

AS WE PRAY, SO WE BELIEVE: Praying D039

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, that the members of the 73rd General Convention intend for this Church to provide a safe and just structure in which all can utilize their gifts and creative energies for mission.

Remembering that only in you can we live in safety, we commit to center our efforts to be your church in you and in your call to do justice and love mercy. Help us to remember our mission to be your body in the world and to tell the Good News of your saving grace to all people.

Creating God, create in us a passion to engage in your mission.

Resolved, We acknowledge that while the issues of human sexuality are not yet resolved, there are currently couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in marriage and couples in the Body of Christ and in this Church who are living in other life-long committed relationships.

We give you thanks for the gift of love that binds couples together in relationship with each other and with you. Give us grace to support all those who are committed to life-long relationships and give us patience as we learn from and live in community with those whose experiences are different than our own.

Loving God, help us to love as you have loved us.

Resolved, We expect such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God.

You created us in your image and call us always to wholeness. Help us to nurture in ourselves and in our relationships those qualities which manifest your love to each other and to your creation.

Holy God, challenge us to be your holy people.

Resolved, We denounce promiscuity, exploitation and abusiveness in the relationships of any of our members.

Forgive us when we fail, when we fall short of your desires for us, when we hurt each other. Pour your healing spirit on all those who have been wounded in body, mind or spirit. Restore them to wholeness and free them to seek and create healthy, life giving relationships.

Healing God, make us instruments of your grace and healing power.

Resolved, This Church intends to hold all its members accountable to these values, and will provide for them the prayerful support, encouragement and pastoral care necessary to live faithfully by them.

We praise you and we glorify you and we give thanks to you for the will you have given us to create communities of faith and for the gifts of common prayer and corporate worship. We ask you to assist us with your grace to offer each other the

prayerful support we need to live into your call for wholeness and holiness in our relationships.

Gracious God, teach us to pray.

Resolved, We acknowledge that some, acting in good conscience, who disagree with the traditional teaching of the Church on human sexuality, will act in contradiction to that position.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing,” you proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah. As we struggle with questions of human sexuality, we claim the tradition of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Peter and Paul – and we remember that we walk in the footsteps of those who followed you in faith as you led them beyond their expectations to new understandings of your love.

Living God, continue to reveal your will to us.

Resolved, That in continuity with previous actions of the General Convention of this Church, and in response to the call for dialogue by the Lambeth Conference, we affirm that those on various sides of controversial issues have a place in the Church, and we reaffirm the imperative to promote conversation between persons of differing experiences and perspectives, while acknowledging the Church’s teaching on the sanctity of marriage.

Give us grace to claim the deep roots of our Anglican comprehensiveness that have historically enabled us to live together in communion with those with whom we differ. Help us to see our diversity as a strength, our differences as opportunities and your love as the central reality of our life together as your beloved people.

Reconciling God, bind us together in your love.