

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A062
TITLE: Measuring Attendance and Mission
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
COMMITTEE: Evangelism

Directly Related: (attached)

1997-A027 Request Changes to Parochial Reports and an Annual Report on Attendance
1997-A133 Request Executive Council to Refine Reports on Church Census

Indirectly Related:

2000-A019 Acknowledge the Work of Total Ministry in Small Congregations
1991-A178 Encourage the Use of Parochial Reports in Mission Planning and Development
1988-D149 Request a Format for Evaluating and Networking Small Congregations

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: 1997-A027
Title: Request Changes to Parochial Reports and an Annual Report on Attendance
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the office of General Convention be directed to request in annual parochial reports the total number of all services held each year and the total attendance figure for all services; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center be directed to provide annually to the Standing Commission on Evangelism a list of Churches which report a year-to-year increase in total attendance of more than 10%.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 108.



Resolution Number: 1997-A133
Title: Request Executive Council to Refine Reports on Church Census
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention commend the Office of General Convention and the Church Pension Group for their extraordinary work of addressing the deficiencies of data gathering for statistical reporting of the State of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council continue the process of priority support for further refinement of statistical and ministry census reporting pertinent to the discernment of the State of the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 139-140.

12 - Evangelism

A062

TOPIC/TITLE: Parochial Reports: Measuring Attendance and Mission
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 124

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention request the
- 2 House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church to consider supplementing the definition
- 3 of Average Sunday Attendance, so as to maintain the integrity and comparability of attendance
- 4 statistics while also accounting for the regularly scheduled primary weekly worship services of
- 5 missional, co-located or emergent congregations that occur on days other than Sundays or
- 6 Saturdays; and be it further
- 7
- 8 *Resolved*, That the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church consider adding a
- 9 quantifiable measure of mission to count the number of people served including, but not limited
- 10 to, schools, soup kitchens, food pantries, campus ministries other ministries through which the
- 11 congregation lives out its mission.
- 12
- 13
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- 15

EXPLANATION:

We signify what we value by what we measure. "Average Sunday Attendance," which includes only Sunday and Saturday evening services, is an incomplete measure since church planters and new congregations often use facilities not available Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Without disrupting comparability of year-to-year data, we need to make these emerging congregations statistically visible. "A mission culture focuses on the 'whole family' of the congregation, including persons served in mission, community people, friends of the church who live elsewhere, constituents and members" (Ken Callahan, Strong, Small Congregations).