

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C013
TITLE: Support for Those Studying for Ordained Ministry
PROPOSER: Diocese of Spokane
COMMITTEE: Ministry

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-B006 Respond to Crisis of Educational Debt for Future Clergy
2003-A064 Convene a Partnership to Address the Issue of Seminarian Debt
1994-D002 Appropriate Scholarship Funds for Hispanic Seminarians
1979-B127 Approve in Principle a Form of Financial Support for Seminaries

Indirectly Related:

2006-D014 On the Topic of Reaffirming Financial Support for Seminaries (Rejected)
2003-A120 Convene a Strategic Planning Committee for Theological Education
2000-A113 Affirm Commitment to Seminaries and Encourage Contributions by Congregations
2000-D014 Reaffirm Financial Support of Seminaries and Theological Education Sunday
1997-A139 Affirm Commitment to the Seminaries and Request Parish Contributions
1994-A135 Reaffirm Commitment to the One Percent Contribution to Seminaries
1991-A226 Reaffirm Commitment of Congregational Giving to Theological Education
1991-C052 Allocate Funds for Scholarships to Hispanic Seminarians
1988-D058 Allocate Restricted Funds for Hispanic Scholarships
1988-D059 Authorize the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Trustees to Promote Scholarships
1988-D078 Request Congregations to Give Annually One Percent of Their Income to Seminaries
1982-D035 Endorse the Establishment of a Hispanic Theological Scholarship
1976-A084 Commend a Plan for the Financial Support of Theological Education

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-B006
Title: Respond to Crisis of Educational Debt for Future Clergy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention mandate that the Standing Commission on Ministry Development design strategies for raising awareness and responding to the crisis of educational debt for those preparing for ordained ministry in the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development in consultation with the Church Pension Fund, the Executive Council, the Office of Mission and Ministry, the diocesan Commissions on Ministries, the Office of Ministry Development, and the Society for the Increase of Ministry, shall share their results and recommendations with Proclaiming Education for All (PEALL) following each meeting of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, annually to the House of Bishops, and to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 684-685.



Resolution Number: 2003-A064
Title: Convene a Partnership to Address the Issue of Seminarian Debt
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to convene a partnership including members from the Church Pension Fund, the Episcopal Church Foundation, the Society for the Increase of the Ministry, the Episcopal Evangelical Education Society, the Council of Seminary Deans, and any other appropriate groups to address the urgent issue of seminarian debt and report back to the 75th General Convention with recommendations. This committee will include in its consideration the following points:

- **determining the feasibility of amortizing seminary loan payments over the course of a cleric's career;**
- **including seminarian debt in the pension premium of parochial/institutional clergy, distributed over the course of a cleric's career;**
- **dioceses and congregations committing a greater proportion of income to the support of people preparing for ordination and lay professions;**
- **seeking funding support for the debt reduction of newly ordained persons who serve in priority mission areas that are under-served and under-funded, including new church plants, multicultural and specialized cultural ministries and rural areas; and**
- **the development of a fund to defray the educational expenses of seminarians through partnerships.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 475f.



Resolution Number: 1994-D002
Title: Appropriate Scholarship Funds for Hispanic Seminarians
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 71st General Convention request the Executive Council to allocate from the Constable Fund or other appropriate source an amount of \$15,000 per year for this triennium to be awarded to Hispanic seminarians by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the appropriate unit at the Episcopal Church Center be requested to research sources of additional funding at this and future triennia.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 215.



Resolution Number: 1979-B127
Title: Approve in Principle a Form of Financial Support for Seminaries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 66th General Convention approves in principle a form of regular support for theological education for the ministry of the Church;** and, be it further *Resolved*, **That during the next triennium the Board for Theological Education, in close consultation with the Council of Deans of the Episcopal Seminaries, the Executive Council, and other concerned bodies, study the financial needs of our accredited theological seminaries and bring to the 67th General Convention a comprehensive plan for the funding of these institutions, including a method for the collection and disbursement of these funds;** and, be it further *Resolved*, **That in view of the inadequate response to the appeals for voluntary giving, considerations be given in the plan to a requirement that each parochial unit annually allocate a designated percentage of its non-capital income to such funding.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-94.

TOPIC/TITLE: Support for Those Studying for Ordained Ministry

PROPOSER: Diocese of Spokane

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of the
 2 Episcopal Church direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance
 3 to provide funding in the coming triennium in the amount of \$100,000 in year one,
 4 \$150,000 in year two and \$200,000 in year three for the purpose of providing needs-
 5 based scholarships for Episcopal Seminarians; and be it further
 6

7 *Resolved*, That said funds be administered and distributed to needy seminarians through
 8 the existing Scholarship Program of the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM),
 9 said Society having an established record of 151 years experience in administering
 10 scholarship grants to Episcopal seminarians; and be it further
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12 *Resolved*, That the General Convention direct SIM to report annually to the Executive
 13 Council on this work and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the future ordained
 14 leaders of this Church and that the Executive Council, in turn, provide a full report to the
 15 77th General Convention; and be it further
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17 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
 18 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$450,000 for the
 19 implementation of this resolution.
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 21

EXPLANATION:

The Episcopal Church remains the only major denomination in the United States that does not have a central funding source to support seminarians in their education, training and formation, and the high cost of seminary education and the threat of debilitating debt limits diversity among our seminary student bodies and limits the placement opportunities for ordinands to those congregations which pay better than others.

Sponsor(s): The Rev. Joan M.P. Anders, Diocese of New Jersey

Review Status: Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F