

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A120  
**TITLE:** Amend Canon I.1.2 Standing Commission Practices  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church  
**COMMITTEE:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A104 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Of the General Convention]  
1997-A161 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Consultants and Coordinators]

**Indirectly Related:**

None

*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-A104  
**Title:** Amend Canon I.1.2 [of the General Convention]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

[*Resolved*, That Canon I.1.2(a) and (d) are hereby amended to read as follows:]

**Sec. 2 (a)** The General Convention by Canon may establish Standing Commissions, to study and *draft policy proposals* ~~make recommendations to the General Convention~~ major subjects considered to be of continuing concern to *the mission of the Church*. The Canon shall specify the *size, composition and duties* of each such Commission. Standing Commissions shall be composed of *three (3) Bishops, three (3) Priests and/or Deacons of this Church and six (6) Lay Persons*, who shall be confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing. Priests, Deacons and Lay Persons ~~may but need not~~ *are not required* to be members of the House of Deputies.

**(d)** The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies ~~may~~ *shall* jointly appoint members of the Executive Council as liaison persons to provide for communication between the Executive Council and ~~any~~ *each* Commission. Notice of such appointments shall be given to the Secretaries of both Houses. Such appointed liaison persons shall not be members of the Commission and shall have voice but not vote. The reasonable expenses thereof shall be provided for by the Executive Council. Each such Commission shall have *a member of the Presiding Bishop's staff appointed by the Presiding Bishop to assist in its work*. *Each such Commission shall have the power to constitute committees, from among members or non members of the Commission, and to request the services of Executive Council staff, and, subject to the Commission's budget, engage the services of consultants and coordinators necessary to the carrying on of its work.*

**Citation:** Canon I.1.2(a) and I.1.2(d) are excerpted from the Final Text of the revision to Canon I.1.2. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 347-355.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A161  
**Title:** Amend Canon I.1.2 [Consultants and Coordinators]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Canon I.1.2(d) is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**(d) The Presiding Bishop ~~in respect of Bishops~~, and the President of the House of Deputies ~~in respect of Clergy and Lay Persons~~, may jointly appoint members and staff of the Executive Council ~~or other experts, as consultants or coordinators as liaison persons to assist in the performance of its functions to provide for communication between the Executive Council and any Commission~~. Notice of such appointments shall be given to the Secretaries of both Houses. *Such appointed liaison persons shall not be members of the Commission and shall have voice but not vote. The reasonable expenses thereof shall be provided for by the Executive Council.* Each such Commission shall have power to constitute committees and to request the services of Executive Council staff, and, subject to the Commission's budget, engage the services of consultants and coordinators necessary to the carrying on of its work.**

**This Resolution shall be effective as from the date of adoption.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 266.

TOPIC/TITLE: Canons: Amend Canon I.1.2: Standing Commission Practices  
 PROPOSER: Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church  
 C&C PAGE:  
 BB PAGE: 621

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Canon I.1.2(a) is hereby amended to read as  
 2 follows:

3 **Sec. 2(a)** The General Convention by Canon may establish Standing Commissions, to study  
 4 and draft policy proposals on major subjects considered to be of continuing concern to the  
 5 mission of the Church.  
 6 The Canon shall specify the duties of each such Commission. Standing Commissions shall be  
 7 composed of three (3) Bishops, three (3) Priests and/or Deacons of this Church and six (6)  
 8 Lay Persons, who shall be confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing.  
 9 Priests, Deacons and Lay Persons are not required to be members of the House of Deputies.  
 10 *No person serving as an elected member of the Executive Council may during the same*  
 11 *triennium be appointed or continue to serve as a member of a Standing Commission; and be*  
 12 *it further*

13  
 14 *Resolved*, That Canon I.1.2(d) is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **Sec. 2(d)** The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies shall jointly  
 16 appoint members of the Executive Council as liaison persons to provide for communication  
 17 between the Executive Council and each Commission. Notice of such appointments shall  
 18 be given to the Secretaries of both Houses. Such appointed liaison persons shall not be  
 19 members of the Commission and shall have voice but not vote. The reasonable expenses  
 20 thereof shall be provided for by the Executive Council. Each such Commission shall have a  
 21 member of the Presiding Bishop's staff appointed by the Presiding Bishop to assist in its  
 22 work. Each such Commission shall have the power, *subject to the Commission's budget*, to  
 23 constitute Committees, from among members or non members of the Commission, and;  
 24 ~~subject to the Commission's budget~~, engage the services of consultants and coordinators  
 25 necessary to the carrying on of its work.

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EXPLANATION:

The Commission believes that The Episcopal Church benefits from having as many of its members involved in its work between General Conventions as possible. The Executive Council is guaranteed a connection to each Standing Commission through its appointed liaisons under Canon I.1.2(d), so it is unnecessary for Council members to serve on Commissions as well. The amendment to Canon I.1.2(d) will clarify that the use of subcommittees, and inclusion of non-members is subject to the Commission's budget just as the services of consultants and coordinators is.