

**Resolution Number:** 1997-B019  
**Title:** Approve New Autonomous Province of Central America  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America approve the request of the Central American Dioceses of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama and releases them to form a new autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion, beginning January 1, 1998; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention of 1997 approve the Covenant, which includes a continued partnership in mission and a forty year progressive financial reduction plan, for the new Province, subject to review and revision every three years by the Treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the Executive Council, and the IARCA Provincial Council, said plan having been approved by the Covenant Committee of PECUSA and the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America otherwise known as *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA)*; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the new Province of Central America, in consultation with the Church Pension Fund, develop and implement a pension program no later than January 1, 2003.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 241.

#### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

**Author:** The Rt. Rev. Armando R. Guerra Soria  
**Originating House:** House of Bishops  
**Originating Committee:** Committee on World Mission

#### **House of Bishops**

##### **Original Text of Resolution:** (B019)

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America give its approval to the Central American Dioceses of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama and releases them to form a new autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion, beginning January 1, 1998; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention of 1997 approve the financial plan, as well as the missionary expansion plan for the new Province, which has been approved by the Covenant Committee of PECUSA and the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America otherwise known as *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA)*.*

##### **Proposed Committee Substitute:**

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America approve the request of the Central American Dioceses of*

Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama and releases them to form a new autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion, beginning January 1, 1998; and be it further *Resolved*, That the General Convention of 1997 approve the Covenant, which includes a continued partnership in mission and a forty (40) year progressive financial reduction plan, for the new Province, which has been approved by the Covenant Committee of ECUSA and the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America otherwise known as *Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA)*; and be it further *Resolved*, That the new Province of Central America, in consultation with the Church Pension Fund develop and implement a pension program no later than January 1, 2003. Bishop Martin moved to call the question.

**Motion carried**  
**Debate terminated**

A vote was taken on the substitute for Resolution B019.

**Motion carried**  
**Substitute resolution adopted**

(Communicated to the House of Deputies in HB Message #134)

### **House of Deputies**

The Committee on World Mission presented its Report #8 on HB Message #134 on Resolution B019s (Autonomy for New Anglican Province of Central America), moved the resolution, and recommended concurrence.

Debated followed.

Deputy Currie of Central Gulf Coast proposed an amendment.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

In the substitute, second *Resolved* clause, line 1, after "Covenant," add "after the Covenant requirements have been complied with and approved by Executive Council,".

Deputy Simons of Pittsburgh moved to postpone consideration of Resolution B019s until 5:00 p.m. on this legislative day.

**Motion carried**

Consideration of Resolution B019s (Autonomy for New Anglican Province of Central America) was continued.

The Committee on World Mission recommended rejection of the Currie amendment, offered earlier.

Vote was taken on Currie amendment to Resolution B019s.

**Motion defeated**  
**Currie Amendment defeated**

Deputy Evans of North Carolina, Chair of the Committee on World Mission, moved a committee amendment.

#### **Proposed Committee Amendment:**

In the second *Resolved* clause, line 2, after "Province," delete "which has" and add "subject to review and revision every three years by the Treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the Executive Council, and the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA) Provincial Council; said plan having".

**Motion carried**  
**Amendment adopted**

Debate followed on Resolution B019s.

Due to lack of copies of the Covenant in the hands of the Deputies, the vote on Resolution B019s as amended was postponed by the Chair.

**Vote postponed**

The Committee on World Mission presented its Report #8 on HB Message #134 on Resolution B019s (Autonomy for New Anglican Province of Central America), moved the resolution, and recommended concurrence, with amendment.

The House having received a copy of the proposal, a vote was taken on the following:

**Proposed Committee Amendment:**

In the substitute, second *Resolved* clause, line 3, delete "which has" and add "subject to review and revision every three years by the Treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the Executive Council, and the IARCA Provincial Council; said plan having".

**Motion carried**

**The House concurred with amendment**

(Communicated to the House of Bishops in HD Message #210)

**House of Bishops**

The Committee on World Mission presented its Report #11 on HD Message #210 on Resolution B019sa (Autonomy for New Anglican Province of Central America), moved the resolution, and recommended concurrence.

**Motion carried**

**The House concurred**

(Communicated to the House of Deputies in HB Message #265)

Resolution Concurred by Both Houses, July 24.

**Abstract:** The 72nd General Convention releases four Central American dioceses to form a new autonomous Province of Central America in the Anglican Communion.