

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-C018  
**TITLE:** Supporting Theological Education Costs  
**PROPOSER:** Diocese of Newark  
**COMMITTEE:** Ministry

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**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  
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  
1988-D078 Request Congregations to Give Annually One Percent of Their Income to Seminaries  
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:** 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: Supporting Theological Education Costs

PROPOSER: Diocese of Newark

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee on
- 2 Program, Budget and Finance provide funding for the next triennium to underwrite the
- 3 mounting costs of theological education in the amounts of \$100,000 in year one,
- 4 \$150,000 in year two and \$200,000 in year three; and be it further
- 5
- 6 *Resolved*, That these funds be joined with those already provided by the Society for the
- 7 Increase of the Ministry (SIM) for the purpose of underwriting the mounting costs of
- 8 theological education and that an annual report of the use of these funds and their
- 9 effectiveness be made to the Executive Council.
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EXPLANATION:

SIM reported in autumn 2007 that some 42% of the graduating 2008 class will have incurred an estimated indebtedness of \$62,000 which will amount to about \$12,000 per year against a median income of \$45,500. SIM also reports a declining enrollment of students in the Master of Divinity degree programs at Episcopal seminaries (a decrease of 25% over the last three academic years) reportedly related to the level of incurred student indebtedness.