

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A187
TITLE: Amendments to Title III and Title V to Conform to Changes to Title IV
PROPOSER: Title IV Task Force II
COMMITTEE: Canons

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A153 Create a New Title IV Task Force

Indirectly Related:

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.



Resolution Number: 2006-A153
Title: Create a New Title IV Task Force
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention express its sincere and abiding appreciation and gratitude for the diligent, intensive, and dedicated work and leadership of the Task Force on Disciplinary Policies and Procedures (“Task Force I”) since 2001, in the research, drafting, listening, and communicating of and about its work to develop a comprehensive revision to Title IV of the Church Canons, so that our Canons on discipline reflect our ecclesiology and theology; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention endorse the principles and values expressed in Task Force I’s proposed new Canon IV.1:

By virtue of our Baptismal Covenant, all members of this Church are called to holiness of life and accountability to one another. The Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and shall hold one another accountable as provided in this Title; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention acknowledge that the work of Task Force I requires further work, reflection, and perfection; and be it further

Resolved, That Resolution A153 and the work of and documents from Task Force I be referred to a new Title IV Task Force (“Task Force II”) of twelve persons comprising: three members appointed by the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, three members appointed by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, and six other members, to include three members of Task Force I, jointly appointed by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop. Task Force II shall be charged to complete and perfect this vital work, continuing the focus on the following critical goals, concerns, and values:

1. **Reflect the values, ecclesiology, and theology of the Church;**
2. **Move Title IV towards a reconciliation model for all appropriate circumstances;**
3. **Encourage the prompt resolution of conflicts in the Church and the reconciliation of persons involved in those conflicts at the earliest appropriate time and the lowest appropriate level of the Church;**
4. **Consider the possible inclusion of certain Lay Persons in Title IV whose office or other leadership role makes inclusion appropriate, provided the treatment of their accountability and discipline is commensurate with their lay status, responsibilities, and commitments;**
5. **Maintain the historic pastoral role and canonical authority of Bishops; and**
6. **Respect the roles, rights, and integrity of those persons subject to Title IV, and of injured persons, communities, Parishes, Missions, Congregations, and the Church; and be it further**

Resolved, That Task Force II meet during the next triennium, giving the Church due notice of its meetings; that it make available such periodic reports of its work as will best inform the Church of its activities; and that it make a final report, with a proposed Title IV revision along with explanatory and educational materials, to the 76th General Convention not later than January 1, 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 341-343.

TOPIC/TITLE: Canons: Amendments to Title III and Title V to Conform to Changes to Title IV

PROPOSER: Title IV Task Force II

C&C PAGE: 73

BB PAGE: 797

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the following provisions of Titles III and V
 2 of the Constitution and Canons for the Governance of The Episcopal Church are amended to read
 3 as indicated:

4
 5 **Canon III.7.8:**

6 **Sec. 8** If any Deacon of this Church ~~not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8~~ shall declare, in
 7 writing, to the Bishop of the Diocese in which such Deacon is canonically resident, a renunciation
 8 of the ordained Ministry of this Church, and a desire to be removed there from, it shall be the
 9 duty of the Bishop to record the declaration and request so made. The Bishop, being satisfied that
 10 the person so declaring is ~~not subject to the provision of Canon IV.8~~ but is acting voluntarily and
 11 for causes, assigned or known, which do not affect the Deacon's moral character, shall lay the
 12 matter before the clerical members of the Standing Committee, and with the advice and consent
 13 of a majority of such members the Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation is accepted, and
 14 that the Deacon is released from the obligations of the Ministerial office, and is deprived of the
 15 right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments
 16 conferred in Ordination. The Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action
 17 that it was for causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if desired, give a
 18 certificate to this effect to the person so removed from the ordained Ministry.

19
 20 **Canon III.9.3(c)(3):**

21 (3) If the Priest fails to comply with the provision of this Canon, [the Bishop of the Diocese in
 22 which the Priest is canonically resident may proceed in accordance with Canon IV.11] *such*
 23 *failure may be considered a breach of Canon IV.4.1(h)(3) occurring in the Diocese in which the*
 24 *Priest is canonically resident.*

25
 26 **Canon III.9.8**

27 **Sec. 8** If any Priest of this Church ~~not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8~~ shall declare, in
 28 writing, to the Bishop of the Diocese in which such Priest is canonically resident, a renunciation
 29 of the ordained Ministry of this Church, and a desire to be removed therefrom, it shall be the duty
 30 of the Bishop to record the declaration and request so made. The Bishop, being satisfied that the
 31 person so declaring is ~~not subject to the provision of Canon IV.8~~ but is acting voluntarily and for
 32 causes, assigned or known, which do not affect the Priest's moral character, shall lay the matter
 33 before the clerical members of the Standing Committee, and with the advice and consent of a
 34 majority of such members the Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation is accepted, and that
 35 the Priest is released from the obligations of the Ministerial office, and is deprived of the right to
 36 exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred
 37 in Ordination. The Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it was
 38 for causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if desired, give a certificate

1 to this effect to the person so removed from the ordained Ministry.
2

3 **Canon III.9.20(b)**

4 (b) In the course of proceedings under this Canon, if ~~a charge is~~ *allegations of misconduct are*
5 made by the Vestry against the Rector that could ~~give rise to a disciplinary proceeding~~ *constitute*
6 *an Offense* under ~~Canon IV.1 Title IV~~, all proceeding under this Canon with respect to such
7 ~~charge~~ *allegations* shall be suspended until the ~~charge has~~ *allegations have* been resolved or
8 withdrawn.
9

10 **Canon III.12.7(a)**

11 (a) If any Bishop of this Church ~~not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8~~ shall declare, in
12 writing, to the Presiding Bishop a renunciation of the ordained Ministry of this Church, and a
13 desire to be removed therefrom, it shall be the duty of the Presiding Bishop to record the
14 declaration and request so made. The Presiding Bishop, being satisfied that the person so
15 declaring is ~~not subject to the provision of Canon IV.8~~ but is acting voluntarily and for causes,
16 assigned or known, which do not affect the person's moral character, shall lay the matter before
17 the Advisory Council to the Presiding Bishop, and with the advice and consent of a majority of
18 the members of the Advisory Council the Presiding Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation
19 is accepted, and that the Bishop is released from the obligations of all Ministerial offices, and is
20 deprived of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and
21 Sacraments conferred in Ordinations. The Presiding Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and
22 recording such action that it was for causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and
23 shall, if desired, give a certificate to this effect to the person so removed.
24

25 **Canon V.4.1(a)(4):**

26 (4) upon the certification to the Presiding Bishop by the ~~Advisory Committee~~ *Disciplinary Board*
27 *for Bishops* as to the abandonment of the ~~communio~~ of this Church by a Bishop pursuant to
28 Canon IV.~~10~~16;
29

30 **Canon V.4.1(a)(5)**

31 (5) upon the certification by the Standing Committee as to the abandonment of the ~~communio~~ of
32 ~~this~~ Church by a Priest or Deacon pursuant to Canon IV.[10]16; or