

**144<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**of**  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania**  
**Proposed First Amendment to**  
**RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

**WHEREAS**, our Baptismal Covenant beseeches us to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”, and

**WHEREAS**, the Episcopal Church has a history of responding to social justice issues, and has, in numerous General Conventions, recognized that homosexual persons are children of God, and has also recognized that same sex couples, living in a lifelong, committed same-sex relationship, are worthy of having their relationship blessed by the Church, and

**WHEREAS**, many same sex couples are living in lifelong, committed relationships as a family, including the raising of children, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in *Title 23, Section 1704 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, has defined marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman, and also has denied recognition in Pennsylvania of same sex couples legally married in other states, thus denying all same sex couples living in Pennsylvania the many legal benefits that are freely given to heterosexual couples, and

**WHEREAS**, the number of states in which same sex marriage is now legal is increasing, and many employers, as well as the federal government, are now extending benefits to legally married same sex couples, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the proposed “Resolution on Marriage Equality”, as originally filed for presentation to this Convention, be amended to read in full as follows (new text in red, text to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~):

“RESOLVED, That this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, recognizing the fundamental injustice imposed upon the families of same sex couples by *Title 23, Section 1704 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, rejoices in the lifting of these burdens on same sex couples by the

action of the US District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania, Judge John E. Jones III, which declared the Pennsylvania law unconstitutional; and rejoices further that the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, has declared his intention to not appeal this decision. And be it

**“FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Bishop communicate this resolution to Pennsylvania legislators, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and other Episcopal bishops in Pennsylvania.”

Proposed by members of the Peace & Justice Committee