

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A064
Title: Promote the Adoption and Use of Revised Praesidium Safe Church Training
Proposer: Task Force to Develop Model Sexual Harassment Policies & Safe Church Training
Topic: Sexual Misconduct

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A048 Create a Task Force to Update Safe Church Training
2015-A073 Update Model Policies for Protection of Children and Youth
2015-A074 Update the Safe Church Training Materials

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

2009-D062 Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
2006-A156 Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct
2003-B008 Protect Children and Youth from Abuse

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.

A064 - Promote the Adoption and Use of Revised Praesidium Safe Church Training

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force to Develop Model Sexual Harassment Policies & Safe Church Training

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$15,000.00

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 06 - Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, & Safeguarding

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 Office of Communications and the Office of Formation of the Episcopal Church, working in collaboration with FORMA and the Church Pension Group, to use the communication and marketing facilities of The Episcopal Church to promote the adoption and use of the revised Praesidium Safe Church training throughout the Church; that such promotion, marketing and communication vehicles should update all existing references to Safe Church training and reinforce the importance of creating a welcoming, safe environment for all of the people of God participating in Church sponsored or affiliated ministries, programs, congregations and other activities; and be it further

Resolved, That \$15,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution.

Explanation

In 2003, General Convention directed each diocese to develop and adopt policies for the protection of children and youth. In 2015, General Convention directed that these policies be updated, and in 2018, General Convention directed that training for the protection of youth, young adults, and vulnerable adults be updated. Despite Church's commitment to the safety of all, especially children, not all dioceses have consistently implemented their own

policies or those updated policies. In order to assure that this commitment is fully implemented, especially as training is being updated to reflect the update of the policies in 2017, the Church must commit resources actually capable of doing so. While the Office of Communication is well-suited to the task of promotion and marketing, the subject matter of the policies requires that the Office of Formation also be involved and authorized to work in conjunction with FORMA and the Church Pension Group, which also has a vested interest in assuring that relevant parish and diocesan leaders throughout the church have demonstrated their practical commitment to the protection of children, youth, young adults, and vulnerable adults, by completing and updating training in this matter, especially the updated and revised training.



Resolution Number: 2018-A048
Title: Create a Task Force to Update Safe Church Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention direct the Executive Council to establish a Task Force pursuant to Canon I.1.2.(o) to create and implement new safe church training materials to be developed during the next triennium to reflect the approved 2017 Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and the approved 2017 Model Policies for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults, such committee to be comprised of at least nine (9) and no more than twelve (12) people who reflect the diversity of The Episcopal Church, which should include youth ministers, those working with vulnerable adults, educators for adults, and those experienced in the prevention of sexual abuse; membership should also include at least three (3) persons from the Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies appointed in 2015; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church Pension Group be asked to collaborate and coordinate their training program with this effort and to appoint a member to serve on the committee; and be it further

Resolved, That such safe church training materials for the prevention of sexual misconduct include written and web-based training materials that include responsive and multilingual online web-based resources, a modern content management system and a curated resource list, such training to provide Universal Training accessible to all congregants and ministry participants that fosters a culture of safety and inclusion for all people and Specialized Training consisting of discrete modules on topics directly related to ministry roles and functions; and be it further

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention assign to the Task Force that will oversee the new safe church training materials the following duties: where and how to host training materials that includes a comprehensive list of resources, develop a plan for continued updating of the training materials and the curating of resources, as well as a plan to oversee this work; and be it further

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention direct the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society [DFMS] to host on its website the Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and the Model Policies for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults for the prevention of sexual misconduct approved in 2017; and be it further

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commits itself to the financial support of the creation, implementation and maintenance of such safe church training materials to advance clergy wellness and reduce liability; and be it further

Resolved, That this 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$245,000 for the creation of the safe church training materials described in this resolution and \$50,000 for the work of the Task Force.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 890-891.



Resolution Number: 2015-A073
Title: Update Model Policies for Protection of Children and Youth
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the 2004 Model Policies developed by The Church Insurance Agency Corporation for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse (the “2004 Model Policies”) be updated and supplemented to reflect the experience of the Church in using the 2004 Model Policies and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, not later than September 30, 2015, jointly appoint a Special Task Group of five to seven persons with experience in the use and development of Model Policies for Preventing Sexual Misconduct to update, or to oversee the updating of, the 2004 Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That the updating and supplementing of the 2004 Model Policies be completed by March 31, 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That the Updated Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse to the Church (the “Updated Model Policies”) be promulgated after they are approved by the Special Task Group; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as a point of contact for dioceses to obtain information about complying with the 2004 Model Policies and the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That not later than December 31, 2016, the Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Youth of each diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies with due regard to applicable local laws on the subject matters of the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses annually confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center, that the Guidelines of the diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 416-417.



Resolution Number: 2015-A074
Title: Update the Safe Church Training Materials
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the Episcopal Church Center arrange for the updating or supplementing of written and web-based materials used in the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* programs to reflect the experience of the Church in using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials; and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further*

*Resolved, That, in addition to developing printed and web-based versions of the updated or supplemented *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials, electronic links to the online versions of the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula be made available on The Episcopal Church website; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize the availability of the revised or supplemented written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials to dioceses and congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses of The Episcopal Church be required annually to confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center that the diocese and (to the best of its knowledge after due inquiry) congregations in the diocese are training persons in positions of authority (including clergy, staff, vestry, children, and youth educators/leaders and other volunteers) by using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials or other appropriate materials for this training; and be it further*

*Resolved, That after the written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula are revised or supplemented, re-training of trainers be conducted so that the persons conducting training in congregations and dioceses are fully aware of the changes in the training materials and are able to teach them competently; and be it further*

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 418-419.