



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE *of*
INDIANAPOLIS

Resolutions to be Considered at Diocesan Convention

Updated 11/8/2025

Resolution 1: Resolution for The Episcopal Church in
Indiana

Resolution 2: A Resolution Celebrating the Life and
Work of The Right Reverend Catherine M. Waynick

Resolution 1: Resolution for The Episcopal Church in Indiana

Title: The Episcopal Church in Indiana

Submitted by: The Rt. Rev. Douglas Sparks, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and the Reunification Discernment Committee of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northern Indiana and Indianapolis

Whereas, the Episcopal Dioceses of Northern Indiana and Indianapolis, led by a Discernment Committee composed of Bishops Sparks and Baskerville-Burrows along with six appointed representatives from each diocese, have since February 2023 engaged in “intentional exploration of the possible reunification as one diocese”; and

Whereas, the Committee acknowledged three possible outcomes of this process: remaining entirely separate dioceses, enhancing collaboration in various areas of mission and ministry while remaining separate dioceses, and reunifying as one diocese; and

Whereas, the Committee has felt blessed to be able to steadily and faithfully work on the charge given them to “explore opportunities” in all areas of diocesan life, to “consider a plan for full reunification as well as any interim sharing of resources”...and, “if feasible, to provide a draft timetable for those efforts,” recognizing these aspects to be critical to this discernment; and

Whereas, with shared mission priorities as their guide, broad input from both dioceses considered, and learnings from dioceses around the Episcopal Church to draw upon, the Committee developed and shared draft models for a potentially reunified diocese including models for the Ministry of the Episcopate, Diocesan Staffing, Constitution and Canons, Healthcare, an Operating Budget, and more; and

Whereas, the Committee has articulated and distributed those technical aspects which remain within reach of completion, the Committee acknowledges that the relational foundation critical to healthy and participatory reunification requires greater participation, intention, and growth before a decision on reunification should be made; and

Whereas, the Dioceses of Northern Indiana and Indianapolis have already begun a relational Season of Collaboration which has resulted in efforts like Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships, joint leadership and clergy retreats, joint actions for social justice and prayer vigils, and visitations made by Bishop Sparks in the Diocese of Indianapolis and Bishop Baskerville-Burrows in the Diocese of Northern Indiana; therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Diocese of Indianapolis continue and expand this Season of Collaboration with the Diocese of Northern Indiana for the sake of enhancing shared mission and strengthening relationships among leadership bodies, ministry groups, lay persons, and the clergy of our dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council is charged with the responsibility of continuing and coordinating these collaborative efforts, and reporting back to the Diocesan Convention in 2026 on the progress of these efforts; and be it further

Resolved, that the Reunification Discernment funds in the 2026 budget be utilized to support staffing and other infrastructure for furthering this Season of Collaboration; and be it further

Resolved, that the possibility for future reunification be acknowledged and embraced during this Season of Collaboration with a “timeline for these efforts” remaining open, allowing the Spirit to do further work within and between our dioceses and trusting the canonical bodies and Ecclesiastical Authorities of both dioceses to mutually address formal decisions around reunification when there is broader readiness, willingness, and capacity to do so.

Resolution 2: A Resolution Celebrating the Life and Work of The Right Reverend Catherine M. Waynick

Whereas our Diocesan family is richer in compassion, deeper in faith, and stronger in vision, discipleship, and outreach because of the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick, the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis,

Whereas Bishop Waynick faithfully reminded us that our baptism is the foundation upon which all ministry – lay and ordained – is built and she empowered the laity by encouraging deep theological reflection and inspiring us by her example to a deeper spiritual life

Whereas, Bishop Cate as the Chief Shepherd of the diocese for two decades, shaped many of the vocations of the clergy under her care, with a special attention to inspiring, calling, and forming many deacons in the diocese

Whereas, Bishop Cate as the 7th woman to be consecrated Bishop in the Episcopal Church and 10th woman bishop in the Anglican Communion, guided our beloved church through a pivotal time in the history of the Episcopal Church, helping pave the way to broader inclusion, and expanding the mission and vision of God’s holy, catholic Church

Whereas, Bishop Cate faithfully served as a beacon of God’s love here in this Diocese and throughout the Anglican Communion – bringing her imaginative leadership, her clarity of thought, compassion, generosity, and her ability to discern all angles of an issue when weighing difficult decisions.

Be it resolved that this 188th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and the entire Diocesan family express our love, respect, and deepest gratitude for the Gospel life and witness of Bishop Cate Waynick, the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Be it further resolved, that this 188th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis express our heartfelt love and support to Larry, their children and grandchildren, as they navigate their lives without her presence.

As we mourn the passing of Bishop Cate, we rejoice in her experience of the power of the Resurrection and the embrace of our loving God. May her memory inspire our work and strengthen our discipleship in furthering the Gospel of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.