

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A049
TITLE: Task Force to Empower Data Sharing in the Episcopal Church
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication
COMMITTEE: Stewardship and Development

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A049 Adopt Open Standards For Data
2006-D082 Launch an Information Technology Cooperative Network
2000-A048 Encourage Consideration of the Environment When Choosing Electric Energy Supplier
1997-B015 Direct the Executive Council to Initiate a Communications Strategy

Indirectly Related:

2006-A048 Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
2006-A051 Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
1997-A133 Request Executive Council to Refine Reports on Church Census

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-A049
Title: Adopt Open Standards For Data
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church move toward adopting recognized open standards for the data that are used in its electronic communications and data storage. A recognized open standard is defined to be one that is documented by, and whose specification is controlled by, a well-known national or international standards body; and be it further
Resolved, That proprietary data descriptions using these standards be fully published; and be it further
Resolved, That these recommended standards be communicated to the dioceses and congregations of The Episcopal Church and our ecumenical partners.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 285-286.



Resolution Number: 2006-D082
Title: Launch an Information Technology Cooperative Network
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication to organize an information technology cooperative network for dioceses and congregations of The Episcopal Church, whose charter would be to identify common information challenges across the Church that could be met with standard technology solutions: identifying, documenting, and publishing best practices already in use or working with technology providers to design and develop cost-effective, standard solutions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 286.



Resolution Number: 2000-A048
Title: Encourage Consideration of the Environment When Choosing Electric Energy Supplier
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions, in choosing electric energy suppliers, to examine the choices of energy generation, and to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources, especially those deriving from sun and wind; and be it further

Resolved, That the church at every level seek out expertise in selecting an energy provider through such resources as Episcopal Power and Light.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 329.



Resolution Number: 1997-B015
Title: Direct the Executive Council to Initiate a Communications Strategy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in this time of revolutionary technologies, the 72nd General Convention urge the comprehensive use of print, video, audio, digital, and other communications media to disseminate information and build community within the Church itself; and be it further

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention direct the Executive Council to initiate the development, implementation and assessment of a unified, coordinated communications strategy for mission and ministry, to include:

- Use of current and emerging tools of communications;
- Initiatives to develop and implement this strategy in partnerships with the staff at the Church Center, Episcopal Communicators, Provincial and Diocesan staff communicators, other Church agencies involved in communications, and outside experts in the field;
- Establishment of an accountable oversight team to include both Church employees and other Episcopalians who are nationally recognized in the field of new and emerging technologies, which is charged with managing the requirements and recommendations of this Resolution, establishing and monitoring benchmarks to assess the effectiveness of this strategy, and reporting to Executive Council within the revised structure of the Church;
- Coordination of existing capital plans for information systems hardware and software at the Church Center;
- Training for the effective utilization of these new technologies by Church Center personnel; and be it further

Resolved, That appropriate expenditures be made in the coming triennium to facilitate this strategy, including:

- An amount not less than \$60,000 to be allocated from funds budgeted for the communications area, to develop and distribute educational materials to assist Diocesan and Parish leadership understanding media in all forms;
- An amount not less than \$150,000 to be allocated from funds budgeted for the communications area, to provide consultants to assist in the implementation of this strategy, and guidance in the selection, purchase, and use of all the tools of communications at each level of our Church;
- A matching grant pool, established by Executive Council and funded from existing trust, restricted, or reserve resources, for use by dioceses as demonstration or start-up grants consistent with this strategy; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention mandate that the Executive Council present a continuing contemporary communications vision to the 73rd General Convention, including provisions for implementation in the proposed budget for the next triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 224-225.

17 - Stewardship and Development: HB

A049

TOPIC/TITLE: Communications: Task Force to Empower Data Sharing in the Episcopal Church

PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE: 108

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church directs
3 Executive Council to require the official bodies of The Episcopal Church to agree on
4 appropriate mechanisms and formats to share the data they have collected between
5 themselves and report back to the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church
6 Communications by the end of the coming Triennium.
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EXPLANATION:

At present there is no complete list of Episcopal clergy or lay leadership and no complete list of contact information. The Pension Group has one set of data, the Church Center has another, and dioceses have various additions. This Resolution, if enacted, would call upon the bodies, which are charged with gathering and administrative oversight of data important to the work of The Episcopal Church, to work to share the data (as allowed by law and as appropriately needed.)