

ORIGINAL TEXT

Resolution B001

1. Topic/Title: Doctrine: Endorse Certain Historic Anglican Doctrines and Policies

Proposer: The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman (Quincy)

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That this 74th General Convention affirms that "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation," as set forth in Article VI of the Articles of Religion established by the General Convention on September 12, 1801; and be it further

Resolved, That this 74th General Convention re-affirms that "it is not lawful for the Church to ordain [that is, establish or enact] any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another," as set forth in Article XX of the Articles of Religion established by the General Convention on September 12, 1801; and be it further

Resolved, That this 74th General Convention affirms that every member of this Church is conscience-bound first of all to obey the teaching and direction of Our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in Holy Scripture in any matter where a decision or action of this Church, or this General Convention, may depart from that teaching; and be it further

Resolved, That this 74th General Convention re-affirms that the statements known as the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1886, 1888, as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 continue to be true and accurate statements of the faith and policy of this Church, and the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That this 74th General Convention affirms that councils of the Church have, and sometimes will, err but that Our Lord Jesus Christ, present through the person of the Holy Spirit, can and will correct such error; and be it further

Resolved, That this 74th General Convention directs the Office of the Presiding Bishop to forward a copy of this resolution to every Diocese within the Episcopal Church.

Explanation:

Recent General Conventions have been asked to consider significant changes affecting matter of historic faith, morals, and discipline in our Church, in some cases bringing public ridicule to our Church. Some members have therefore become discouraged, and others have left this Church. Many Members who remain faithful to this Church seek reassurance that they will not be coerced to act against conscience in matter of historic belief and practice, seeking healing rather than further fragmentation or our Church.

The resolution: re-affirms Holy Scripture as the foundation of authority in our Church, re-affirms historic positions adopted by previous General Conventions and affirms that no member of this Church shall be forced to practice anything contrary to the clear meaning of holy scripture.