

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D046
TITLE: Baptismal Ecclesiology
PROPOSER: Ms. Katie Sherrod
COMMITTEE: Ministry

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A038	Develop Diocesan Level Leadership Programs
2003-A111	Revise Title III Canons
2003-A121	Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals in All Dioceses
1997-A134	Request Triennial Report on Diocesan Programs to Train the Laity
1994-C020	Amend Canon I.17.5 [Of Regulations Respecting the Laity]
1991-A072	Call Dioceses and Congregations to Discern Their Mission
1985-C056	Request a Report on Strategies for Including Working People in the Church Leadership
1982-D064	Affirm Support of Programs for Lay Ministry in the Secular World
1976-D005	Establish a Study Committee on Total Ministry

Indirectly Related:

2003-A059	Acknowledge Strategies and Skills for Church Leadership
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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-A038
Title: Develop Diocesan Level Leadership Programs
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention direct the offices of the Director of Mission to develop new leadership programs and/or to endorse existing leadership training programs for use at the diocesan level that help bishops and diocesan leadership in developing strategies, quantifiable action plans and timelines for accelerating their mission performance, and to develop quantitative measures of accountability for diocesan mission performance; and be it further Resolved, That these programs include a mechanism for dioceses to share their “best practices” and “lessons learned” in the process of accelerating their mission performance.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 225-226.



Resolution Number: 2003-A111
Title: Revise Title III Canons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

[*Resolved*, That Canons III.1 and III.2 are amended to read as follows.]

CANON 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons

Sec.1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

- (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
- (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.

Sec. 2. No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing, ordination, or election is hereby established.

CANON 2: Commissions on Ministry

Sec. 1. In each Diocese there shall be a Commission on Ministry ("Commission") consisting of Priests, Deacons, if any, and Lay Persons. The Canons of each Diocese shall provide for the number of members, terms of office, and manner of selection to the Commission.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall advise and assist the Bishop:

- (a) In the implementation of Title III of these Canons.
- (b) In the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons.
- (c) In the design and oversight of the ongoing process for discernment, formation for ministry and assessment of readiness therefor.

Sec. 3. The Commission may adopt rules for its work, subject to the approval of the Bishop; Provided that they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of the Diocese.

Sec. 4 The Commission may establish committees consisting of members and other persons to report to the Commission or to act on its behalf.

Sec. 5 The Bishop and Commission shall ensure that the members of the Commission and its committees receive ongoing education and training for their work.

Citation: Canon III.1 and 2 are excerpted from the Final Text of the revision to Canons Title III. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), pp. 641-667.



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: 1997-A134
Title: Request Triennial Report on Diocesan Programs to Train the Laity
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That consistent with the provisions of Title III, Canon 1 (Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons), the Council for the Development of Ministry, or other agency of the Executive Council as may be properly accountable for education of the laity, shall conduct a survey of all Dioceses every three years, which will describe the programs and budgets employed for the preparation and training of the laity for the exercise of their ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That prior to each General Convention a consolidated report of survey findings shall be prepared by the Council for the Development of Ministry or other appropriate agency and distributed to all Bishops and Deputies to the General Convention, to the Chairperson of each Diocesan Commission on Ministry, and to the Director of each training program identified in the survey.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 182.



Resolution Number: 1994-C020
Title: Amend Canon I.17.5 [Of Regulations Respecting the Laity]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That Title I, Canon 17, Section 5 be amended as follows: No person shall be denied rights, status [in], or [access to] an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of this Church because of race, color, [or] ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by [this] Canon.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 356.



Resolution Number: 1991-A072
Title: Call Dioceses and Congregations to Discern Their Mission
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention call all dioceses and congregations to discern and clarify their mission and commend *To Seek and To Serve* as a resource for this discernment.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 809.



Resolution Number: 1985-C056
Title: Request a Report on Strategies for Including Working People in the Church Leadership
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 68th General Convention request the State of the Church Committee to:**

1. **Assess the material reported to the 68th General Convention and subsequent studies on the realistic demographics of the Church and its impact on the Church's polity and ministry.**
2. **Make recommendations during the triennium to the Executive Council on the strategies and plans which will facilitate the potential for leadership and ministry in all people, especially those whose working conditions limit their involvement, and which will assure their inclusion in local, diocesan, provincial and national structures of the Church.**
3. **Report to the 69th General Convention on the plans and strategies recommended.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 175.



Resolution Number: 1982-D064
Title: Affirm Support of Programs for Lay Ministry in the Secular World
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That:**

A. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm that the primary Ministry of the Laity is in the world, including but not limited to the occupations, family relations, neighborhood relations, and social relations of the Laity.

B. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm that this Ministry of the Laity in the world is supported, affirmed, and grounded in the Church.

C. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church support the ready availability of programs designed to foster the Ministry of the Laity, including but not limited to programs dealing with:

1. **Identification of gifts for ministry;**
2. **Skills training for ministry;**
3. **Theological education for laity;**
4. **Spiritual formation and mutual spiritual support for ministry.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-108.



Resolution Number: 1976-D005
Title: Establish a Study Committee on Total Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 65th General Convention approve that the Board for Theological Education and the Program Committee on Lay Ministries of the Executive Council, in full consultation with the Ministry Council, be authorized to create a Study Committee on Total Ministry with special attention to the ministry of the laity; be it further**

Resolved, **That the 65th General Convention approve that this study include, but not be limited to, the following:**

1. **an analysis of the concept of the total Christian ministry of laity and clergy in their mutually supportive and interdependent roles,**
2. **an inventory of the resources available for the education and training of adult lay persons,**
3. **consideration of the possibility for certification of laity for specialized training and skills and, further, for the recognition of their accomplishment in ministry.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-118.

TOPIC/TITLE: Ministry: Baptismal Ecclesiology

PROPOSER: Ms. Katie Sherrod

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention call upon
 2 the President of the House of Deputies to appoint a House of Deputies study committee
 3 on the topic of baptismal ecclesiology. The committee is charged to prepare, for the
 4 whole Church, a report that explores and discusses implications of baptismal ecclesiology
 5 upon the current life and practices in the church; identify those practices that inhibit and
 6 those that enable the ministries of all the baptized; and develop and propose to the 77th
 7 General Convention, practices, policies and resources that support and encourage the
 8 ministry of the laity; and be it further
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10 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
 11 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$20,000 for the
 12 implementation of this resolution to support two face-to-face meetings. The bulk of the
 13 work will be done via electronic communication.
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EXPLANATION:

During this triennium the whole church has witnessed how empowered lay people can bring life into the church as they have reorganized and rebuilt dioceses in Fort Worth, San Joaquin and Pittsburgh. Lay ministry offers hope for a reinvigorated Church, but the Church currently has not fully tapped the energy, strength and skills of its lay members. A serious study solely on the ecclesiology of baptism will assist the whole church in effectively mining the vast resources, new ideas and energy that reside in the laity.

*Endorser(s):*Dr. Joan Gundersen, Ms. Nancy A Key Ms.

*Review Status:*Not Yet Reviewed by PB&F