

Proposed Resolution Regarding Establishing HFS, Adoption & Foster Care Sunday

Resolved, that the 128th Annual Meeting of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles dedicate the First Sunday in Advent (or another Sunday in Advent if it is more appropriate) as HFS, Adoption & Foster Care Sunday, and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support HFS, Adoption & Foster Care's life-saving work on that day through prayer and a special offering that will help this important work of finding caring homes for children.

Explanation:

HFS, Adoption & Foster Care is a nonprofit adoption services organization that has been supported by the diocese, particularly serving LGBTQ communities who were often turned away as adoptive parents by other agencies. HFS, Adoption & Foster Care is deserving of increased visibility and support by our churches. We seek a designated day to provide special offerings from congregations to support the important work of HFS, Adoption & Foster Care.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Guy Leemhuis
The Rev. Nathan Biornstad

Endorsed by:

The Rev. Joseph Oloimooja
The Rev. Canon Bill Dunn

Proposed Resolution Regarding Commemorating The Philadelphia Eleven in the Church Calendar

Resolved, that the 128th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2024:

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that the 81st General Convention include and enter The Philadelphia Eleven to the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar of the Church Year to be celebrated on July 29.

Explanation:

This commemoration celebrates The Philadelphia Eleven -- the first eleven women ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church on July 29, 1974 at the Church Advocate in Philadelphia.

Through most of the history of the Christian Church, women were relegated to positions secondary to those held by men and excluded from leadership roles. During the first half of the twentieth century that began to shift as the Episcopal Church experienced an expansion of the participation of women in the church as "Deaconesses" -- a separate order from male Deacons. Deaconesses were set apart to care for "the sick, the afflicted, and the poor" but precluded from functioning liturgically.

In 1970, laywomen were seated for the first time in General Convention as Deputies with voice and vote. Calling for a vote to eliminate the canonical distinctions between male deacons and female deaconesses, their intent was to make clear that women seeking ordination should be recognized as full and equal deacons. Once that motion was adopted, The Episcopal Church was presented with the issue of whether to ordain women as priests and bishops too.

A resolution was put forward by the women deputies at the 1970 General Convention to approve women's ordination to the priesthood and episcopate. It failed to pass the House of Deputies, but nonetheless had much positive support. A similar resolution narrowly failed to pass at the next General Convention in 1973.

By July 1974, supporters of women's ordination to the priesthood grew restless with the stalled legislative process and an ordination service was scheduled to ordain women to the priesthood by three retired bishops: Daniel Corrigan, retired bishop suffragan of Colorado; Robert L. DeWitt, recently resigned Bishop of Pennsylvania; and Edward R. Welles, retired Bishop of West Missouri.

Eleven women who were deacons presented themselves as ready for ordination to the priesthood, and plans for the service proceeded. These women, who came to be called the "The Philadelphia Eleven", were Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Alison Cheek, Emily Hewitt,

Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield, Jeannette Piccard, Betty Schiess, Katrina Swanson, and Nancy Wittig. They were ordained on July 29, 1974 at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The ordinations inspired both celebration and controversy in the Episcopal Church. The House of Bishops declared them “irregular” and the Philadelphia Eleven were prohibited from officially exercising priestly functions. Nevertheless, the movement for the ordination of women continued to move forward. At the 65th General Convention in September 1976, the ordination of women to the priesthood was approved to begin on January 1, 1977, the previous “irregular” ordinations were regularized, and the way was opened for women to respond to the call to ordination in the Episcopal Church.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Very Rev. Kay Sylvester

Endorsed by:

The Rev. Michelle Baker-Wright

The Rev. Canon Kelli Grace Kurtz

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Nyback

Proposed Resolution Regarding the Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Taiwan

Resolved, that the 128th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles accepts the invitation of the Diocese of Taiwan to form a Companion Relationship, beginning September 2024 and continuing until September 2027, or until terminated by mutual consent, in accordance with the guidelines of the Episcopal Church.

Explanation:

During the House of Bishops Spring meeting this year, Bishop John H. Taylor had several opportunities to talk with Bishop Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang of Taiwan about the current situation there and was invited to visit the Diocese of Taiwan for their 70th Anniversary celebration on Sep 28, 2024. Bishop Chang also expressed to Bishop Taylor his interest in forming a companion relationship with EDLA and his expectation that both dioceses would officially establish the companion relationship during Bishop Taylor's visit to Taiwan next year. According to Bishop Chang, an official report on the matter of forming a companion relationship with EDLA has been given to his diocese's standing committee and a resolution is expected to be submitted for approval at their annual diocesan convention in May 2024.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. Fennie Hsin-Fen Chang

Endorsed by:

The Rev. Canon Susan Russell

The Rev. Katherine Feng

Proposed Resolution Regarding the 80th Anniversary Programs Honoring Florence Li Tim-Oi

Resolved, that the 128th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles adopts the 80th General Convention's Resolution D079 80th Anniversary Programs Honoring Florence Li Tim-Oi.

Explanation:

1. In 2018, Florence Li Tim-Oi 李添嫒 was made a permanent part of The Episcopal Church's Calendar of Saints (Lesser Feasts and Fasts: GC2018 – A066).
2. The 80th General Convention's Resolution D079 80th Anniversary Programs Honoring Florence Li Tim-Oi: <https://2022.vbinder.net/resolutions/322?house=HD&lang=en>.
3. In response to the 80th General Convention's Resolution D079, a diocese-wide event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Blessed Florence Li Tim-Oi's vocation to the priesthood is expected to be held in the Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, on February 10-11, 2024. A fundraiser dinner to promote and support this Li Tim-Oi Feast Day event is being prepared by the Church of Our Saviour to take place on January 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. Fennie Hsin-Fen Chang

Endorsed by:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Ada Nagata

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Ni