

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A139  
**TITLE:** Diocesan Reconfiguration Study  
**PROPOSER:** Executive Council  
**COMMITTEE:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

1985-A007 Amend Constitution Article VI.2 [Cession and Retrocession of Territory--Second Reading]

**Indirectly Related:**

1997-A085 Urge Dioceses to Prepare Strategies for Congregational Development  
1982-A010 Amend Constitution Article V.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]

*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:** 1985-A007  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article VI.2 [Cession and Retrocession of Territory--Second Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That Sec. 2 of Article VI of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:**

**Sec. 2. The General Convention may accept a cession of the territorial jurisdiction of a part of a Diocese when such cession shall have been proposed by the Bishop and the Convention of such Diocese, and consent thereto shall have been given by three-fourths of the Parishes in the ceded territory, and also by the same ratio of the Parishes within the remaining territory.**

**Any territorial jurisdiction or any part of the same, which may have been ceded by a Diocese under the foregoing provision, may be retroceded to the said Diocese by such joint action of all the several parties as is herein required for its cession, save that in the case of retrocession of territory the consent of Parishes within the territory retroceded shall not be necessary; *Provided*, that such action of the General Convention, whether of cession or retrocession, shall be by a vote of two-thirds of all the Bishops present and voting and by a vote of ~~two-thirds of the House of Deputies voting by orders by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Article I, Section 5, except that concurrence by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by two-thirds of the Dioceses.~~**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 127.

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TOPIC/TITLE:       Dioceses: Diocesan Reconfiguration Study  
PROPOSER:         Executive Council  
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1   *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the  
2   Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to undertake a study and report to the 77th  
3   General Convention on the current diocesan configuration and suggest whether adjustments  
4   thereto would be appropriate.  
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EXPLANATION:

Changing demographics suggest that certain dioceses are struggling to remain viable. There needs to be a comprehensive look at whether the current configuration is optimal and what might be done, with proper pastoral concern, to improve it.