

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

Short History of the ECP

With its history as a Spanish colony, the Philippines were predominantly Roman Catholic. In 1898, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, ECP, became a Missionary district of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. The first Episcopal service was held in the Philippines in 1898, conducted by an American chaplain. As the work grew steadily, Rt. Rev. Charles Brent was appointed bishop in 1901. The initial focus was Manila, Luzon and Mindanao. It became a Missionary Diocese in 1965.

On May 1, 1990, with five constituent Dioceses, it was inaugurated as an autonomous Church Province of the Anglican Communion (AC). The Anglican Communion is composed of those duly constituted national churches worldwide, independent from each other, but, are in communion with the historic See of Canterbury, England. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the symbolic head of Anglicans everywhere.

Today, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines now numbers over 121,000 baptized members in over 400 parishes. There are almost 200 priests working in 6 dioceses.

For additional information about the Episcopal Church in the Philippines:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/tour/province.cfm?ID=P2>

http://www.geocities.com/maochiph/Episcopal_Church_Phils.html

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/asian_40047_ENG_HTM.htm?menu=menu43033

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)
General Convention Resolution to Approve Autonomy

Excerpt from 73rd General Convention, July 2000:

Resolution Number: 1988-B028
Title: Grant Autonomy to the Philippino Dioceses and Ratify a Covenant of Partnership
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Detroit, Michigan, in 1988, under the authority of Canon I.11.3(f), release the Dioceses of the Philippine Episcopal Church from the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America for the purpose of forming a new Province of the Anglican Communion;** and be it further

Resolved, **That the 69th General Convention ratify the "Covenant Between the Episcopal Church in the USA and the Philippine Episcopal Church" which shall define the basis, nature and mechanics of the new level of relationship and partnership in mission between the two Churches;** and be it further

Resolved, **That the implementation of this Resolution becomes effective upon the installation of the Prime Bishop of the New Province of the Philippine Episcopal Church at a date not later than May 30, 1990.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 152.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Author:
Originating House: House of Deputies
Originating Committee: Committee on Structure

House of Deputies

Original Text of Resolution:
(B028)

Whereas, the Philippine Episcopal Church in Convention (1984) has adopted the resolution on "Notice of Intention" to become an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion; and *Whereas*, the same affirmative notice of intention was duly presented to, and approved in, the 1985 General Convention held in Anaheim, California; and *Whereas*, in further compliance with the requirements for dioceses seeking for autonomy as set forth in General Convention Resolution A162 (adopted in the 1982 General Convention), the

constituent dioceses and projected provincial bodies of the Philippine Episcopal Church have developed their five-year programs and budget projections; such five-year plans describing in detail the Mission, goals and objectives of the dioceses and the provincial structure in the areas of worship, evangelism and stewardship; theological education for ministry; social ministries in the fields of medical and educational services, community development and justice and social concerns; infrastructure and support facilities; resource and capability development; and operation, management and support of church administrative structures; and

Whereas, the appropriate Diocesan and Provincial structures have been established such that customary decision-making processes are in place; and that the procedures for the accounting, reporting and external control necessary to manage and safeguard the assets of the Dioceses and the Provinces are likewise in place; and

Whereas, the affected Dioceses, through their respective Diocesan conventions, have given their consent to this quest for autonomy; and

Whereas, the Convention of the Philippine Episcopal Church, meeting in Cathedral Heights, Quezon City on May 16-10, 1988, strongly endorsed the request of the Dioceses of the Philippine Episcopal Church to be released from the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. for the purpose of forming a new Province of the Anglican Communion; therefore be it *Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Detroit, Michigan, in 1988, under the authority of Canon I.11.3(f), releases [sic] the Dioceses of the Philippine Episcopal Church from the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America for the purpose of forming a new Province of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

Resolved, That the "Covenant Between the Episcopal Church in the USA and the Philippine Episcopal Church" shall define the basis, nature and mechanics of the new level of relationship and partnership in mission between the two Churches; and be it further

Resolved, That the implementation of this Resolution becomes effective upon the installation of the Prime Bishop of the New Province of the Philippine Episcopal Church at a date not later than May 30, 1990.

Proposed Committee Amendment:

In line one of the second Resolved, following the words "that the" add the words "69th General Convention ratify the."

In line two of the second Resolved, following the word "Church" add the word "which."

Motion carried

Resolution adopted with amendment

(Communicated to the House of Bishops in HD Message #108)

House of Bishops

The Committee on Structure presented its Report #3 on HD Message #108 on Resolution B028a (Autonomous Dioceses) and moved concurrence.

The House concurred

(Communicated to the House of Deputies in HB Message #88)

Resolution Concurred by Both Houses, July 6.

Abstract: The 69th General Convention authorizes autonomy for the dioceses of the Philippine Episcopal Church for the purpose of forming a new Province of the Anglican Communion and ratifies a covenant relationship.

Resolution Number: 1982-C026

Title: Establish a Covenant With the Philippine Episcopal Church

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

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Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That in view of, and as a necessary stage in, the desire for the ultimate establishment of an autonomous church-province of the Anglican Communion in the Philippines, the Philippine Episcopal Church in National Convention enter into covenant with the Episcopal Church in the United States of America in General Convention, of which we are presently a part-- whereby a new level of relationship for mission in the region is established with commitments and responsibilities as follows:**

1. **That the PEC confirms its intention to become an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion;**
2. **That there shall be established a Joint Committee on Consultation to be made up of members from the PEC and the ECUSA. The task of the Committee will be to consult, cooperate and offer advice on missionary activities which shall include, but not be limited to, Partners in Mission; spiritual renewal; stewardship; development plans; education, health and agricultural programs; the training and development of clergy and lay theologians; ecumenical agreements, commitments and involvements; and other shared problems;**
3. **That until such time that PEC attains Constitutional Autonomy, the Bishops of the PEC shall continue to be members of the House of Bishops of the ECUSA; and that deputies of the PEC dioceses shall continue to have seat, voice and vote in the House of Deputies of the ECUSA;**
4. **That during the Covenant period the PEC shall provide ECUSA with a completed copy of the Constitution and Canons of the Autonomous Church Province as envisioned, and in accordance with the regulations of the Anglican Consultative Council;**
5. **That the PEC shall evolve a Book of Common Prayer which shall be authorized for the use of the Church Province;**
6. **That the PEC shall continue to contribute to the general apportionment to ECUSA while at the same time developing its own national church apportionment; and will develop a five year program and budget projection in cooperation with the Treasurer of the Executive Council in accordance with the guidelines set by this Convention;**
7. **That PEC may seek and ECUSA will encourage the development of companion diocese relationship programs between PEC or its constituent dioceses and the dioceses and provinces of the ECUSA;**
8. **That the ECUSA will continue to promote the Venture in Mission Project in the Philippines and it will carry out the financial assistance as shall be outlined by the Joint Committee on Consultation;**

9. **That because of the historic nature of Saint Andrew's Theological Seminary (SATSEM) as an Anglican Institution of higher theological education in East Asia and the South Pacific, the ECUSA will continue to give moral and financial assistance to PEC in its support to said Seminary;**
10. **That the ECUSA shall continue to support the PEC commitment in its conciliar relationship with the Philippine Independent Church (PIC);**
11. **[See History Note.]**
12. **That this Covenant shall take effect upon approval by both the PEC and National Convention of 1982 and the ECUSA General Convention of 1982;**
13. **That this Covenant relation shall be subject to review not less than once every two (2) years to enable changes and modifications as may become necessary, and will continue in force until agreement by both parties terminate;**

and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Joint Committee on Consultation of the ECUSA be appointed by the Presiding Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, That the review shall include any reports and recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Consultation referred to in Item 2 of the Covenant.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-59.

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

Covenant Document (Adopted by the Executive Council of ECP in July 2007)

COVENANT OF ACTION

A. TOWARDS CHURCH RENEWAL

1. A graduated study course shall be crafted for use in all dioceses. It shall include but will not be limited to the disciplines prescribed by Canons [*Title III, Canon 2, Section 2(e)*]¹. Each Diocese shall form groups of trained Christian Educators who shall lead the conduct of the course. Initially, the conduct of these classes will be done in the context of the canonical provision on “The Due Celebration of Sundays” [*Title II. Canon 1.1*]².
2. Innovative programs, specifically on renewal, shall be adopted for the sustained, special, or continuing education of the young people, women, and men. These programs shall have indicators relating to the progress of implementation. The Committees on Christian Education, Clericus, Deaneries, and Church Organizations of every Diocese shall include in the agenda of their meetings the progress reports on these programs as well as on the study course mentioned in Item #1 above.
3. The recruitment of men and women for theological training for ministry shall emphasize and focus on mission. The comprehensive continuing education program for clergy shall likewise adopt a mission-focused emphasis, especially on church growth and expansion, management, pastoral care, devotion, and special ministries.

B. TOWARDS REACHING OUT

1. An expansion plan focusing on key strategic areas, especially the UNSERVED areas, shall be set up. By 2007, a congregation or congregations shall have been organized in **every province and city** of the country. The establishment of *Area Missions* shall be a strategy for expansion.
2. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) shall maximize the use of tri-media.³
3. The ECP will consider special apostolates, ministries, or religious orders and communities. Dioceses will conduct a more aggressive ministry in campuses or educational centers, rehabilitation centers, houses of refuge, etc. The establishment and use of telephone ‘hotlines’ for ministries serving special groups shall also be considered.

¹ Title III, CANON 2. Section 2(e) – A Lay Reader...shall be trained... in the following subjects: (1) The Holy Scriptures, content and background; (2) The Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal; (3) Church History; (4) The Church’s Doctrine as set forth in the Creed and Offices of Instruction; (5) Conduct of Public Worship, and uses of voice; (6) Parish Administration and Pastoral Care; (7) Appropriate Canons.

² TITLE II, CANON 1. All persons within this Church shall celebrate and keep the Lord’s Day, commonly called Sunday, by regularly participating in the public worship of the Church, by hearing the Word of God read and taught, by giving regularly for the Mission of the Church, and by such other acts of devotion and works of charity, using all godly and sober conversation.

³ Tri-media = audio, visual, and print including electronic mail and the Internet

C. TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE

1. The full-fledged parish is the fullest expression of a mature and self-reliant congregation within the Church. We therefore aim to increase the number of self-governing, self-renewing and reaching-out, and self-supporting parishes from 27 parishes at present to at least 66 parishes by the year 2007.
2. The ECP shall be consult professional asset managers from time to time to help the ECP manage its funds and assets, including reviewing historical or current agreements of and between church institutions towards maximizing the use of church funds, real estate properties, and other assets.
3. We shall adopt ways and means to implement tithing as the minimum standard of giving. We shall increase annual giving per capita from P60 to at least P500. We shall deliberately plan, develop, and engage the services of non-stipendiary ministers with minimal or no financial considerations.

PROPOSED and ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY by the ECP NATIONAL CHURCH SUMMIT, 26-29 November 2002, Baguio City⁴ APPROVED as AMENDED by the 5th ECP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL on the 3rd day of December 2002 at the ECP MISSION CENTER, Cathedral Heights, Quezon City

⁴ Prior to its adoption by the Summit delegates, the COVENANT OF ACTION was presented by the Summit Steering Committee under the title: COURSES OF ACTION. These courses of action evolved from the diocesan and national review reports. The presentation was made with certain assumptions, likewise culled from or implied by the reports. The set of assumptions or premises is listed below in aid of further understanding and implementing the Covenant of Action:

1. The Dioceses concerned, in tandem with their institutions and organizations, will pursue the courses of action proposed by the Dioceses themselves. The courses of action presented during the Summit can be done on a national scale.
2. Evangelism in the ECP is understood to mean the 'proclamation of the Word of God by word and by example.' Approaches to evangelism can be varied.
3. The courses of action are based on the three elements of the ECP Vision – renewal, reaching-out, and self-reliance. Each element in this 'trilogy' complements each other, following the 'three-self' principle. Each one should not be deemed a prerequisite to or a priority over the other but should be understood as an essential component of that One Mission. Further, Mission is God's work, carried out through us by virtue of baptism. Thus, baptism – or the promises made in baptism – and not ordination becomes the main driving force for participating in that Mission (the priesthood of all believers). In the ECP tradition, ordination is another gift, a calling to a particular office of service. Each course of action, therefore, presupposes an educational component for all – clergy and laity.
4. The Church, the Body of Christ, is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is primarily a movement [c.f. Acts] and secondarily an institution or organization. The movement is the reason for the existence of the institution. Our tradition cherishes both its hierarchical and community character, and each enhances the other.
5. We have learned to appreciate the need to balance kerygma and our liturgical celebrations. The active study and preaching of the Word (and regular Bible studies, study groups, prayer cells/meetings) energize our liturgy; otherwise, we remain fossilized in the latter.
6. The courses of action stem forth from the ECP Vision and Statement of Mission made further operative in each of the constituent dioceses in ways that respect their uniqueness. Coupled with the awareness that such uniqueness is a charism meant to build up the body of Christ, the ECP projects to the world what is distinct and particular about Anglican Christianity.

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

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Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

Companion Diocese Relations

Currently, there are no relationships with other overseas dioceses. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines is anxious to develop and establish these relationships.

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

Missionaries Serving in the Philippines

Currently, there are no missionaries in the region.

Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)

United Thank Offering Grants from Autonomy (1991) to Present

1991 Northern: Baguio: Cathedral Complex Rebuilding: To help rebuild the cathedral/diocesan center destroyed by earthquake so that the bishop & his staff can move in, to strengthen the coordinating base of diocesan programs: \$65,000

1992 Southern: Davao City: St. Philip & St. James Church: To promote expansion/extension by building a church for a mission of families & over 100 college students from the rural areas now worshipping in the vicar's apartment: \$50,000

1992 Northern: Ramon Isabel: Ramon Multi Purpose Center: To build a permanent center for worship/training/office/guest room/ warehouse & training center for the biggest mission station in the deanery & a springboard to interior mission: \$30,000

1993 St. Andrew's Theological Seminary: Quezon City: To complete the first and second floor of an unfinished three story faculty and seminarian residence. The seminary links with the Philippine Independent Church, Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan: \$40,000

1993 Northern Luzon: Barucbuc Multi-Purpose Building: To help construct a multi-purpose building to replace a temporary shanty made of cogoon and bohoon which will serve a newly organized mission station in Quezon, Isabela: \$40,000

1993 Central Philippines: Cabanatuan City: Training & Conference Center: To build a regional center in a non-traditional Episcopal area for use as a chapel, training and conference center, and base for program activities, ultimately to serve as a diocesan center: \$20,000

1994 Northern Philippines: Tubtuba Quirino: Balas-Iyan Mission Center: To build a mission center building that will house a place of worship, clergy quarters, mission office and office for community-based programs in the isolated and far north area where there is no church structure although work already has earned its designation as a new deanery: \$50,000

1994 Southern Philippines: Nuro Upi Maguindanao: Technology & Home Economics Center: To construct a building, the first floor for electronics, electricity, industrial arts, carpentry, wood carving and drafting classes; the second floor for homemaking, food preparation, nutrition, and clothing classes to meet basic educational needs of the surrounding community: \$50,000

1995 North Central: Student & Mission Centre: To construct offices, a library, dormitory rooms and a hall to use as a chapel or a conference hall for students and a new congregation in a location strategic for diocesan coordination: \$55,000

1995 Northern: Cararroguis Multi-Purpose Center: To set up a multi-purpose center for worship, mission quarters, community work, and development programs in an area to which tribal people migrated to seek a better livelihood or escape from war: \$40,000

1996 Sanchez Mira: Diocese of Northern Luzon: New Center for Mission Expansion: To construct a multi-purpose center for worship, housing, offices and community activities situated so as to promote expansion activities in Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Apayao: \$50,000

1997 North Central Philippines: St. Thomas Center for Mission: Umingan Pangasinan: Toward purchase of materials and labor for a worship and program center in an area affected by governmental land reform; also to serve for outreach to neighboring communities: \$50,655

1998 Southern Philippines: Zamboanga City: Two Storey Building: To construct an administration and library building in a sixty year old institution which community members help administer, therefore becoming more qualified in new program and extension work: \$35,000

1998 Northern Philippines: Solano Multi-Purpose Center: Nueva Vizcaya: To erect a multi purpose building as a permanent home for a newly organized congregation, continuing diocesan strategy to establish Episcopal presence and mission in major town centers: \$35,000

1999 Northern Luzon (Balbalan, Kalinga): To replace a chapel built in 1926 with a building to use for worship, classrooms, offices, assembly helping the parish, its secondary school and the community which is almost all Episcopalian: \$25,000

Rizal-Quezon-Laguna Episcopal Mission Center (Tanay): To buy a lot just north of Manila with accessibility to three provinces, therefore, the potential for increased church membership; the diocese will build a chapel and rectory: \$30,000

2000 Northern Philippines: Northeastern Luzon Mission Center: Bontoc Mountain Province: To help the province and diocese construct a mission center with offices, convention hall and guest rooms in a new diocese where many parishes, mission stations and preaching stations are underway after two decades of missionary outreach: \$55,000

2000 North Central Philippines: St. Paul's Church: Baguio City: To construct a church and multi-purpose hall for a congregation basically made up of families who were displaced when mining companies closed and who gained squatters' rights to land; the church traded other land for this location: \$10,000

2001 Southern Philippines: Dave Marc Hall: Davao City: Construct a mission and retreat center in a location chosen to be the center of a deanery's mission work with potential for mission expansion; ongoing progress toward decentralization and expansion within the diocese: \$39,000

2002 Central Philippines: Tagaytay Conference Center: To help build a conference center to serve as a base site for worship and outreach services as well as to produce income for the diocese: \$30,000

2003 Northern Luzon: Multi Purpose Center for Mission: Tabuk: To build a two-story multi-purpose building on the grounds of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Tabuk; the building will serve as a residence for the cathedral dean, replacing the current unsafe structure, and as a diocesan program center: \$28,000

2003 Northern Philippines: All Saints Student Center: Bontoc Mountain Province: To construct a two-story building with a twelve-room dormitory for students from other towns who come for college studies in Bontoc, and a social hall to provide a base for diocesan campus ministry: \$40,000

2004 Southern Philippines: Visayas Mission: Cebu City: To help construct a church building serving as the center for mission operation within the province of the Visayas, as envisioned in the 10 year plan of the diocese: \$ 25,000

2004 Sanitago: Diocesan Center for Women & Youth: Santiago City: To help construct a multipurpose building to be used by the youth, women and men of the diocese for lay organizations and income generating activities: \$20,000

2005 Building Program for New Work *Pangasinan: Diocese of North Central Philippines: To build a new church for a congregation that began by meeting in homes, and now has grown to the point where they need a worship facility. \$25,000

2006 Multi Purpose Center for Mission: Malalao, Tabuk; Diocese of Northern Luzon; To construct a multi-purpose building which will serve as worship center, meeting room, and day care center for an established mission congregation and the surrounding community; \$20,474.07

2007 Diocese of Northern Philippines: Abatan Pastoral Center: Abatan, Bauko, Mt. Province: To construct a pastoral center to serve as the base for hospital ministry and community outreach in a commercial center of this mountain province: \$40,000