

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A004
Title: Continue Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora
Proposer: Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora
Topic: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-D024 Urge Continued Support for the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan to Strengthen Peace
2018-D088 Create a Task Force on the South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-D062 Celebrate Sudanese Americans and Their Work for Peace
2012-B007 Commit to Sustaining Sudanese Church in the Episcopal Church
2012-C075 Commit to Welcoming the Sudanese

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A004 - Continue Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$25,000.00

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 13 - Committees & Commissions

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring,

That the 80th General Convention extend the work of the Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora for the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force report to the Executive Council at least once each year during the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force conclude its work and expire no later than adjournment sine die of the 81st 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 \$25,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Explanation

The 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church approved Resolution 2018-D088 which called upon the Presiding Bishop to appoint a task force named the Task Force on Dialogue with South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora (Task Force) and consisting of two bishops, two clergy, and two laypersons. The Task Force was tasked with establishing an official conversation with the South Sudanese-American Anglican Diaspora (SSAAD) living in the United States and to develop a statement of understanding regarding the relationship of SSAAD communities and members and The Episcopal Church (TEC).

The Task Force was duly formed and met once in person and on numerous occasions virtually during the triennium. To carry out its mandate, the Task Force intended to host an in-person conference in the spring of 2020 to bring together leaders of SSAAD communities and members of the Task Force. The purpose of the conference was:

1. to discuss the substance of 2018-D088;
2. to examine the relationship of SSAAD members and communities with TEC as well as its dioceses and local churches; and
3. to ascertain the steps and actions needed more fully and appropriately to incorporate local SSAAD communities into the fabric of TEC.

Unfortunately, shortly before the in-person conference was to convene, the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic interrupted all in-person meetings. Therefore, the Task Force was not able to hold the necessary conversations with the SSAAD, thus undermining the Task Force's ability to carry out its mandate.

Even though in-person meetings have not been possible, and the planned conference has had to be delayed, the Task Force has remained active. The Task Force has held regular meetings by Zoom, typically once per month. The Task Force has liaised with the Rev. Ron Byrd and the Office of Black Ministries. The Task Force, with the assistance and leadership of a Steering Committee (formed to help with the logistics and planning of the in-person conference), has identified South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora leaders and had conversations with them concerning how best to proceed under the circumstances. The Task Force is currently planning for virtual conferences and compiling potential dates to move forward. The Steering Committee is now tasked with setting dates for four to six Zoom conference "listening sessions." Each will include 12 attendees – two task force members, nine or 10 members of the South Sudanese Diaspora (men and women), plus a facilitator. The Steering Committee will guide the conversations. Those conversations are anticipated to help develop meaningful topics of conversation for the in-person conference, whenever it is safe to hold that gathering.

The Task Force believes the work remains essential and requests the Task Force be continued for the next Triennium to pursue its vital work.



Resolution Number: 2018-D024
Title: Urge Continued Support for the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan to Strengthen Peace
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention gratefully acknowledge and commend the continued heroic efforts of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan to bring about a cessation of the civil war which erupted in December 2013 and which has killed tens of thousands, and displaced several million people; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention commend the continued efforts of Episcopal Relief & Development and the many dioceses, parishes, and individuals who are working in partnership with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and its dioceses to provide humanitarian relief, sustainable development, training of lay and clergy leaders in South Sudan, and Scriptural translation into tribal languages; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge congregations and dioceses to seek new opportunities to support the work of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and their Primates to form partnerships that strengthen their efforts to bring a sustainable peace to their respective nations; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all dioceses and congregations of The Episcopal Church observe with special prayers, awareness, and support of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and the Episcopal Church of Sudan the Sunday closest to the Feast Day of the Martyrs of Sudan (May 16th); and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge that dioceses and congregations in The Episcopal Church make it a specific mission priority to reach out to people from the South Sudanese and Sudanese diaspora who have emigrated to the United States and elsewhere, inviting them into our congregational lives and exploring appropriate efforts to assist their efforts to foster peace in South Sudan and Sudan and among its disparate tribes; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention authorize the Office of Government Relations to continue its advocacy with the United States Government for a cessation of the civil war in South Sudan and armed conflict by the Government of Sudan with marginalized communities in the Nuba Mountains and Darfur.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 492.



Resolution Number: 2018-D088
Title: Create a Task Force on the South Sudanese Anglican Diaspora
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention call upon the Presiding Bishop to appoint a task force of two bishops, two clergy, and two lay persons to establish an official conversation for the purpose of developing a statement of understanding of the relationship with the South Sudanese American Anglican diaspora living in this country and The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force report to the Executive Council at least once each year during the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force conclude its work and expire no later than adjournment sine die of the 80th 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 \$15,000.00 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 671.