

Resolution 1-2012: Abound in Hope through Thanksgiving:

WHEREAS, we give thanks to all who are the people of St. John's-McAllen, St. Peter & St. Paul-Mission, St. Alban's-Harlingen, Grace-Weslaco, St. Mathew's-Edinburg and Trinity-Pharr who have labored to facilitate the work of this 108th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas.

AND WHEREAS, we recognize the continuing ministries to the Diocese of our retired and visiting Bishops.

AND WHEREAS, Bishop Reed and our diocesan staff have served so tirelessly and vigilantly to carry on the mission and ministries of the Diocese with which they were entrusted during Bishop Lillibridge's sabbatical.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 108th COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF EVERY CONGREGATION AND COMMUNICANT OF THE DIOCESE FOR THESE PERSONS

Right Reverend Sir, we so move.

Resolution 2- 2012: Abound in Hope through Study

WHEREAS, St. Paul's 1st and 2nd letters to the Corinthians embraces every doctrine of Christianity and expresses joyous praise for God's eternal purpose and our abundant hope in and through Jesus Christ.

AND WHEREAS Reading Scripture in depth together as a diocese deeply enriches our belief in the promise of God, equips us to do his work in the world and gives us Biblically grounded Hope.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS 108TH COUNCIL THAT OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY SHALL:

Provide resources and encouragement to its congregation to read, reflect upon and study St. Paul's 1st and 2nd Letters to the Corinthians during 2012.

Use this study to seriously consider these questions: 1. What does it mean to be the "Church", the Body of Christ, in the first place? Is there just one meaning? 2. What are the most effective ways to live it out? What are we called to be? To do? To deliver in this world? 3. What shall the delivery system be? How will we measure faithfulness, discipleship, and progress?

Right Reverend Sir, we so move.

Resolution 3-2012: Abound in Hope through Reconciliation, the Way of the Cross

WHEREAS, in our study of Corinthians, we will encounter a Church at cross purposes with itself;

WHEREAS, the coming decades will continue to offer many challenges to the hopes of our global Communion of Churches as it seeks to discern God's call to mission and ministry;

AND WHEREAS, in this time of deep division among Anglicans who struggle with issues of Church structure and polity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS 108TH COUNCIL THAT OUR DEPUTATION TO GENERAL CONVENTION SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF GENERAL CONVENTION. AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT IN ALL ISSUES FACING OUR CHURCH, INCLUDING ISSUES OF HUMAN SEXUALITY AND ADOPTION OF THE ANGLICAN COVENANT, WE SEEK TO BETTER SERVE THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WITH PRAYER, GODLY HUMILITY AND WISDOM, CHRIST-LIKE COMPASSION, STRONG FAITH, GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EVER MINDFUL THAT WE REPRESENT AND LARGE AND DIVERSE DIOCESE.

Right Reverend Sir, we so move.

Resolution 4- 2012: Abound in Hope through Action

WHEREAS, to abound in Hope is to witness a true belief in the promises of God through deliberate Christ like action.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS 108TH COUNCIL THAT IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR CONTINUING RESOLVE TO WITNESS OUR MINDSET OF SERVICE TO OTHERS, EACH CONGREGATION IN THE DIOCESE SHALL:

Renew our diocesan support of the work of Habitat Builders for West Texas by a commitment of financial support to build three Habitat homes during the next six (6) years through a contribution by each of our 90 parishes of at least \$300.00 per year. We did the math, it works;

Designate the 5th Sunday of Lent to the observance of Camp Sunday in support of our diocesan camp ministries and encourage greater participation with dedication of the offering to the Good Samaritan Community Services camp scholarship fund;

Recommit our efforts to engage the fertile field of college ministry by taking a fresh look at what we are doing and what we are called to do through this ministry. Dream big. Be creative.

Broaden our vision beyond our walls, whether that be a financial contribution to one of our diocesan communities such as Cliff Maus Village or Good Samaritan Community Services, reaching the growing population of South Texas, or allocating our time and resources to the youth in our communities.

Right Reverend Sir, we so move.

Resolution 5- 2012: Abound in Hope through Leadership:

WHEREAS, the Bishop has reminded us that there is a big frontier out there and we have many frontiers within our own boundaries;

WHEREAS, it requires strong servant leadership, lay and ordained, for the health and vitality of our congregations as they move into these frontiers;

AND WHEREAS, Bishop Lillibridge asks us to imagine the possibilities of investing 10-50% of our budgets in the youth of our communities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS 108TH COUNCIL THAT:

Each congregation review their current investment in the youth of our communities and strategize how to increase that commitment;

Each person here, in order to assist our youth to become well formed, well prayed leaders, beginning in lent, engage at least one young person over the next year in conversation. Ask them about the world they see and the world they hope to see, about how the world is both blessed and broken, what it means to be the Church, the heart, the hands and the feet of Christ and about what they need to live it. Then report the results of those conversations to their vestry or bishop's committee.

Give thanks for the ongoing efforts and encourage further creative efforts so that formation, leadership development and discernment of vocation lead us toward forming people as disciples with the mind of Christ, better able to answer the questions, “Are we in Christ”, “Am I in Christ”, and “What do people see?”

Be it finally resolved, each of us find hope in a variety of ways, places and words, especially these two sentences from the Gospel of John, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. To all who received, who believed in his Name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, but of God. Amen. Amen.

Right Reverend Sir, we so move. Allelujah!!