

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A141
TITLE: Continuation of EC Committee on HIV/AIDS
PROPOSER: Executive Council
COMMITTEE: Structure

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A131 Authorize Continuation of the Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS
2003-A019 Continue the Executive Council Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS
1997-A045 Authorize and Fund Commission on HIV/AIDS
1994-A128 Establish an Executive Council Commission on HIV/AIDS
1985-D062 Recognize and Respond to the Tragedy of the AIDS Crisis

Indirectly Related:

2006-A132 Eliminate the Stigma of HIV/AIDS
2006-A133 Raise Awareness of the Continuing HIV Pandemic
2000-A049 On the Topic of the Continuation of the Executive Council Committee on HIV/AIDS
(Rejected)
1997-A048 Reaffirm Commitment to a Christian Response to HIV/AIDS
1988-D110 Express the Church's Concern for the AIDS Epidemic

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-A131
Title: Authorize Continuation of the Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention authorize the continuation of the Executive Council Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS for the 2007–2009 Triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on HIV/AIDS focus on mechanisms for increasing HIV/AIDS awareness in our Church, reducing the effects of stigmatization by HIV/AIDS and continue the process of identifying those whom we are called to serve but may overlook; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee continue identifying the HIV/AIDS ministries and resources at all levels of the church, utilizing the resources of other organizations including but not limited to the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America AIDS Network; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on HIV/AIDS report to the Executive Council of the General Convention on the church's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic with attention to pertinent resolutions of General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 534-535.



Resolution Number: 2003-A019
Title: Continue the Executive Council Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention authorize the continuation of the Executive Council Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS for the 2004–2006 Triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS for the next triennium focus on the "quiet voices of AIDS" in our church and in our nation and in the world, those whom we are called to serve but may overlook; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Committee undertake a survey of HIV/AIDS ministries at all levels of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Committee on HIV/AIDS report at least annually to the Executive Council of the General Convention on the state of the church's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with particular attention to the implementation of pertinent resolutions of General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 216.



Resolution Number: 1997-A045
Title: Authorize and Fund Commission on HIV/AIDS
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Commission on HIV/AIDS be continued for the 1998-2000 triennium due to the expanding and changing HIV pandemic and its effects on individuals, the Church, and the World; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on HIV/AIDS report at least annually to the Executive Council of the General Convention on the state of the Church's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with particular attention how General Convention resolutions are being implemented; and be it further

Resolved, That the following amounts be included in the budget of the Executive Council for support of the Commission on HIV/AIDS: \$12,500 for 1998, \$12,500 for 1999, \$12,500 for 2000. This totals \$37,500 for the triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 64.



Resolution Number: 1994-A128
Title: Establish an Executive Council Commission on HIV/AIDS
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention establish a commission on HIV/AIDS whose duty it shall be to focus the Church's attention on the theological, ethical and pastoral questions inherent in the HIV/AIDS crises; to develop recommendations and strategies to increase awareness throughout the Church of the HIV/AIDS crises; to facilitate communication with and among the several organizations, institutions and programs engaged in HIV/AIDS ministries within and related to the Church; and to advocate to the Church and to the world concern for those affected with the HIV/AIDS; and be it further

Resolved, That the commission on HIV/AIDS shall consist of 1 Bishop, 3 Presbyters or Deacons and 5 Lay Persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on HIV/AIDS shall be a commission of Executive Council; shall report regularly to the Executive Council on its activities and progress; and shall report to the General Convention in 1997 and thereafter; and be it further

Resolved, That there be appropriated from the Program Budget of the General Convention the sum of \$37,360.00 for the triennium for the expenses of the commission on HIV/AIDS, subject to inclusion in the budget.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 233-34.



Resolution Number: 1985-D062
Title: Recognize and Respond to the Tragedy of the AIDS Crisis
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize with love and compassion the tragic human suffering and loss of life involved in the AIDS epidemic; and be it further**

Resolved, **That it repudiates any and all indiscriminate statements which condemn or reject the victims of AIDS; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the Executive Council is charged with:**

1. **The development of special intercessory prayers for people affected by the AIDS crisis;**
2. **The development and funding of programs of awareness, education and prevention concerning AIDS;**
3. **The identification and funding of programs for ministry to all persons affected by AIDS;**
4. **The implementation of these programs beginning no later than March, 1986, by appropriate program units of the dioceses, parishes and missions of this Church;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church is requested to establish and lead a National Day of Prayer and Healing with special intentions for the AIDS crisis, and to communicate the concerns presented in this resolution to the President of the United States urging long term, substantial federal funding for research.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 169.

06 - Structure

A141

TOPIC/TITLE: Executive Council: Continuation of EC Committee on HIV/AIDS
PROPOSER: Executive Council
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 657

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct that the
- 2 Committee on HIV/AIDS shall continue as a committee of Executive Council.
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EXPLANATION:

HIV/AIDS continues to be a devastating and unique illness in the United States and through out the world. The uniqueness of the illness is the result of the ongoing stigma associated with it. HIV disease can still result in the refusal of housing, employment, and a number of ordinary public accommodation resources to those infected. The stigma creates an atmosphere of secrecy and hiding that interferes with the testing and diagnosis of the condition and seeking medical treatment for it. Infected individuals remain reluctant to seek social and medical services in their own communities as a result of this stigma. Infection rates are again rising in the United States particularly in the Southeastern part of the country, Province IV of The Episcopal Church. Yet a large percentage of those infected do not know they are infected due to fear of the stigma, lack of medical resources and/or the anxiety of knowing their status. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) focus on non-domestic HIV issues. While both are admirable in their responses to HIV, they further the erroneous idea that HIV is no longer an issue in the United States. This reflects an ongoing "migration of interest and concern" about HIV to areas outside the United States even while some areas of the country have HIV seroprevalence rates comparable to sub-Saharan African countries. To further exacerbate the problem, advances in drug treatments have created a sense that HIV disease is not just a chronic condition that can be treated with medication. Unfortunately, that sense does not take into account the high cost, side effects and a host of other factors that prevent that false sense of security a reality. The end result is continued risky behavior, often concealed, that continues to increase the infection rates. Despite the misconception that HIV is no longer a real problem in the United States, we continue to need a resource of the church to be focused on this issue. Continuing the relationship of the Committee on HIV/AIDS with Executive Council will help address those concerns.