

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D058
TITLE: Creation of Information Technology Cooperative Network
PROPOSER: The Rev. Canon James H. Pritchett Jr.
COMMITTEE: Communications

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A048 Adopt Industry Best Practices for Technology and Communications
2006-D082 Launch an Information Technology Cooperative Network
2000-B029 Recognize the Ministry of Communication of the Episcopal Church
1997-B015 Direct the Executive Council to Initiate a Communications Strategy

Indirectly Related:

2006-A051 Direct General Convention Bodies to Use Technology to Work Efficiently and Economically
1988-A072 Direct Church Staff to Use Computers to Communicate on Educational Matters

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-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: 2000-B029
Title: Recognize the Ministry of Communication of the Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention recognize the ministry of communication as an essential component of the mission of the Episcopal Church and a priority for sustained budgetary support; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church recognize that effective communication is not a task to be accomplished but a ministry in which the whole community is engaged; and be it further

Resolved, That proactive communication focus on mission and outreach, on a broad and open discussion of the critical issues before the Church, and on opportunities for service and ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That, insofar as possible, a multi-faceted, convergence approach to Episcopal Church communication include diocesan newspapers, parish newsletters, public media campaigns, mass media, web development, audio-visual programs, open or closed captioning, and various other new technologies such as e-mail and electronic-conferencing; and be it further

Resolved, That because people communicate in multiple ways, including signing, Braille, and many spoken and written languages, church communication needs to encompass this diversity to be effective.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 310f.



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.

TOPIC/TITLE: Technology: Creation of Information Technology Cooperative Network

PROPOSER: The Rev. Canon James H. Pritchett Jr.

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of the
2 Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication
3 to organize an information technology cooperative network for dioceses and
4 congregations of The Episcopal Church, whose charter would be to identify common
5 information challenges across the Church that could be met with standard technology
6 solutions: identifying best practices already in use or working with technology providers
7 to design and develop cost-effective, standard solutions; and be it further

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9 Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications will
10 report its progress to the 77th General Convention.

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EXPLANATION:

Except for the reporting requirement, the text of this resolution is taken from 2006-D082. While General Convention 2006 passed that resolution, the task has yet to be accomplished. Currently, many of our dioceses and parishes are facing the same information technology challenges and independently are trying to solve similar problems and accomplish similar goals. This is wasteful and inefficient.

Endorser(s):The Very Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, Mr. R. Stephen Gracey