

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A046
Title: Amend Canon I.15.1 Concerning Certain Episcopal Church Congregations in Foreign Lands
Proposer: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic: Anglican Communion, Canons, Congregations

Directly Related: (Attached)

2006-C047 Refer a Resolution on Amendment of Canon I.15 [Of Congregations in Foreign Lands]
(Referred)

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

2018-A038 Affirm Commitment to Anglican Communion and Inter-Anglican Secretariat
2009-A124 On the Topic of Establishing a Task Force on Congregations in Foreign Lands (Rejected)

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.

A046 - Amend Canon I.15.1 Concerning Certain Episcopal Church Congregations in Foreign Lands

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

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 amend Canon I.15.1 to read as follows:

I.15

Sec. 1. It shall be lawful, under the conditions hereinafter stated, to organize a Congregation in any foreign land and not within the jurisdiction of any Missionary Bishop of this Church nor within any Diocese, Province, or Regional Church of the Anglican Communion *by action of the Anglican Consultative Council*.

Explanation

This Resolution proposes to require approval of the Anglican Consultative Council prior to organizing a congregation under the circumstances described in Canon I.15.1, consistent with the polities of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion



Resolution Number: 2006-C047
Title: Refer a Resolution on Amendment of Canon I.15 [Of Congregations in Foreign Lands]
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the text of Canon I.15 be amended as follows:

Of Congregations in foreign lands-countries

Sec. 1. (a) ~~It shall be lawful, under the conditions herein after stated, to organize a~~ Congregations of this Church may be organized in any foreign land and country not within the jurisdiction of any Missionary Bishop of this Church nor within any Diocese, Province, or Regional Church of the Anglican Communion.

Sec. 2. (b) ~~The Presiding Bishop, or the Bishop in charge (as the case may be) of such~~ Congregations, and the Council of Advice, hereinafteras provided for below, may authorize any Presbyterian of this Church to officiate temporarily at any place to be named by them within any such foreign land-country upon being satisfied that it is expedient for reasons of the mission of the Church to establish atsuch placea Congregationof this Church.

Sec. 3. (c) Such Presbyterian, after having publicly officiated at such place on four consecutive Sundays, may give notice, in the time of Divine Service, that a meeting of the persons of full age andadults attending the services, will be held, at a time and place to be named by the Presbyterian in charge, to organize the Congregation. The said meeting may proceed to effect an organization subject to the approval of the said Bishop and Council of Advice and in conformity to such regulations as the said Council of Advice may provide, as well as the laws of the country in which it is to minister.

Sec. 4. (d) ~~Before being~~ Such Congregations shall be taken under the direction of the General Convention of this Church. ~~such~~For this to happen, the Congregation shall be required, in its Constitution, or Plan, or Articles of Organization, to recognize and accede to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church, and to agree to submit to and obey such directions as may be, from time to time, received from the Bishop in charge and Council of Advice.

Sec. 5. (e) The desire of such Congregation to be taken under the direction of the General Convention shall be duly certified by the Member of the Clergy, one Warden, and two Vestry members or Trustees of said Congregation, duly elected.

Sec. 6. (f) ~~If the Bishop in charge and the Council of Advice agree, Such~~this certificate, and the Constitution, Plan, or Articles of Organization, shall be submitted to the General Convention, if it be in session, or to the Presiding Bishop at any other time; and in case the same are found satisfactory, the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, under written instruction from the Presiding Bishop, shall thereupon place the name of the Congregation on the list of Congregations in foreign landscountries under the direction of the General Convention; and certificate of the said official action shall be forwarded to and filed by the Registrar of this Church. Such Congregations are placed under the government andjurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop.

Sec. 7-Sec. 2. The Presiding Bishop may, from time to time, by written commission under the episcopal signature and seal, assign to a Bishop or Bishops of this Church, or of a Church in communion with this Church, the care of, and responsibility for, one or more of such

Congregations and the Clergy officiating therein, for such period of time as the Presiding Bishop may deem expedient. *Provided*, that, should such term expire in a year during which a General Convention is to be held, prior to said Convention, the commission may be extended until the adjournment of the Convention.

~~Sec. 8. Sec. 3. Nothing in this Canon is to be construed as preventing the election of a Bishop to have charge of such Congregations under the provision of Canon III.24. Such Congregations, duly organized under Section 1, may agree to call the Clergy and Lay Delegates chosen by its Vestry or Committee to a joint meeting, or the Presiding Bishop or Bishop in charge may convene such a meeting. The Convocation established by such meeting shall have the power to organize itself and meet according to its own rules mutually agreed upon; and it may adopt its own Constitution and Canons, which shall recognize and accede to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church.~~

~~Sec. 9. Sec. 4. To aid the Presiding Bishop or the Bishop in charge of these foreign Churches Congregations in administering the affairs of the oversight of the same, and in settling such questions as may, by means of their peculiar particular situation, arise, a Council of Advice, consisting of four Clergy and four Lay Persons, shall be constituted as follows, and shall act as a Council of Advice to the Bishop in charge of the foreign Churches these Congregations. They shall be chosen to serve for two three years and until their successors are elected and have accepted election, by a duly convened Convocation. duly convened, of all the Clergy of the foreign Churches or Chapels, and of two Lay representatives of each Church or Chapel, chosen by its Vestry or Committee. The Council of Advice shall be convened on the requisition of the Presiding Bishop or Bishop in charge whenever the Bishop may desire their advice, and they may meet of their own accord and agreeably to their own rules when they may wish to advise the Bishop. When a meeting is not practicable, the Bishop may ascertain their mind ask their advice by letter or electronic means. The Council of Advice shall otherwise act as a Standing Committee in all respects, as set forth in the Canons of the General Convention.~~

~~It shall be lawful for the Presiding Bishop at any time to may authorize by writing under the episcopal hand and seal the Council of Advice to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Bishop in charge, or disability or inhibition of the same.~~

~~Sec. 10. In case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church, it shall be the duty of the Bishop in charge of such Congregations to summon the Council of Advice, and cause an inquiry to be instituted as to the truth of such accusation; and should there be reasonable grounds for believing the same to be true, the said Bishop and the Council of Advice shall appoint a Commission, consisting of three Clergy and two Lay Persons, whose duty it shall be to meet in the place where the accused resides, and to obtain all the evidence in the case from the parties interested; they shall give to the accused all rights under the Canons of this Church which can be exercised in a foreign land. The judgment of the said Commission, solemnly made, shall then be sent to the Bishop in charge, and to the Presiding Bishop, and, if approved by them, shall be carried into effect; *Provided*, that no such Commission shall recommend any other discipline than admonition or removal of the Member of the Clergy from charge of said Congregation. Should the result of the inquiry of the aforesaid Commission reveal evidence tending, in their judgment, to show that said Member of the Clergy deserves a more severe discipline, all the documents in the case shall be placed in the hands of the Presiding Bishop, who may proceed against the Member of the Clergy, as far as possible, according to the Canons of the General Convention.~~

~~Sec. 5. A Convocation of these Congregations shall have the right and power to elect a Bishop in charge under Title III.16 of these Canons, subject to the Presiding Bishop's agreement to~~

the first such election. However, the Convocation may choose to request that the Presiding Bishop appoint a Bishop in charge for a specific term of office, or that the Bishop in charge be selected following the procedures set forth for the choice of Missionary Bishops under Title III.17.

Sec. 6. The Convocation shall elect an Ecclesiastical Trial Court following the provisions of Title IV.4. In case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation in a foreign country shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church, it shall be the duty of the Bishop in charge of such Congregation to follow the procedures set forth under Title IV of these canons.

~~Sec. 11.~~ *Sec. 7. If there be a Congregation exists within the limits of any city in a foreign land country, no new Congregation shall be established in that city, except with the written consent of the Bishop in charge and the Council of Advice.*

~~Sec. 12.~~ *Sec. 8. In case of a difference between the Member of the Clergy and a Congregation in a foreign land country, the Bishop in charge shall duly examine the same, and the said Bishop shall, with the Council of Advice, have full power to settle and adjust such difference upon principles recognized in the Canons of the General Convention.*

~~Sec. 13.~~ *Sec. 9. No Member of the Clergy shall be allowed to take charge of a Congregation in a foreign land country, organized under this Canon, until nominated by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee thereof, or, if there be no Vestry or Committee exists, by the Council of Advice, and approved by the Bishop in charge; and once having accepted such appointment, the Member of the Clergy shall be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 303-306.