

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
TO THE 228TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA**

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

CR-1 Courtesy Resolution Donald Richard “Dick” Moomaw

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-1 and requests that CR-1 be placed on the Consent Agenda.

CR-2 Courtesy Resolution Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. Andrew’s, Mt. Jackson

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-2 and requests that CR-2 be placed on the Consent Agenda.

CR-3 Courtesy Resolution Honoring the Ministry of the Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-3.

CR-4 Courtesy Resolution Honoring the Memory and Ministry of the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-4.

CR-5 Courtesy Resolution Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of St. Andrew’s, Burke

The Committee recommends **adoption** of CR-5 and requests that CR-5 be placed on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030 using Net Zero Checklist, Carbon Tracker, and Supporting the Communion Forest Initiative

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-1 with the amendment, as follows:

R-1a

Resolved, by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that we accelerate the current target date to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions from 2045, as adopted by the 227th Annual Convention, R-6, to 2030, as urged by Resolution A087, adopted by the 80th General Convention in July 2022, thereby committing our Diocese

to reaching net carbon neutrality in Diocesan operations including the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and Annual Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, increased use of virtual meetings as compared to pre-pandemic levels, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, that we urge our congregations and related organizations, including Shrine Mont, the Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia, and retirement homes affiliated with Virginia Diocesan Homes, also to commit to reaching Net Zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2030, or as soon thereafter as may be feasible given the age, physical condition, and finances of the properties involved; and be it further

Resolved, that we urge the Standing Committee, in performing its canonical duties to review applications by congregations to incur indebtedness to build or renovate buildings on church property, to conduct appropriate diligence about the energy efficiency and sustainability of such proposed construction and to communicate the need for such design in the guidelines given to congregations to incur such indebtedness; and be it further

Resolved, that in order to carry out these efforts, Convention commends the use of the attached Church Building Net Zero checklist, as it may be updated from time to time by the Creation Care Task Force, and similar tools, such as those published by the U.S. Green Building Council, in order to enable planning and progress to achieve Net Zero; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention encourage the people of the Diocese of Virginia to learn about and plan actions to reduce their own carbon footprint using the Carbon Tracker <https://sustainislandhome.org> and similar tools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention pledge in Diocesan operations, and urge its congregations and related organizations in their operations, to adopt methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gasses through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions and to support the Communion Forest initiative, launched at the Lambeth Conference 2022, to plant trees, practice reforestation and regenerative agriculture, protect forests and other plant communities across the Communion.

R-2 Uniform Paid Family Leave

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-2 with the amendment, as follows:

R-2a

Resolved, by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that

- we recognize and affirm that the birth or adoption of a child is a cause of celebration for parents, families and the entire community;
- the entire community has responsibility for supporting a family in raising a child;
- family members need to care for one another in sickness;
- individuals suffering from illness may not be able to work for a period of time; and
- the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia have roles in ensuring those who are sick are cared for, so that all have sufficient time to take care of these matters and families are not economically devastated by birth, adoption, or illness, and, be it further

Resolved, that the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia call on the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia to institute mechanisms to fund and administer a uniform paid family leave policy to care for newborns, to promote bonding between newborns and parents or adoptees and parents, and to allow for the care of immediate family members during illness, and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Diocese send copies of this Resolution to:

- The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations, for use in its efforts with the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch to bring about these changes,
- to Virginia's Senators and Members of Congress representing districts within the Diocese of Virginia;
- the Governor of Virginia and to the members of the Virginia General Assembly representing districts within this Diocese.

R-3 COVID, Vaccines and Treatment

The Committee recommends **adoption** of R-3s as the substitute resolution for R-3.

R-3s

Resolved, by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in low and middle-income countries as we face together the daunting challenge of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

Resolved, that Scripture and our tradition strongly support collective efforts to heal the sick and prevent the spread of deadly disease, including efforts in this pandemic to share vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools across national boundaries, efforts that are strongly supported by the recognition that viral transmission occurs regardless of national boundaries; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention heartily commend the United States Government for the substantial resources committed and efforts made by administrations of both parties to provide vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools and related aid to many countries and hundreds of millions of people around the world; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention strongly urge the continuation of such aid efforts by the United States, both as a moral imperative and as wise public health policy to combat the spread of many variants of the COVID-19 virus; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention heartily commend and strongly urge continuation of efforts by the United States Government with the World Trade Organization and other international bodies and by responsible pharmaceutical companies to assure that legal protections for intellectual property are appropriately waived or suspended where needed to assure the prompt delivery and widespread use of COVID vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools in other countries; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Diocese send copies of this Resolution to President Biden, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and to Virginia's Senators and to the Members of Congress representing Districts within the Diocese of Virginia, and to The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations.

R-4 Recognition of Episcopal leadership of Our Diocese

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-4.

R-5 Civil Discourse Resolution

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-5 with the amendment, as follows:

R-5a

Whereas, B009, adopted at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, calls upon all Episcopalians to practice civil discourse in our political life, while not making peace with evil and injustice; and

Whereas, In the Diocese of Virginia, we seek to demonstrate empathy and esteem for all beloved children of God, believing in the inherent worth of different cultures and perspectives. We proclaim in our Baptismal Covenant that we will seek and serve Christ in all persons, strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

Whereas, While the political conflict that strains the fabric of our nation is not new, the increasingly partisan and fractured climate of our country undermines our position as a world power and leading democracy; and

Whereas, We need to discuss the problems facing our nation and society constructively. An absolute Christian value remains that violence against any person is unacceptable and must be condemned without equivocation. Violence against a person or institution is not and does not ever represent legitimate political or civil discourse; and

Whereas, Civil discourse has been defined as “the exercise of patience, integrity, humility and mutual respect in civil conversation, even (or especially) with those with whom we disagree.”¹ Civil discourse leads to productive exchanges where everyone thoughtfully listens to what others say, focusing on the issues rather than the individuals espousing them. Accepting the standards of civil discourse means never inflicting harm on others through words or actions and taking responsibility when we do so.

Now therefore be it,

Resolved by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that we call upon all elected officials, candidates for all offices, and Episcopalians, in particular, to publicly repudiate hate speech and to engage in civil discourse.

Resolved, That the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia urge individual Episcopalians and parishes to use the Civil Discourse Curriculum developed by The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations as a resource to guide discussions about politics, policy, and legislation while strengthening our relationships with one another; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Diocese send copies of this Resolution to:

- The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations, for use in its efforts with the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch to bring about these changes,
- to Virginia’s Senators and Members of Congress representing districts within the Diocese of Virginia;
- the Governor of Virginia and to the members of the Virginia General Assembly representing districts within this Diocese.

¹ In Defense of Civility How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us, James Calvin Davis

R-6: Assistant Bishops Resolution

The Committee recommends **adoption** of R-6 and requests that R-6 be placed on the Consent Agenda.