

The Executive Council Report to the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church is the Church's interim governing body, charged with steering the Church's course between General Conventions. Executive Council is specifically charged with seeing that the legislation passed by General Convention is implemented in the course of the triennium.

Because of the large and diverse body of legislation passed by the 69th General Convention meeting in Detroit, Michigan, in 1988, and the strong actions mandated by the Eight Mission Imperatives also adopted by the Detroit Convention, the Executive Council polled its members in September-October 1990 as part of their preparation for the 70th General Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, in July, 1991. In responding to the poll, Council members assessed the work of the triennium nearing its conclusion, took stock of the work that still lay ahead, and determined the form their report to the Phoenix Convention might take.

In their poll, the Council members identified significant legislation realized in some seven areas of concern: Social and Economic Justice; Alternative Investment; the creation of *Episcopal Life*; Native American ministries; the Decade of Evangelism; Stewardship of all of our resources, including the Earth itself, our greatest resource; and the enabling of International Ministries—all in a continuing awareness of the eight Mission Imperatives that had informed the spirit of the Detroit Convention and its legislative program. They also identified areas for which they would recommend more or further work to be addressed by the Phoenix Convention. And they indicated the kind of report about their work that would most simply and accurately inform Convention and the whole Church about the ongoing work of the Executive Council. The format presented here represents the latter decision.

The Executive Council held nine regular meetings and one special meeting during the triennium, responding to the mandates of the 1988 General Convention in Detroit and to other ongoing concerns of the Church as they emerged. (The seven major areas of concern and a summary of Council's response to them appears in the center column; the Mission Imperative/s empowering the response and a selection of concurred resolutions informing the response appear in the left-hand column; and concurred resolutions with budget implications for the response appear in the right-hand column.)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE TRIENNIUM (1988-1991)

November 15-18, 1988	(first meeting of the triennium) The Episcopal Church Center, New York, N.Y.
February 28-March 2, 1989	The Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas
June 12-16, 1989	The Westin William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
November 3-6, 1989	The Episcopal Church Center, New York, N.Y.
March 5-9, 1990	The Marriott Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri

THE BLUE BOOK

June 11-14, 1990	Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno, California
November 2-5, 1990	Crowne Plaza Hilton Hotel, New York, N.Y.
January 5, 1991	(Special one-day meeting addressing the concerns of Council members and others in the Church about Phoenix, Arizona, as the site of the 70th General Convention.) Elizabeth, New Jersey
January 28-February 1, 1991	DeSoto Hilton Hotel, Savannah, Georgia
April 22-26, 1991	The Ramada Inn, Portland, Maine

CONCURRED RESOLUTIONS OF THE 69TH GENERAL CONVENTION*

A-041	Study "Implications of the Gospel"
A-042	Participate/Anglican-Old Catholic Theological Conference
A-052	Financial responsibility for <i>The Episcopalian</i>
A-056s	Appoint legislative committee on communication
A-065	Authorize GOE Fee
A-66a	Education and mission in congregations
A-068a	Develop leadership training program
A-069	Develop action research project
A-070a	Seminaries' role in congregational education
A-071	Prepare Christian education manual
A-072a	Use of computers in educational ministry
A-074	Achieve balance of women and men in church bodies
A-077	Appoint Committee on Status of Women
A-084sa	Appoint Joint Select Committee to study church funding
A-092a	Establish and fund a Commission on Racism
A-098a	Directions for implementation of the catechumenate
A-099a	Preparation for Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant
A-114	Response to Jubilee Proclamation
A-116	Support public school education
A-133s	Publish Spanish translation of <i>The Constitution and Canons</i>
A-134a	Lay Employees Retirement Plan
A-135	CDO registration of lay professionals
A-137	Add to CDM membership
A-139a	Prepare and fund black hymnal collection
A-144	Financial support for Anglican Peace and Justice Network
A-146	Ministry of healing and reconciliation in Central America
A-153a	Permanent staff position for Rural and Small Town Ministry
A-154s	Additional field officer for Rural and Small Town Ministry
A-156a	Developing vitality in mission in congregations
A-157	Episcopal Day School study
A-159a	Work with Working Class Ministry Conference Steering Committee
A-160	Workshops on Parochial Report
A-161	Produce demographic information on church membership
A-165	Commend "1987 Tithing Survey"
A-176	Make available past actions of GC, Council, Bishops
A-179a	Evaluate autonomy process
A-181	Strategic planning for theological education
A-182a	Coordination of theological education endeavors

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

- A-183 Study Church's recruitment and screening process
- A-188a Develop "Pan Anglican Program in World Mission Theology"
- A-192 General Program Budget
- A-193 Site selection for 1991 General Convention
- B-008a Recognize National Episcopal AIDS Coalition
- B-009 Study and report on "right to die" issues and concerns
- B-014a Continue Clergy Enrichment Project
- B-015 Convene Consultation of Laity to identify Economic Issues and Ethics
- B-016s Amend Canon I.1.2.(n)(4) and add new Sec. (10)
- B-017s Extend regional support for Hispanic ministry
- B-018s Establish Joint Commission on AIDS
- B-028a Philippine covenant and autonomy
- B-042 Theological groundwork prior to work of all Joint Commissions
- B-043 Bilateral dialogue with COCU
- B-044s Maintain an Episcopal Church mailing list
- B-048 Honoring the late Louis Farrell, Esq.
- B-049 Proliferation and size of Standing Commissions
- B-050 Resolution on South Africa
- B-051a Namibian independence
- B-053a Shell Oil boycott
- C-009a Support for restoration of Sioux Nation treaty rights
- C-011 Implementation of national student gatherings
- C-028 Clergy pension
- C-030a Economic justice—Michigan Plan
- C-035a Employee program on alcohol abuse
- C-036 Alcohol and Drug Awareness Day
- C-037a Federal programs on alcohol and drug abuse
- C-045s Trial period extension in Central American dioceses
- D-002a Partners in Mission in the Pacific Basin
- D-004 Authorize continuation of Task Force on Accessibility
- D-024a Assist dioceses to include religious freedom concerns in daily calendar
- D-058a Allocate funds/undesignated legacies/Hispanic scholarship
- D-059a Special annual offering/Hispanic Scholarship Trust
- D-112a Fund the Episcopal Radio/TV Foundation
- D-113s "815" staff person to oversee refugee work
- D-125a Condemn acts of terrorism
- D-129a Establish position of Program Coordinator/Liturgy/Music
- D-147 Authorize continuation of Task Force on Accessibility
- D-152a Undertake youth ministry study
- D-158s Update White and Dykman
- D-163 Children's Advisory Committee as a resource to the Church

*Concurred resolutions with budget implications with the exception of A-192 (General Program Budget), which was not concurred but informs the budgetary aspects of the concurred resolutions.

AREAS OF CONCERN

IMPERATIVE IV: Communicate in a compelling way the work of the Church in response to the Gospel.

**SOME LEGISLATION
INFORMING COUNCIL
RESPONSE**



EPISCOPAL LIFE

Acting on the strength of a mandate from the 69th General Convention and specific concurred resolutions, Executive Council explored, through the Communication subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Mission and Outreach and debate in Council, the ways in which a communication strategy could be developed for the whole Church that would include a strong print medium that would reach the whole Church and impact positively on its corporate life.

**LEGISLATION WITH
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

A-047a The Episcopalian directors

A-052 Financial responsibility for The Episcopalian

A-048a The Episcopalian

Pertinent Convention legislation called on Council to stabilize the increasingly difficult financial position of *The Episcopalian*. However, debate in successive Council meetings, informed by a professional survey and analysis of the Church's communication needs, indicated the advisability of assuming and closing out the financial responsibilities of *The Episcopalian* and moving forward to create a new print communication medium for the whole Church, to be called *Episcopal Life*.

A-050 Goals for The Episcopalian

A-051 The Episcopalian

IMPERATIVE I: Inspire others by serving them and leading them to seek, follow, and serve Jesus Christ through membership in his Church.

IMPERATIVE II: Develop and promote educational systems and resources which support the ministry of the people of God.

**SOME LEGISLATION
INFORMING COUNCIL
RESPONSE**



EVANGELISM

In this triennium, the Anglican Communion moved toward the beginning of the Decade of Evangelism in 1990. The 69th General Convention, anticipating the Decade, made provision for its observance, and Council supported and encouraged the Evangelism Ministries Office as well as

**LEGISLATION WITH
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

A-057a Evangelism plan of action

A-098a Directions for implementation of the catechumenate

- A-059s Divide Evangelism and Renewal Commissions*
- A-060 Budget for Evangelism and Renewal*
- A-061 Evangelism and Renewal, BTE projects*
- A-100a Preparation of baptismal sponsors*
- A-099a Preparation for Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant*
- A-156a Developing vitality in mission in congregations*
- A-161 Produce demographic information on church membership*
- B-042 Theological groundwork prior to work of Joint Commissions*

evangelism elements in other program areas at the Church Center. The Church's ongoing program of mission discernment was also affirmed.

In the course of the triennium, the Church's mission in evangelism was strengthened with important new written resources and program developments, and the Episcopal Church was empowered to make a significant contribution to the Decade of Evangelism in the context of the Anglican Communion.

IMPERATIVE VI: Act in faithful stewardship in response to the biblical teaching of the right use of God's creation.



STEWARDSHIP

In the course of the triennium, Council addressed the practical and theological challenge of the Church's stewardship of all creation, both the stewardship of financial resources and the stewardship of the gifts and riches of all God's creation. Throughout the triennium, beginning with Council's first meeting (November 15-18, 1988), the 69th General Convention's concurred Resolution D-126a on the Global Environment informed Council's determination to bring to the 70th General Convention legislation that would lift up the interdependence and mutual responsibility of all creation.

In September 1990, the Report of the Presiding Bishop's Consultation on the Environment and Sustainable Development was released, forming the ethical and theological basis for legislation to be proposed at the 70th General Convention. Executive Council, meeting in Savannah, Georgia

LEGISLATION WITH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- A-084sa Committee to Study Church Funding*
- A-160 Parochial Reports Workshop*
- A-161 Demographic study on church membership*
- A-165 Comment "1987 Tithing Survey"*
- A-192 General Program Budget*

SOME LEGISLATION INFORMING COUNCIL RESPONSE

- A-163 Stewardship statement*
- A-164a Tithe as the standard of giving*
- A-166a Stewardship and seminary life*
- A-192 General Program Budget*
- D-121s Stewardship of time*

D-126a Global Environment

D-150a Response to drought conditions

(January 28-February 1, 1991), considered in depth the implications of the report and began forming their legislative response to it. Council's work on these issues continued into their final meeting of the triennium in Portland, Maine (April 22-26, 1991).

IMPERATIVE V: Strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

SOME LEGISLATION INFORMING COUNCIL RESPONSE



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

In the triennium, Native American concerns were reflected in much of Council's response to the mandates of the 69th General Convention, both in their own terms and reflected in Council's response to other targeted areas of concern. For instance, C-009a, specifically addressing Sioux Nation Treaty Rights, also addressed, at the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Indian Affairs, issues of education, jobs, and health care. Another recommendation of the Task Force, the establishment of the Episcopal Council of Indian Ministries (ECIM), was realized by Executive Council in November, 1989.

C-007a Native American health care

LEGISLATION WITH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

C-009a Sioux Nation treaty rights

During Council's meeting of February 28-March 3, 1989, in Fort Worth, Texas, two key Native American issues were addressed. Council adopted two resolutions of the National Committee on Indian Work deploring the racist dimension of observances of Columbus Day, considering its implications for the lives of Native American people and their culture. Council also passed a resolution funding the publication, in the triennium, of a Native American Christian education resource, developed jointly by the Office of Children's Ministries and the Office of Native American Ministries.

The movement of Native Americans into full involvement in the institutional life of the Church was marked, in the triennium, by the election of Steven Tsosie Plummer as the first Native American Bishop of Navajoland and of Steven Charleston as Bishop of Alaska.

IMPERATIVE III: Strengthen and affirm the partnership of the Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion in proclaiming and serving God's kingdom throughout the world.

IMPERATIVE VIII: Commit ourselves to the unity of the Church and of all God's people.



**SOME LEGISLATION
INFORMING COUNCIL
RESPONSE**

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

In recent years, the Episcopal Church has moved into International Ministry, both as a member of the Anglican Communion, as a member of the caring ecumenical community, and as a Christian body with a deepening vision of a worldwide human family. Increasingly, world issues are met by Executive Council with the same kind of concern received by the issues of the Church in the United States.

Its overseas involvements, however, do not indicate a dominating view of the mission of the Episcopal Church. The mission of the Church is to help overseas partners and friends realize their full potential as independent Christian bodies ministering to the unique needs of their people. The triennium saw, for instance, the independence of the Philippine Episcopal Church, an event long anticipated both by Philippine Episcopalians and by Episcopalians in the United States, and a continuing involvement with the church in Central America and in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Because of the depth and complexity of the Church's—and Council's—worldwide engagement, the concurred resolutions cited here are simply indications of a total commitment.

**LEGISLATION WITH
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

A-144 Financial support for Anglican Peace and Justice Network

A-146 Ministry of healing and reconciliation in Central America

A-188a Develop Pan Anglican Program in World Mission Theology

B-028a Philippine [Episcopal Church] Covenant and Autonomy

B-050 Resolution on South Africa

B-051a Namibian independence

D-002a Partners in Mission in the Pacific Basin

D-113s Hong Kong refugees

A-145 Soviet bloc citizen exchanges

A-185 Companion Diocese

A-186a Partners in Mission Consultation

A-187 "Going Abroad?" [publication]

A-189a World Mission Program of Education

B-010a Diocese of Central and South Mexico

B-020a Dominican Episcopal Church

B-029 Trial period for autonomy of Mexican Episcopal Church

B-031a Diocese of Central Philippines

B-032a Third World clergy

B-039 Relations with Vietnam

C-017 Central American Peace Accord

D-049a Korean policy statement

D-050a Koreans in Japan

D-119 Diocese of Jerusalem

D-162a African Orthodox Church

IMPERATIVE V: Strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

IMPERATIVE VII: Support individuals and families in their struggle for wholeness by knowing and living the values of the Gospel.

SOME LEGISLATION INFORMING COUNCIL RESPONSE

A-073s *Inclusive language and imagery*

A-079 *Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women*

A-085 *Violence against homosexual persons*

A-086a *Caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS*

A-090 *"Study of Issues Concerning Homosexuality"*

A-091a *History of General Convention actions on sexuality*

A-092a *Commission on Racism*



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE/ALTERNATE INVESTMENT

The concern of Executive Council throughout the triennium for issues in the areas of Social and Economic Justice and Alternate Investment was wide-ranging and detailed, reflecting the focus and legislative attention given these issues by the 69th General Convention. A large number of concurred resolutions dealing with issues in these areas, both with and without budget implications, emerged from Convention. Most were addressed in the course of the triennium.

In Council's involvements in these areas, certain key concerns were highlighted in the course of the triennium. The Church's concern for those living with HIV/AIDS was manifested in a number of resolutions calling for help and attention on all levels—from medical attention and housing to fair treatment in the community—and for the commitment of the Church to active care-giving. The Episcopal Church's continuing concern for the people of the Church in Southern Africa and for the dismantling of the apartheid system was reflected in the struggle for alternate investment strategies, among other approaches. And the Episcopal Church con-

LEGISLATION WITH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A-074 *Achieve balance of women and men in church bodies*

A-077 *Appoint Committee on the Status of Women*

A-114 *Response to Jubilee Proclamation*

A-116 *Support public school education*

A-153a *Permanent staff position for Rural and Small Town Ministry*

A-154s *Additional field officer for Rural and Small Town Ministry*

A-159a *Work with conference steering committee for Working Class Ministry*

tinued to move toward equal partnership for women in the total life of the Church.

- A-110 Adopt statement on leadership of nation
- A-111 Advocacy for poor and powerless
- A-112a Reaffirm commitment to affirmative action
- A-118 Regional approaches to urban problems
- A-119 Programs for urban, suburban, and rural areas
- B-005a Surgeon General's Report on AIDS
- B-006 AIDS preventive education
- B-007 AIDS discrimination
- B-013s Peace and Justice Fund
- B-019 KEEP
- B-034 Legalization process for refugees
- C-047a General Convention statement on abortion
- D-005 National Day of Peace
- D-056s Nuclear deterrence
- D-057a MacBride Principles
- D-064a Violence against women and children
- D-100a Violence against homosexuals
- D-101 AIDS discrimination
- B-008a Recognize National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC)
- B-009 Study and report on "right to die" issues and concerns
- B-018s Establish Joint Commission on AIDS
- B-050 Resolution on South Africa
- B-052a Shell Oil boycott
- C-030a Economic Justice—Michigan Plan
- C-035a Employee program on alcohol and drug abuse
- C-036 Alcohol and Drug Awareness Day
- C-037a Federal programs on alcohol and drug abuse
- D-004 Authorize continuation of Task Force on Accessibility
- D-024a Assist dioceses to include religious freedom concerns in daily calendar
- D-147 Task Force on Accessibility

- D-104 AIDS education*
- D-108 AIDS health care*
- D-109 AIDS National Day of Prayer*
- D-110 Response to AIDS—Lambeth and NCC*
- D-120s Local dialogue on sexuality issues*
- D-124 Violence at abortion facilities*
- D-142 Episcopal Conference of the Deaf*
- D-143 Plight of the poor*
- D-166a Housing*
- D-167a Welfare reform*