

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D034
TITLE: Continuing Episcopal Life and Diocesan Partnerships
PROPOSER: Mr. G. Herb Gunn
COMMITTEE: Communications

Directly Related: (attached)

1991-D157 Encourage Balanced Presentation in Episcopal Life , as well as Non-English Language Editions and Full Church Distribution

Indirectly Related:

2000-B029 Recognize the Ministry of Communication of the Episcopal Church
2000-D050 Encourage the Work of a Communication Committee of Executive Council
1997-B015 Direct the Executive Council to Initiate a Communications Strategy



Resolution Number: 1991-D157
Title: Encourage Balanced Presentation in Episcopal Life, as well as Non-English Language Editions and Full Church Distribution
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend the editors and staff of *Episcopal Life* for their work over the past two years and encourage them to continue to strive for a balanced presentation of the many important issues that are now facing the Church;** and be it further

Resolved, **That *Episcopal Life* be encouraged to develop editions of its publication in Spanish and other languages to better minister to our non-English speaking members;** and be it further

Resolved, **That *Episcopal Life* work towards making its publication available to every Episcopal household.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 843.

TOPIC/TITLE: Continuing Episcopal Life and Diocesan Partnerships

PROPOSER: Mr. G. Herb Gunn

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm
2 the Executive Council's Board of Governors' oversight responsibility for Episcopal Life
3 (the print publication in newspaper and/or magazine form) as established when the
4 newspaper was founded in 1990; and be it further

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6 *Resolved*, that the policies and practices of the publication and its relationship with its
7 printing partners be established by the Board of Governors of Episcopal Life; and be it
8 further

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10 *Resolved*, that Executive Council restore the appointment of an Executive Council liaison
11 to the Board of Governors; and be it further

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13 *Resolved*, that in order to strengthen its oversight role, Executive Council consider
14 changing the membership of the Board of Governors so that the Presiding Bishop and
15 President of the House of Deputies shall appoint three (3) bishops, three (3) priests and/or
16 deacons, and six (6) lay persons; and be it further

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18 *Resolved*, that Executive Council ensure that a minimum of three (3) members of the
19 Board of Governors are drawn from editors of diocesan printing partners with Episcopal
20 Life; and be it further

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22 *Resolved*, that Episcopal Life continue to publish and circulate a monthly print
23 publication and strengthen The Episcopal Church as a vital ministry resource for the
24 dozens of dioceses that rely on Episcopal Life for news coverage, mailing list
25 maintenance, and printing and postal collaboration.

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EXPLANATION:

Not only is Episcopal Life the newspaper for the Episcopal Church and a vehicle that reaches a quarter of a million readers every month, but also Episcopal Life is the flagship news publication for 32 diocesan newspapers joined in a printing partnership. The printing partnerships constitute 90 percent of the Episcopal Life subscriptions. Any plan to jettison the printing partnership will not only imperil the diocesan

Endorser(s): The Rev. J. Thomas Downs, The Rev. Rayford Ray

newspapers, it could decimate the circulation of Episcopal Life. The Episcopal Life printing partnership is a clear example of a ministry of the Episcopal Church that is a resource for the whole Church, offering direct and essential support for diocesan communication ministries. Emerging technologies offer The Episcopal Church new methods of communicating with new and different audiences, and can be complementary and mutually beneficial in a communication strategy that includes a print vehicle reaching a broad cross section of Episcopalians with news of their Church. Furthermore, a thriving and collaborative newspaper offers the community of the Episcopal Church a common point of reference for understanding the variety of life and ministry across the Church. The Executive Council created the Board of Governors for Episcopal Life in June 1990 (see Executive Council Minutes, June 11-15, 1990, Fresno, CA, pp. 49-50) to monitor the effectiveness, health, and wellbeing of the newspaper. Twice during the recent triennial, efforts have been initiated to supplant the budget of Episcopal Life in consultation with neither the Episcopal Life Board of Governors nor the dioceses that depend upon the partnership to maintain and circulate their diocesan publications. Episcopal Life offers an essential communication resource to nearly one-third of the dioceses across the Episcopal Church, without which communication with one another and communication within these dioceses will be significantly diminished and in some cases disappear. The newspaper partnership is both a symbol of our unity and a forum through which we discuss our differences. Support Document, Executive Council Minutes, June 11-15, 1990, Fresno, CA, pp. 49-50, is posted on the General Convention website until the end of convention and a hard copy is available in the General Convention Secretariat.

BALLOT RESULTS:

Endorser(s): The Rev. J. Thomas Downs, The Rev. Rayford Ray