

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A046
TITLE: Creation of Position of Information Officer
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication
COMMITTEE: Communications

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A048 Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
2006-A051 Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
2006-D082 Launch an Information Technology Cooperative Network
2003-D069 Amend Canon I.1.2(n) [Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication]
1997-B015 Direct the Executive Council to Initiate a Communications Strategy

Indirectly Related:

2006-A049 Adopt Open Standards For Data
2003-A080 Direct Episcopal Church Center to Maintain a User-Friendly Website

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-A048
Title: Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Church Center and other church bodies to adopt industry appropriate “best-practices” when adopting new technology and in making communication decisions; and be it further

Resolved, That task force groups of not fewer than five persons be named to serve as volunteer consultants as needed to help the entities of the church implement this guideline. These persons shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer of DFMS.

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



Resolution Number: 2006-A051
Title: Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards of the General Convention to begin a process to accomplish an appropriate portion of their work more efficiently and economically by using online tools, conference calls, and video conferences.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 177.



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: 2003-D069
Title: Amend Canon I.1.2(n) [Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention affirm the policy that broad, diverse, and multi-faceted communication is central to and essential for the mission of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That effective communication is an overarching ministry and cannot be fulfilled as either a list of tasks or an addendum to other facets of the Church's mission and ministries; and be it further
Resolved, That a national strategy for communication must meet the needs of, and be reflective of, a broad and diverse church; and be it further
Resolved, That Canon I.1.2(n) be amended by adding this subsection:
(12) A Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication consisting of 14 members (4 Bishops, 4 Priests and/or Deacons, and 6 Lay Persons). It shall be the duty of the Commission to guide the policies, participate in the strategic planning, and share in the oversight of implementing a comprehensive communication strategy for the Episcopal Church;
And be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$0 for implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 336.



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.

19 - Communications

A046

TOPIC/TITLE: Communications: Creation of Position of Information Officer
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication
C&C PAGE:
BB PAGE: 107

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church calls upon the Executive Council to work with the Presiding Bishop to create
3 or task an existing staff position with the role of Chief Information Officer in The Episcopal
4 Church.
5
6
7
8
9

EXPLANATION:

The role of a Chief Information Officer is well understood in modern business settings. The Episcopal Church at present has no strategic plan to use its existing technology platforms (e-mail servers, database structure, personal computers and mobile devices) effectively and no plan to remove obsolete equipment and services and replace them in a cost-effective and timely manner with new. By creating a position (which brings with it the perhaps in-surmountable challenge of finding funding) or tasking an existing staff person with this responsibility and the necessary authority, The Episcopal Church Center can begin to implement best-practices in these areas.