

**Resolution of the Vestry, St. George's Episcopal Church
On the The Anglican Communion Covenant
January 16, 2011**

WHEREAS the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, commended *The Anglican Communion Covenant* upon its release on December 17, 2009 by stating: "what we need is something that will help us know where we stand together, and help us also intensify our fellowship and our trust. The covenant text sets out the basis on which the Anglican family works and prays and lives and hopes;" and

WHEREAS The General Convention 2009 of The Episcopal Church (TEC) passed a resolution (D020) stating "that dioceses and congregations be invited to consider *The Anglican Communion Covenant* proposed draft as a document to inform their understanding of and commitment to our common life in the Anglican Communion;" and

WHEREAS the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee in 2010 passed a resolution commending all clergy, vestries, parishes, etc, to prayerful study of *The Anglican Communion Covenant*; and

WHEREAS the rector appointed and the vestry approved the creation of an Anglican Communion Covenant Committee in the spring of 2010 for the purposes of education and discussion of The Anglican Communion Covenant within St. George's Church, and whose final report submitted to the vestry in the fall of 2010 contained the following recommendation: "After prayerful consideration and deliberation, the committee recommends approval and full support of the Anglican Communion Covenant;"

BE IT RESOLVED that the vestry of St. George's Church affirms the principles of *The Anglican Communion Covenant* as an important expression of our Anglican and Episcopal Church identity and as a vital means by which our parish, our diocese, our province (TEC) and the Anglican Communion may continue in full communion despite issues about which there may continue to be significant disagreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the vestry of St. George's Episcopal Church remains committed to full and active membership as a parish in the Diocese of Tennessee, The Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the vestry of St. George's Episcopal Church strongly believes and affirms again that differences of opinion on contestable issues in the life of the church do not define any person's membership or presence in our parish community, and we pledge our efforts to ensure that mutual respect, compassion and forbearance will shape our common life in relation to these issues now and into the future.