

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A065  
**TITLE:** Convening and Supporting Evangelists  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism  
**COMMITTEE:** Evangelism

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-B023 Respond to Reported Decline of the Church  
2000-A034 Direct the Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force "20/20: A Clear Vision"  
1997-D050 Prepare Resources for Evangelical Preaching Missions in Each Diocese  
1994-D052 Direct Evangelism Commission to Report on Resources for Leadership  
1985-D138 Stimulate Dioceses and Congregations to a Strategy for Evangelism

**Indirectly Related:**

1991-A076 Commend Evangelists and Ministries of Evangelism  
1988-A071 Develop an Educational Manual, Curriculum Materials and Video Resources

*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-B023  
**Title:** Respond to Reported Decline of the Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church acknowledge the report of the Joint Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism which states that The Episcopal Church “may be in systemic decline” (Blue Book, Page 103); and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church respond to this reported decline by initiating through the Office of Mission and the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism a national consultation on methods and strategies identify best practices to reverse the decline in mainline denominations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism, during the next triennium, study the decline in mainline denominations and make recommendations to the 76th General Convention on strategies to reverse this decline.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 227.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A034  
**Title:** Direct the Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force "20/20: A Clear Vision"  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted

**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That in order to be a healthy, dynamic, and inviting church and to achieve the goal of doubling our baptized membership by the year 2020, the 73rd General Convention direct the Executive Council to set as a priority the appointment of a task force on "2020, A Clear Vision," with the advice of the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism. The task force shall prepare a plan to implement the vision, to include:*

- Creative strategies for evangelism;
- Prayer and spiritual development;
- Recruiting and equipping innovative leaders;
- Strengthening congregational life;
- Focusing on children, youth, and campus ministries.

*Special emphasis shall be given to:*

- Recruiting, educating, and training evangelists and church planters who were born after 1964 and/or are people of color;
- Training of lay and ordained leaders in second language skills and cross-cultural sensitivity;
- The plan shall include a detailed system for evaluation, review, and accountability; and be it further

*Resolved, That the task force shall include substantive and creative means of financing this evangelistic vision as an investment in the future of Christ's Church, utilizing such sources as:*

- The Alleluia Fund (A036);
- The General Church budget;
- Unrestricted investment return;
- Matching funds.

**It is the expectation of the 73rd General Convention that the aggregate of funds from these and other sources will equal at least 10% of the aggregate income of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society derived from diocesan and investment income; and be it further**

*Resolved, That the task force will present a detailed plan by July 1, 2001 to the Executive Council, which shall begin implementation of the plan and report on its progress to the 74th General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention direct that the sum of \$75,000 shall be appropriated from the general budget, for the expense of the task force.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 623f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-D050  
**Title:** Prepare Resources for Evangelical Preaching Missions in Each Diocese  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Evangelism Office of the Episcopal Church Center to prepare resources and identify persons who can lead each Diocese in evangelical preaching missions in 1999. This preparation will be done in coalition with those networks, agencies, programs and individuals who are currently in ministries of Evangelism, Renewal, Spiritual Formation, and the Standing Commission on Evangelism of the Episcopal Church, and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Evangelism Office of the Episcopal Church Center be directed to prepare additional program resources that will prepare us spiritually for Mission in the next Millennium to be made available to every Congregation in the Episcopal Church.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 645.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-D052  
**Title:** Direct Evangelism Commission to Report on Resources for Leadership  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Evangelism to identify and recommend resources and courses available for making disciples who are equipped to lead others to faith in Jesus Christ; and be it further Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Evangelism report to the 72nd General Convention in 1997.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 812.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-D138  
**Title:** Stimulate Dioceses and Congregations to a Strategy for Evangelism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 68th General Convention requests the Joint Commission on Evangelism and Renewal to stimulate each diocese and congregation to undertake a strategy for evangelism, to study available resources and to develop and implement intentional strategy in evangelism; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That the State of the Church Committee be directed to seek information from each diocese on the efforts toward evangelism and to report the results to the next General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 251.

## 12 - Evangelism

A065

TOPIC/TITLE: Evangelism: Convening and Supporting Evangelists  
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism  
C&C PAGE:  
BB PAGE: 126

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the  
2 Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to gather the voices and wisdom of evangelists,  
3 encourage the sharing of information and deepening relationships through all available ways,  
4 including, but not limited to social networking sites, conference calls and meetings at  
5 conferences; and be it further  
6  
7 *Resolved*, That all dioceses are urged to develop training programs for evangelists, including  
8 web-based resources, appropriate to the demographic and theological diversities of their  
9 geographic area; and be it further  
10  
11 *Resolved*, That General Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to  
12 support the training and development of evangelists by developing training materials and  
13 programs; creating and making widely available resources to identify and develop the gifts and  
14 skills of effective evangelists; and establishing mechanisms for sharing locally developed best  
15 practices, experiences and resources; and be it further  
16  
17 *Resolved*, That the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report on the gatherings,  
18 diocesan programs, training materials and resources and on their effectiveness in developing  
19 skills of evangelism to the 77th General Convention.  
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### EXPLANATION:

While we are all called to be evangelists-lively witnesses who proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ-some peoples' spiritual gifts enable, even compel, them to cross boundaries and take risks to proclaim the love of God. Using traditional and non-traditional means, these evangelists inspire others with their passion for Jesus, calling others to enter personal and communal relationship with him and to be his hands and feet in mission. They also model for other Christians how to testify more boldly to our faith and hope in Christ. The proposed Resolution strengthens the ministry of evangelism by identifying and nurturing those with unique gifts and inspiring and training those who desire to share this ministry. The identifying and training process will be different in each diocese, therefore diocesan bishops, "called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection," should lead the design of processes for raising up, equipping and nurturing evangelists in their dioceses. The Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life would offer strategic support to dioceses by providing resources and materials that may be adapted for local use and by collecting and disseminating best practices and resources.