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Resolutions

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- A238 Admit Episcopal Diocese of Cuba as a Diocese of The Episcopal Church

A238 Admit Episcopal Diocese of Cuba as a Diocese of The Episcopal Church

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 79th General Convention, accepting with joy the request of the sisters and brothers of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*, and welcoming the prospect of restoring the relationship between The Episcopal Church and *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*, admit it to The Episcopal Church and recognize it as a Diocese in union with General Convention, to be effective as set forth in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention acknowledges that, while Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution does not expressly provide for creation of a new Diocese from an existing Anglican Communion Diocese, neither does it expressly limit or forbid General Convention from doing so; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention laments the actions of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church in 1966 that led to the precipitous and painful separation of The Episcopal Church and *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the diligence of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* in completing the following actions set forth by The Episcopal Church Task Force on Cuba, established by Resolution 2015-B003: drafted changes to the Constitution and Canons of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*; sent the changed Constitution and Canons to the Metropolitan Council; pledged in writing to conform with these expectations (submit an annual Diocesan Parochial Report to the Office of The Episcopal Church, pay an Assessment to The Episcopal Church, and provide a complete accounting of the financial assistance received from The Episcopal Church); provided education for clergy and laity about The Episcopal Church, Constitution and Canons, and the workings of General Convention; provided a proposed annual budget to The Episcopal Church; provided Church Pension Fund with accurate reporting about active clergy and years of service, and retired clergy who are already in the Pension Fund; convened an Extraordinary Synod on May 11, 2018 to designate the choice of a province; and sent members to visit at the 79th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention recognize that *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* has agreed to undertake all responsibilities pertaining to diocesan membership in The Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, fully conforming its constitution and canons to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church; submitting annual diocesan parochial reports; contributing annually to the assessment for the budget of The Episcopal Church; and reporting fully on any financial assistance it receives from the such budget; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention express its deep gratitude to the Anglican Church of Canada for its long and continuing support for *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call upon the dioceses, congregations and members of The Episcopal Church to acquaint themselves with the ministries of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*, to work in harmony and companionship with *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* for evangelism, mutual understanding, and the full expression of God's mission, and to consider ways in which they can be in relationship and partnership with *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* going forward; and be it further

Resolved, That the acceptance of the Diocese of Cuba into union with the General Convention shall become effective on such date as the Executive Council adopts a resolution accepting and approving a certification to it by the Secretary of the General Convention that he has received from the Diocese of Cuba the following:

- (1) A certified copy of the Constitution of the Diocese that contains an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and otherwise conforms in essential part to such Constitution and Canons;
- (2) A certified copy of the Canons of the Diocese that conform in essential part to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church;
- (3) An annual diocesan parochial report as required by Canon I.6 for the last full year prior to compliance with this resolution;
- (4) A commitment by the Diocese to a contribution to the budget of The Episcopal Church for the year in which the Diocese is to come into union with the General Convention;
- (5) An accounting of any funds received by the Diocese from the General Convention budget in the last full year prior to compliance with this resolution; and
- (6) Evidence that all clergy in the Diocese have complied with the requirements of Canon III.10 and Article IX of the Constitution;

And be it further

Resolved, That, following such effective date,

- (1) The Diocese of Cuba shall take such steps as shall be required by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church for the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Cuba to be received as a Bishop of The Episcopal Church;
- (2) The General Convention designates the Diocese of Cuba to be added to the Second Province of The Episcopal Church;
- (3) The Diocese of Cuba shall be entitled to all rights pertaining to membership in The Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, seat, voice, and vote in the House of Bishops and in the House of Deputies, in accordance with the rules of those Houses;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Bishop Diocesan of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* upon passage of this Resolution be eligible to participate in the House of Bishops consistent with its rules of order; and be it further

Resolved, That immediately upon the close of business of the 79th General Convention, the active clergy of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* shall become eligible to participate going forward in the International Clergy Pension Plan (ICPP) and its related plans, which will be administered by The Church Pension Fund (CPF) consistent with the terms of the ICPP, an administration agreement between *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and CPF, and applicable law, including the receipt of any necessary licenses from the Office of Foreign Assets Control or any other applicable governmental authority; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct The Episcopal Church, together with *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and other potential ministry partners, in consultation with CPF, to collaborate on a plan to fund the past service liability accrued by the active clergy of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention support the formation of a 3-year interim body to accompany *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and The Episcopal Church as they fully reunify; said body would consist of eight members, four from *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and four from The Episcopal Church jointly appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, to facilitate complete reunification of life, ministry, and mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirm the principle that dioceses of this church that are not located within the United States may seek autonomy according to the procedures set forth in Resolution A235 of the 1991 General Convention or may join other provinces of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program Budget and Finance to consider a Budget allocation of \$400,000 for ministry and mission of *La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba* and \$50,000 for the interim body's work for the implementation of this resolution.

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Final Status: Concur

Calendared: N/A

Committee: 06 - The Episcopal Church in Cuba

Proposed by: 06 - The Episcopal Church in Cuba

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