

## News Resources

### *Diocese to Vote on Future Relationship to The Episcopal Church*

Today, the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh began a formal process that could lead to changes in its diocesan constitution by forwarding resolutions to Pittsburgh's Diocesan Convention Nov. 2-3. If ultimately passed by Diocesan Convention, those changes will open the door for the diocese to remain within mainstream Anglicanism even as the wider Episcopal Church continues to cut those ties.

"We are praying that the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops makes these votes unnecessary by unequivocally accepting all the requests of the worldwide Anglican Communion when they meet in New Orleans Sept. 20-25," said the Rev. David Rucker, president of Diocesan Council. "While we continue to pray for the House we must also prepare for the very real possibility they will not respond favorably. Thus, we are beginning the process that will allow our convention to consider this action in the event the Episcopal Church does not turn back," he added. The release of convention resolutions conforms to Pittsburgh's internal rules of order that require any proposed resolutions to be made public well in advance of the meeting itself.

To maintain the Episcopal Church's standing in the worldwide communion, the House of Bishops has until September 30 to take a number of steps. Among the actions requested of the House of Bishops by the leadership of the worldwide communion is an agreement to participate in a specific oversight plan for American Episcopalians who do not accept the liberal direction of the Episcopal Church.

Acting in March 2007, the House of Bishops rejected in advance the creation of this system of oversight for conservatives and hinted that they would not be able to act on the other requests. Actions by The Episcopal Church's Executive Council in June further signaled the church leadership's decision to allow no internal solution.

The Episcopal Church has been steadily moving away from biblical Christianity for more than 30 years. Church leaders are on record denying basic Christian truths, especially concerning the uniqueness of atonement and salvation by Jesus Christ and the primacy of Scripture in determining moral and theological teaching. The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, as well as a number of other dioceses, has worked for years to reconcile its differences with The Episcopal Church, or, failing that, arrange for an orderly and charitable parting of ways. Those efforts have been

unsuccessful.

**The proposed constitutional amendment is available [here](#) (pdf)**

**Bishop Duncan's pre-convention report is [here](#).**

**Editor's Note:** *A second amendment, sponsored by Mary Roehrich of St. Andrew's in Highland Park; the Rev. Moni McIntyre, PhD., Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood; Joan R. Gundersen, PhD., Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill and The Rev. Diane Shepard, retired, was also forwarded to convention. If passed, that amendment would undo 2004 changes to the accession clause and return the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to unqualified accession to the Constitution and canons of The Episcopal Church. [It is available here](#) (pdf).*

- Posted September 11, 2007 -