

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A069
Title: Create DFMS Staff Position to Manage Safe Church Website and Respond to Inquiries
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
2018-A116 Amend Canon I.1.2 (n)(1) [Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons]

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

None

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.

A069 - Create DFMS Staff Position to Manage Safe Church Website and Respond to Inquiries

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: \$105,000.00

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 16 - Churchwide Leadership

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 Executive Council to create and fill a staff position, to serve as a point of contact for dioceses and individuals to obtain information about complying with the Model Policies for the Protection of Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults and the requirement to complete the updated Praesidium Safe Church Training managed by the Church Pension Group; and reinforce the importance of creating a welcoming, safe environment for all of the people of God participating in The Episcopal Church sponsored or affiliated ministries, congregations, programs and other activities. This staff person shall report directly to the Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry within The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church Pension Group be asked to collaborate and coordinate with this staff person and designate a member to liaise with the staff person, to assure that all necessary information is provided to those who contact the DFMS office with questions and concerns, subject to any applicable confidentiality and/or privacy restrictions, and in the collection and dissemination of information regarding the use and adaptation of diocesan and ministry-specific policies, as well as of use and adaptation of anti-harassment policies based on the Best Practices Guide; and be it further

Resolved, That \$105,000, to include salary and benefits, be budgeted to fund this vital position.

Explanation

The establishment of the Safe Church website provides a point of contact for the gathering and dissemination of information and in that sense can serve the Church well in its efforts to redress the comprehensive and long-standing problems of harassment, sexual abuse and exploitation. However, it is only the beginning of an on-going systemic response. The various listening sessions conducted by the Task Force to Develop Model Sexual Harassment Policies and Safe Church Training have confirmed that despite the long history of work in various dioceses and at various levels of the Church, the inconsistent implementation of training and response to allegations of misconduct by both clergy and laity in the Church leave many wondering where to turn and how to pursue redress for problems, especially, but not exclusively, when laity are the perpetrators of harm. A contact person is needed to help members of the Church, including lay and ordained leaders, identify resources to assist them in responding to complaints and creating cultures in which all members and participants feel safe and welcome.



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: 2018-A116
Title: Amend Canon I.1.2 (n)(1) [Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.1.2(n)(1) be amended to add the following subsection (vii) to read in full as follows:

(vii) Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the Title IV training materials, including drafting such changes as are necessitated by changes to these Constitution and Canons, or as may be deemed appropriate to maintain such training materials in a current and effective status.

And be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for the ongoing maintenance and updating of the Title IV training materials and website.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1058.