

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A071
TITLE: Evangelistic Opportunities of General Convention
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
COMMITTEE: Evangelism

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A048 Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
2006-A051 Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
2003-D057 Express Gratitude for the Use of Expanded Technology at General Convention

Indirectly Related:

2003-A082 Request a Strategy for Expanding the Church's Multilingual Resources
1991-A065 Affirm the Ministry of Evangelism Among Ethnic Groups
1991-A067 Identify and Evangelize Ethnic Groups and Immigrants

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-A048
Title: Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Church Center and other church bodies to adopt industry appropriate “best-practices” when adopting new technology and in making communication decisions; and be it further

Resolved, That task force groups of not fewer than five persons be named to serve as volunteer consultants as needed to help the entities of the church implement this guideline. These persons shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer of DFMS.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 285.



Resolution Number: 2006-A051
Title: Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards of the General Convention to begin a process to accomplish an appropriate portion of their work more efficiently and economically by using online tools, conference calls, and video conferences.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 177.



Resolution Number: 2003-D057
Title: Express Gratitude for the Use of Expanded Technology at General Convention
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention express its gratitude to the Reverend Rosemari Sullivan, Secretary of the General Convention, and to her staff, for the use of technology to expedite and ease the work of this convention. In particular we are thankful for the continued refinement of the electronic voting system, and for the use of the internet and computers in the processing and distribution of resolutions and the reporting of the action taken on the multitude of resolutions that come before the Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commend the Very Reverend George Werner, President of the House of Deputies, on the creation of a task force on emerging technologies that explored and outlined avenues for expanded use of electronic technologies during the last triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention recommend the further development of such technologies for the 2006 General Convention that would facilitate the work of the convention, particularly in the areas of the electronic distribution of materials, electronic voting, electronic and real-time revisions of legislation, and others. The development of these technologies will be motivated and guided by a desire to speed the work of convention, reduce costs and the consumption of paper, and enhance the effective communication of the work of succeeding conventions; and be it further

Resolved, That an appropriate interim body investigate whether and how we might use technology to facilitate actions of General Convention between triennial sessions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 353.

TOPIC/TITLE: Evangelistic Opportunities of General Convention
 PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
 C&C PAGE:
 BB PAGE: 129

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention direct the
- 2 Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements to alter the schedule for the 77th
- 3 General Convention in Indianapolis as needed to create programmatic and worship opportunities
- 4 that will be of benefit to bishops, deputies and the wider church. Special attention should be given
- 5 to opportunities for service in the host city as a part of our evangelical witness; and be it further
- 6
- 7 *Resolved*, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements create at least
- 8 twelve sites across The Episcopal Church where individuals may participate in parts of General
- 9 Convention via satellite downlink; and be it further
- 10
- 11 *Resolved*, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements explore other
- 12 opportunities for electronic connections to allow individuals not on site to participate in the
- 13 missional work of General Convention.
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17

EXPLANATION:
 General Convention is an enormous undertaking of our church, absorbing extraordinary time, energy and money. Its missional opportunity is comparably extraordinary. In New Orleans the House of Bishops worked in the community, and at Lambeth the bishop's walk to end poverty was one of the most highly reported actions. General Convention could connect Episcopalians as a larger community and make more visible our commitments to evangelism and service. With a streamlined legislative load, General Convention could become a time of community building, formation and witness to the world of The Episcopal Church's unique charism. With the benefit of technology and judicious choices of programming, General Convention could reach beyond the convention center. With careful attention to translation, this could assist in building wider understanding of The Episcopal Church's mission in communities where English is not the primary language.