

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-D041  
**TITLE:** Equitable Distribution of Goods within TEC  
**PROPOSER:** The Rev. Wendy K. Abrahamson  
**COMMITTEE:** 17 - Stewardship and Development: HB

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2003-B004      Appoint a Mission Funding Task Force

**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.*



**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**

D041

TOPIC/TITLE: Stewardship: Equitable Distribution of Goods within TEC

PROPOSER: The Rev. Wendy K. Abrahamson

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention ask the  
2 Presiding Bishop to form a task force to examine options for equitable, progressive,  
3 systematic distribution of financial resources across the Episcopal Church; and be it  
4 further  
5  
6 *Resolved*, That this task force examine ways which dioceses with abundant resources  
7 could share more with dioceses that have few, and that this sharing focus on needs such  
8 as clergy deployment, physical plant maintenance and staffing; and be it further  
9  
10 *Resolved*, That the Presiding Bishop and the Joint Committee on Program, Budget and  
11 Finance appoint individual members to this task force from existing Commissions or  
12 Committees that they think appropriate, as well as appoint persons not currently on  
13 Commissions or Committees who have useful expertise, and that this task force report  
14 initial suggestions and recommendations to the 77th General Convention; and be it finally  
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16 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on  
17 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$ 20,000.00 to support  
18 the task force.  
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**EXPLANATION:**

There is significant disparity of financial resources from one diocese of our Church to another. The difference arises in large part to things like population density, whether a diocese is in an historically wealthy or poor part of the country, or regional vulnerability of certain industries, for examples. The financial differences are not due to greater or lesser faithfulness or dedication to the Gospel from one diocese to another. Those dioceses with abundant resources generously reach out to brothers and sisters in parts of our Church with few; but the disparity remains, and in many instances the gap is quite large. This financial disparity hurts the entire Episcopal Church in a variety of ways, and impairs our ability, Church-wide, to be effective with our mission priorities, both national and local. Simply put, those places with few resources have difficulty affording clergy, maintaining physical plants, and conducting basic day-to-day

*Endorser(s):* The Rev. Melvin Schlachter, The Hon. Margaret (Maggie) Tinsman

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

simple business. Evangelism and the sharing of the Good News suffers, mission suffers, our stewardship and sharing of clergy, understood as a resource of the Church for the whole Church, suffers. Further, "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2.44-47).

BALLOT RESULTS:

*Endorser(s):*The Rev. Melvin Schlachter, The Hon. Margaret (Maggie) Tinsman

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