

**Delegates to the 136th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem
unanimously approved this resolution on the Participation
of all Baptized Members in the Life of the Church**

Be it resolved, that in support of the House of Bishops as stated in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 25, 2007, "... we all for unequivocal and active commitment to the civil rights, safety and dignity of gay and lesbian persons."

and be it further

Resolved, that as all baptized Christians are ministers of Christ, they are invited to fully participate in the life of the church.

and be it further

Resolved, that we continue the "Listening Process" throughout the Diocese.

Explanation:

The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 25, 2007, stated the following in "A Response to Questions and Concerns Raised by our Anglican Communion Partners." In the summary of their statement, the eighth point reads: "We call for unequivocal and active commitment to the civil rights, safety, and dignity of gay and lesbian persons."

The Book of Common prayer, in the catechism, states the following: "The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members." (p. 854) ... and "The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons." (p. 855).

Submitted by

Mr. Robert Barker

The Rev. T. Scott Allen

The Rev. Canon Jane B. Teter