

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A069
TITLE: Funding Mission Funding Office
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
COMMITTEE: Stewardship and Development

Directly Related: (attached)

2003-A140 Establish a Mission Funding Office for the Church
2003-B004 Appoint a Mission Funding Task Force

Indirectly Related:

2003-A075 Charge Dioceses to Foster a Culture of Mission
1994-A040 Support Mission Programs at Local, Diocesan and Provincial Levels
1982-A151 Adopt a Policy for Long-range Planning

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: 2003-A140
Title: Establish a Mission Funding Office for the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That in recognition of the 20/20 initiatives, creating a need to raise large sums of money for mission and the very real potential for major gifts that parish and diocesan funding efforts do not attract; the 74th General Convention urge the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council to establish a Mission Funding Office for The Episcopal Church, grounded in the stewardship theology of this church; and be it further

Resolved, That this office initiate a discernment process for a church-wide mission funding effort focused on, but not limited to, the 20/20 initiatives and on fostering cooperative seeking of new funds at all levels of the church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 590.



Resolution Number: 2003-B004
Title: Appoint a Mission Funding Task Force
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That in light of the need for resources to fulfill the 20/20 initiatives and to more fully address the many issues facing The Episcopal Church at all levels, this 74th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint a task force of 12 people, including, among others, members of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development, the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance and the Committee on the State of the Church. This task force is to be named the Mission Funding Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, That the Mission Funding Task Force will undertake a comprehensive study on the systems and procedures for funding, budgeting, and expenditure of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; and be it further

Resolved That this study include, but not be limited to the following issues:

- **The level of the church at which mission support is most efficient**
- **The best use of resources and the possible need for redirection of resources**
- **The effectiveness in supporting our stated priorities**
- **Possible unexplored efficiencies**
- **The review of existing commitments with quantification of the discretionary funding amount remaining after funding those commitments**
- **The most efficient and equitable method of funding the budget**
- **The encouragement of mutual responsibility, equity, and accountability to and among the dioceses of the church.**

The Task Force will report its findings and recommendations for consideration at the 75th General Convention; 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 \$75,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 632.

17 - Stewardship and Development: HB

A069

TOPIC/TITLE: Budget: Funding Mission Funding Office
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 128

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention fully fund
- 2 Mission Funding Initiative to raise \$250,000,000 over the next six years; and be it further
- 3
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program,
- 5 Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$5,000,000 for the implementation of this
- 6 Resolution.
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EXPLANATION:

In 2003 the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism made the following statement: The Episcopal Church is rich in undeveloped economic resources. At both local and national levels the Church needs advice on how we might creatively use our assets to underwrite and enable our vision. In 2005 the Executive Council accepted a recommendation from an appointed task force and established the Mission Funding Initiative, which was subsequently ratified at the 2006 General Convention. Planning has since proceeded, and the Mission Funding Office has prepared case statements for several capital funds. Mission Funding needs expanded staff capacity to develop relationships and cultivate donors. Our vision for mission has too often been too small. We think in terms of small efforts of church planting and are disappointed when our small vision reaps even smaller rewards. The Good News is life-giving and life-changing. The church should invite those who have been transformed to make gifts that will change the very nature of the church and fuel our church planting and mission development for fifty years. Churches are often hesitant to create sophisticated mechanisms of fund development. Our hesitation misses opportunities. With modest and relatively passive means of fund development, the church has received much. With diligence, intention and action, the church can build capacities to do what God is calling us to do: build up the church and proclaim the Gospel. The Mission Funding Initiative will allow us to create a major fund development center for The Episcopal Church that could serve all parts of the church. It needs a budget adequate to the need and opportunity.