

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A103  
**TITLE:** Development of a Web Site on Continuing Education  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Ministry Development  
**COMMITTEE:** Ministry

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2003-A121 Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals in All Dioceses  
2000-A074 Call on Dioceses to Maintain Continuing Education for Clergy and Lay Professionals  
1997-D034 Request Dioceses to Establish Minimum Continuing Education Standards  
1991-B035 Endorse Continuing Development and Care of Clergy

**Indirectly Related:**

2006-A051 Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically  
2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse  
2006-D082 Launch an Information Technology Cooperative Network  
2003-A080 Direct Episcopal Church Center to Maintain a User-Friendly Website  
1991-A064 Establish Educational Opportunities for New Congregational Development  
1988-A072 Direct Church Staff to Use Computers to Communicate on Educational Matters

*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:** 2003-A121  
**Title:** Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals in All Dioceses  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage each diocese to develop a plan and make provisions for the continuing education of all clergy and lay professionals in its jurisdiction, such plan and its progress to be reported annually to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses that do not have continuing education policies or programs be urged to participate in a pilot program for the development of a diocesan continuing education policy and program sponsored by the Office for Ministry Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$46,000 for implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 489.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A074  
**Title:** Call on Dioceses to Maintain Continuing Education for Clergy and Lay Professionals  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention call for the continuation of the work of resolution D034a passed by the 72nd General Convention, which reads as follows:*

**"That each diocese, through the cooperative efforts of the bishop and the commission on ministry, or other designated body, shall be responsible for:**

1. **Establishing minimum standards for continuing education, including what constitutes an acceptable program and the number of days or hours required per year;**
2. **Providing the ways and/or means, in collaboration with the leadership in the diocese, parish, and/or other institution, for continuing education to be made available to all clergy and lay professionals;**
3. **Developing standards and methods of accountability for assurance of compliance with their plan."**

**The plan devised by each diocese shall be submitted to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development and the Commission shall present guidelines for minimum hours or days for continuing education and make recommendations with provisions to the various dioceses and to the 74th General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 528.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-D034  
**Title:** Request Dioceses to Establish Minimum Continuing Education Standards  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That each diocese, through the cooperative efforts of the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry or other designated body, shall be responsible for:*

1. **Establishing minimum standards for continuing education, including what constitutes an acceptable program and the number of days or hours required per year;**
2. **Providing the ways and/or means, in collaboration with the leadership in the diocese, parish, and/or other institution, for continuing education to be made available to all clergy and lay professionals;**
3. **Developing standards and methods of accountability for assurance of compliance with their plan.**

**The plan devised by each diocese shall be submitted to the Board for Theological Education and the Board shall present reports on continuing education provisions in the diocese to each General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 272.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-B035  
**Title:** Endorse Continuing Development and Care of Clergy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church endorse the initial work of the Cornerstone Project in promoting and developing ways to support the clergy of this Church in the enhancing of their skills, self-care and wholeness; and be it further**  
*Resolved*, **That entities of this Church from parish to Executive Council be encouraged to see the continued development and care of the clergy as a high priority; and be it further**  
*Resolved*, **That dioceses adopt norms for the continuing education, clergy family support, sabbatical leave, annual retreat and professional standards as a means of supporting clergy in their pursuit of continued growth, wholeness and health; and be it further**  
*Resolved*, **That dioceses utilize offerings from within the Church and in the wider ecumenical community that enhance the above stated goals for the support and growth of the clergy.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 841.

TOPIC/TITLE: Continuing Education: Development of a Web Site on Continuing Education

PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Ministry Development

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE: 585

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention, in
- 2 recognition of Title III.4.2(b), III.7.5, III.9.1 and III.12.2, authorize the development of a web site
- 3 for the purposes of providing examples of best practices in continuing education, providing links
- 4 to suitable continuing education opportunities and providing examples of how to record the
- 5 continuing education of licensed ministers, deacons, priests and bishops; and be it further
- 6
- 7 *Resolved*, That the administration of the web site reside at The Episcopal Church Center, with
- 8 suitable staffing provided; and be it further
- 9
- 10 *Resolved*, That the General Convention requests the Joint Standing Commission on Program,
- 11 Budget and Finance to consider an annual budget allocation of up to \$20,000 to implement this
- 12 Resolution.
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EXPLANATION:

Due to the confusion over whether the Office for Ministry Development still exists, it has been problematic to gather relevant data on the scope of continuing education for clergy, lay professionals and licensed ministers. It is the workgroup's recommendation that meeting the requirements of the Canons would be enhanced if resources were made available online. Efficient use of the financial and human resources of the church would be enhanced if the online information on continuing education were contained in the same web site that addresses broader issues of theological education and Christian formation. Additionally, the workgroup proposed, and the SCMD concurred, to send a copy of the recently completed Commission on Ministry Handbook to every diocesan bishop with a cover letter to explain its benefits. The Office of Ministry Development developed this handbook, which explains the rationale behind each of the Title III Canons, and it includes examples of the best practices of the various dioceses as they fulfill the responsibilities of these Canons.