

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C067
TITLE: Litigation Expense Disclosure
PROPOSER: Diocese of West Texas
COMMITTEE: Stewardship and Development

Directly Related: (attached)

None

Indirectly Related:

None

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.

TOPIC/TITLE: Litigation Expense Disclosure

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C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of the
2 Episcopal Church direct the office of the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council to
3 provide the following information to each Diocese of the Church:
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- 5 (a) The dollar amount spent by TEC on litigation against dioceses, parishes, groups
6 of churches and individuals since General Convention, 2006;
- 7 (b) A list of the church accounts and/or budget items from which these funds were
8 taken;
- 9 (c) An explanation of the line item described in the Domestic & Foreign Missionary
10 Society Budgetary Summary as: Additional Draw from short-term reserve for legal
11 support to dioceses exceeding budget for 2008-\$1,520,000.00;
- 12 (d) The amount of money budgeted for litigation for the next Triennium;
- 13 (e) An estimate of the amount of property value retained and expected to be retained
14 by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (PECUSA) because
15 of pending and completed litigation as of General Convention 2009.

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EXPLANATION:

The Episcopal Church has engaged in litigation in numerous dioceses across the country in cases involving property disputes with local parishes which have elected to depart TEC. This litigation has been initiated by either the local diocese or the parish against the other party. TEC intervened as a party in interest aligned with the local diocese. Substantial legal fees and related expenses have been incurred on behalf of TEC. Beginning in 2007, requests have been made by various parties to the Executive Council which is responsible for the governance of TEC between General Conventions for financial disclosure of the source of funds and the amounts expended. However no response has been made to date.