and hereby is, repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that any person serving in an elected or appointed position that may require such person to take actions on behalf of the Church, or any organization of the Church, that would be legally binding under the laws of the State of South Carolina shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing, and shall have reached his/her age of majority as defined by the laws of the State of South Carolina.