

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-D065  
**TITLE:** Youth Seat, Voice and Vote on Vestry  
**PROPOSER:** The Rev. LeeAnne Watkins  
**COMMITTEE:** Ministry

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A040 On the Topic of Leadership Skills and Training Materials for Young Adults (Rejected)  
2003-A065 Support Young Adult Leadership Programs  
1997-A147 Consider Young Adults for National Church Service  
1991-D116 Affirm the Importance of Young Adults in the Life of the Church

**Indirectly Related:**

2003-A077 Develop Strategies for Ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults  
2003-A079 Recommend Diversity Among General Convention Deputations  
1997-D089 Encourage Dioceses to Elect Young Adult Deputies  
1994-D115 Support Seat and Voice for Youth at Church Conventions

*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-A040  
**Title:** On the Topic of Leadership Skills and Training Materials for Young Adults  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected

*Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention direct the ~~Congregational Development Office~~ Office for Young Adult Ministry to offer leadership training opportunities for young adults during the next triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct the Office of Congregational Development during the next triennium to (a) ~~include~~increase awareness of concerns about ministry with ~~Y~~young ~~A~~adults in training events and (b) develop *and provide mentoring models to parishes and dioceses so that established church leaders can foster leadership in young adults*educational resources for parish and diocesan leaders (of all ages) who seek to provide Young Adult ministry; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention direct the Office of Young Adult Ministry to develop strategies for young adults for the encouragement and inclusion in leadership roles in the life of the church*~~each diocese be required to have at least two adults under the age of 30 serving on diocesan governing boards; and be it further~~

*Resolved, That parishes and dioceses be encouraged to appoint and/or nominate young adults age 18-30 to serve on vestries, boards, commissions and committees; and be it further*

*Resolved, That ~~the~~parishes and dioceses communicate widely the availability of these positions to young adults in the diocese; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the statistics related to ~~names of~~the young adults filling these positions be added to the annual diocesan parochial report.*



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A065  
**Title:** Support Young Adult Leadership Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Ministries with Young People Cluster be directed to review and identify existing internships and leadership programs for 18–30 year-old members of our church, particularly seeking programs that focus on social justice, discipleship, simple living, intentional community, spiritual formation, theological reflection, and vocational discernment; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage dioceses, congregations, educational institutions, and other organizations of our church to explore and develop new internships and leadership development programs for 18–30 year-old members of our church, including programs that send young people into mission fields to do the work of the church; and to seek funding from additional sources to support this work; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Ministries with Young People Cluster be directed to support these efforts, and to hold these programs up to dioceses, congregations, institutions, and other organizations of our church, so that they may be shared and implemented throughout our church; 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 \$500,000 per year, for a total of \$1,500,000 during the next triennium, for implementation of this resolution, and that this allocation be used to support young adults' participation in these programs and the development efforts that are encouraged in this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 609f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A147  
**Title:** Consider Young Adults for National Church Service  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That young adults in the 19 to 30 age range be considered for appointment as members of Committees, Commissions, Boards and Agencies of this Church.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 236.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-D116  
**Title:** Affirm the Importance of Young Adults in the Life of the Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize and affirm the importance of young adults, those aged 18-35, in the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit of the Church Center Staff be encouraged in its continuing work with young adult ministry;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That this Convention call upon all dioceses and their congregations to continue the development of ministries with young adults, and to cooperate with the Church Center Staff in its research of existing efforts;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Church Center Staff through the Executive Council report its findings and make specific recommendations for action to the next General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 840.

TOPIC/TITLE: Youth: Youth Seat, Voice and Vote on Vestry

PROPOSER: The Rev. LeeAnne Watkins

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That each congregation create at least one  
2 youth seat on their Vestry or Bishop's Committee. This seat(s) would include voice and  
3 vote for a one year term for a youth between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.  
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EXPLANATION:

This resolution encourages young people to more fully participate in the leadership of the Church and take on the responsibility that that entails. Young people given this opportunity have found that their participation has been a transformative experience and has been a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard. This will give youth a sense of ownership in the Church and further encourages them to engage in Church leadership in the future. Taking youth leadership seriously must be a priority to maintain and grow the Church. It is vital for each congregation to nurture and support young people in their leadership activities in the Church.