

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A051
TITLE: Amending Article VIII of the Constitution
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons
COMMITTEE: Ministry

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A021 Amend Constitution Article VIII [Ordination -- First Reading]
2000-A042 Amend Constitution Article VIII [Requests for Ordination -- Second Reading]
2000-B051 Amend Canon III.19 [Implementation of *Called to Common Mission*]
1979-A017 Amend Canon III.13.1 [Of Ministers Ordained in Churches in Communion]

Indirectly Related:

2006-A025 Amend Canon I.20 [Of Churches in Full Communion]
2000-A040 Accept *Called to Common Mission* as the Basis for Full Communion

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-A021
Title: Amend Constitution Article VIII [Ordination -- First Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: A bishop may permit an ordained minister in good standing in a Church with which this Church is in full communion as specified by the Canons who has made the foregoing declaration, or a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required by that Church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis as an ordained minister of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 453-454.



Resolution Number: 2000-A042
Title: Amend Constitution Article VIII [Requests for Ordination -- Second Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church add a paragraph to the Constitution, Article VIII, as follows:

A bishop may permit a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required by that Church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis as an ordained minister of this church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 475f.



Resolution Number: 2000-B051
Title: Amend Canon III.19 [Implementation of Called to Common Mission]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon III.19 be amended by adding a new subsection (b)(4) to read as follows:

Provided, nothing herein shall be so construed as preventing:

(b) The Bishop of any Diocese from giving permission
(4) To a Member of the Clergy of this Church or the Wardens, in case of clergy vacancy or absence, to invite Clergy ordained in another Church in communion with this Church to officiate on an occasional basis, provided that such clergy shall teach and act in a manner consistent with the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 634.



Resolution Number: 1979-A017
Title: Amend Canon III.13.1 [Of Ministers Ordained in Churches in Communion]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That Title III, Canon 13 be amended to read as follows:**

CANON 13.

Of Ministers Ordained ~~in Foreign Countries~~ by Bishops of *Other Churches* in Communion with This Church

Sec. 1(a). A Minister declaring himself to have been ordained ~~beyond the limits of the United States~~ by a ~~foreign~~ Bishop of *another Church* in communion with this Church, or by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign country by Bishops of this Church under Article III of the Constitution shall, before he be permitted to officiate in any Parish or Congregation of this Church exhibit to the Minister, or, if there be no Minister, to the Vestry thereof, a certificate of recent date, signed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese that his letters of Holy Orders and other credentials are valid and authentic and given by a Bishop in communion with this Church, and whose authority is acknowledged by this Church, and also that he has exhibited to the said Ecclesiastical Authority satisfactory evidence of his moral and godly character and of his theological acquirements.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-82.

TOPIC/TITLE: Constitution: Amending Article VIII of the Constitution
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons
C&C PAGE: 8
BB PAGE: 115

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of
2 the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

3 A bishop may permit *an ordained minister in good standing in a church with which*
4 *this church is in full communion as specified by the Canons who has made the*
5 *foregoing declaration, or a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in*
6 *America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required*
7 *by that church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis*
8 *as an ordained minister of this church.*
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EXPLANATION:

This amendment was adopted as A021 in 2006. The explanation from the 2006 Blue Book Report stated:
"The current Constitution only permits occasional services by clergy of the ELCA. This amendment should
remove the need to amend the Constitution each time this church enters into an agreement of full
communion." The Commission recommends adoption at second reading in 2009.