

## **RESOLUTION: REGARDING LAMBETH RESOLUTION ON SEXUALITY**

Resolved, That the \_\_\_\_\_ Convention of the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ affirms Section (c) of Resolution 1.10, passed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops, that “recognizes that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation,” and that states, “We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;” and be it further

Resolved, That this convention affirms the traditional understanding of the Anglican Communion that scripture, tradition, and reason together provide the basis for our discernment of God's will in our lives; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention cannot accept that portion of Section (d) “rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture.”

### **Explanation**

The Anglican churches have, since the earliest years of the reformation in England, relied not only on Scripture as a source of authority in their discernment of God's will in their communal lives, but also on the resources of a rich tradition and the gift of human reason. The Lambeth Conference resolution on human sexuality, however, cites only Scripture as the foundation for some of its conclusions.

Anglican theological tradition as we receive it today represents the current state of our conversation with Scripture through the centuries. Each generation interprets Scripture and the tradition out of its own place in time and understanding of the human condition. Similarly, individuals come to the conversation from a variety of contexts and perspectives, and their interpretations often differ. It has been the Anglican way to be in conversation about our differing interpretations and always to be open to the working of the Holy Spirit rather than settle on a single reading as definitive for all people in all contexts.

Although a few passages in the Bible address sexual behavior between persons of the same sex, they reflect the understandings of particular people living in particular contexts. Ours is a different world, with the benefit of centuries of history and growth in reflecting on the human condition. We have available to us a variety of interpretations of the scriptural witness, many based on the entire body of Scripture rather than on a few verses taken out of context.

Scripture condemns some behaviors we now consider acceptable (divorce) and approves some we now reject (the owning of slaves). In the Anglican Communion we do not have consensus about homosexuality or homosexual practice. It seems at this time more appropriate to live with ambiguity and continue our conversation.

This resolution thus affirms the Anglican tradition of bringing all relevant resources to bear in the discernment of how we can live out most faithfully our call to love God and our neighbor, our call to full humanity as Christian men and women in a complex world.