

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A025
Title: Inclusivity in Forms and Information on the Website of The Episcopal Church and Related Organizations
Proposer: Standing Commission on World Mission
Topic: Parochial Reports, Technology

Directly Related: (Attached)

2009-C060 Direct Inclusion of Overseas Congregations in Statistical Reports
1991-A180 Continue to Prepare Parochial Report Forms for Use by Province IX

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

2018-A053 Simplify and Improve Usability of Parochial Report
2003-A080 Direct Episcopal Church Center to Maintain a User-Friendly Website

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.

A025 - Inclusivity in Forms and Information on the Website of The Episcopal Church and Related Organizations

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on World Mission

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 04 - Governance & Structure

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention direct The Episcopal Church and urge all agencies, institutions and other organizations connected with it to review and revise their online forms as necessary to ensure functionality for those residing in non-US areas of The Episcopal Church so that forms can be completed with information world-wide, including but not limited to: addresses, telephone numbers, postal codes and country designations, currency abbreviations and credit card numbers to allow non-US standard responses to form fields for members of congregations and others residing outside the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention direct the Church Center to ensure that all reports, information and interactive material posted on the website of The Episcopal Church include all of its dioceses and jurisdictions, and that they be available and usable by all members of The Episcopal Church, including those outside the United States, and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention direct all those developing materials of any kind for use by the Church to take into account variations required by dioceses, jurisdictions, and church members outside the United States.

Explanation

We are fond of saying The Episcopal Church is an international church. However, members of congregations outside the United States have found it difficult, if not impossible, to complete online forms for such things as Parochial Reports, lists of deputies to General Convention, registration for programs, ordering materials, etc., as the forms do not accommodate input of addresses with foreign postal codes and countries, telephone numbers, credit card numbers, international email domains, accent marks and other information from geographical areas outside the United States. As a result, incomplete or incorrect information is often provided, or it becomes impossible to fill the form or complete the transaction at all.

The Episcopal Church includes a number of jurisdictions (dioceses and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe) outside the United States, yet in posting information and interactive sites on the website of The Episcopal Church these jurisdictions and their congregations are often excluded in the reporting and/or do not have full access. For example, in publishing the results of the Parochial Reports, information from the non-US jurisdictions is often only partially included, leaving out financial information in particular. Additionally, the mapping demographics of Parochial Report data launched on the TEC website do not even mention the jurisdictions outside the US. Such inclusion was already requested through Resolution 2009-C060 "Direct Inclusion of Overseas Congregations in Statistical Reports."

Many materials developed for use in the Church assume they will be used in the United States by Americans. As a result, some materials are of less use outside the United States. While to a certain degree this is inevitable, those developing materials should be aware that most materials should also be relevant to those outside the United States.

As we seek to build a Beloved Community, this resolution seeks to ensure that all members of The Episcopal Church have full access to information and online forms, and that all reporting and information are fully inclusive. It is vital that the website of The Episcopal Church be inclusive of the entire Church.



Resolution Number: 2009-C060
Title: Direct Inclusion of Overseas Congregations in Statistical Reports
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church be directed to include in their report to the 77th General Convention, and all subsequent General Conventions, all statistics pertaining to the life of the congregations in all oversea Dioceses and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 148.



Resolution Number: 1991-A180
Title: Continue to Prepare Parochial Report Forms for Use by Province IX
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention strongly urge the Executive Council to continue its efforts to prepare appropriate Parochial and Diocesan Report forms in order for Province IX to be included in the current statistical data on the Church and to continue to provide translations of the Report forms and their instructions in Spanish.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 391.