Resolution #8: Charter for the Safety of Persons within the Churches of the Anglican Communion


RESOLVED, that the 230th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut commits to promoting the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the Episcopal Church in Connecticut;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention adopts and implements the Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion, as called for by the 15th Meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in 2012 (ACC15);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention call on the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to adopt the Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion, and to request that all dioceses, parishes, and institutions of The Episcopal Church implement the Charter.

Explanation:
Resolution 15.09 of the 2012 Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) called upon all churches of the Anglican Communion to “adopt and implement” the Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion. The ACC is a representative body of lay and clergy leaders from all the churches of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

While the Episcopal Church in Connecticut already implements the specifics of the Charter, it is important that we, and the General Convention, affirm our common commitment to safe church practices and go on record as supporting the Charter along with partners in the Anglican Communion.

How Does the Resolution Further God’s Mission of Restoration and Reconciliation With All Creation:
Abuse of power in the Church destroys the wholeness, love, and unity of the Body of Christ and thus undermines our participation in God’s mission. The Charter invites members and churches of the Anglican Communion to commit to making their churches safe as an expression of God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation.
Statement of Requirements to Implement:
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut already follows all of the safe-church guidelines outlined in the *Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion*. There are no other requirements to implement the resolution.

**EXHIBIT 1: Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion**

*Pastoral support where there is abuse*
1. We will provide pastoral support for the abused, their families, and affected parishes and church organizations by:
   a. listening with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns;
   b. offering spiritual assistance and other forms of pastoral care.

*Effective responses to abuse*
2. We will have and implement policies and procedures to respond properly to allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel that include:
   a. making known within churches the procedure for making complaints;
   b. arranging pastoral care for any person making a complaint of abuse;
   c. the impartial determination of allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel, and assessment of their suitability for future ministry;
   d. providing support for affected parishes and church organizations.

*Practice of pastoral ministry*
3. We will adopt and promote by education and training standards for the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and other church personnel.

*Suitability for ministry*
4. We will have and implement policies and procedures to assess the suitability of persons for ordination as clergy or appointment to positions of responsibility in the church including checking their background.

*Culture of safety*
5. We will promote a culture of safety in parishes and church organizations by education and training to help clergy, other church personnel and participants prevent the occurrence of abuse.

See: [http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/resolutions.cfm#s9](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/resolutions.cfm#s9)