

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A070
Title: Creating an Online Stewardship Collaborative
Proposer: Task Force on Theology of Money
Topic: Language Translation, Stewardship

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-B008 Cooperate with Stewardship Study of Faith Communities of Color

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

2015-A030 Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property
2018-A061 Create a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money
2003-A139 Commend the Ministry of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
2003-C029 Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French
1997-A143 Support Dissemination of Hispanic Stewardship Training Materials

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.

A070 - Creating an Online Stewardship Collaborative

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Theology of Money

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$150,000.00

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 18 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention create an online collaborative of stewardship resources between Project Resource (a collaborative cooperative stewardship program co-created by The College of Bishops, The Development Office, and The Episcopal Church Foundation), The Episcopal Network of Stewardship (TENS), and The Office of Ethnic Ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the collaborative expand existing offerings by facilitating the creation of stewardship materials by people of color and the development of online courses and virtual workshops on topics such as post-pandemic congregational stewardship and culturally appropriate theologies of giving in English, Spanish, and other languages; and be it further

Resolved, That the collaborative develop culturally and racially informed education materials for all candidates for holy orders on stewardship and the theology of money in English and in Spanish; and be it further

Resolved, That \$150,000 be budgeted for the work of the collaborative over the next triennium.

Explanation

The Task Force on the Theology of Money has noted the profound disconnect between our theology of money and our giving as Episcopalians. Moreover, there is a widespread reluctance in congregations to even address serious matters of stewardship formation and responsible investment, yet parishioners are asking for resources to help them make faith-based decisions for their congregations and for themselves. The desire and tools are there, but the coordination of the Church's stewardship resources is not.

We have also found that stewardship resources are typically created for and by members of white, dominant-culture settings. These resources fail to take into account financial wisdom, stewardship practices, and theological frameworks for understanding money that are shaped by and drawn out of non-white cultures and communities. Our work indicates that diverse resources for the development of these materials exist but would be strengthened through collaboration.

Measurables & Time Frame

The funding we propose would allow the coalition to create a clearing house for stewardship resources easily accessible online to all in the church. The website would provide, among other things, a highly visible virtual archive for related documents, a channel for live and recorded seminars and workshops, and a 24/7 forum for leaders of the church entrusted with stewardship issues on which they could share their questions and ideas.

This will also be available to give seminarians, those preparing for ordination, and those called to leadership positions in stewardship efforts a course-delivery platform for their education. In addition, it would help implement the call for increased training for those preparing for ordination in stewardship training.

This also saves the expense of funding a full-time stewardship officer for the Church. The advantage of working within existing organizations is the ability to create lean, cost-effective models of implementation. For example, the effectiveness of online communication has been widely demonstrated during the pandemic.

Finally, and most importantly, this funding would support the first-ever creation of resources in our Church for Christian communities of color as well as ongoing training throughout the year.

- An online platform will be created by representatives from each member of the coalition in Year 1
- Stewardship professionals of color will be hired to write curricula and provide trainings through Project Resource in Year 2
- Stewardship professionals of color will be hired to write stewardship bundles and annual programs to be distributed through TENS in Year 2
- Project Resource faculty will expand their training to include at least two-thirds of the dioceses across the Church in Year 3 (currently, over one-half have been trained)
- All candidates for holy orders will receive training and resources in stewardship and the theology of money in Year 3



Resolution Number: 2018-B008
Title: Cooperate with Stewardship Study of Faith Communities of Color
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognizes that The Episcopal Church has not historically articulated, recognized or appreciated the particularities and uniqueness of stewardship and fundraising practices among congregations and faith communities of color; nor is there denominational or ecumenical research and data available on stewardship and fundraising practices of communities of color; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the initiative of the ecumenical Collective Foundation in their project to research and collect data on stewardship and fundraising practices of communities of color called: “Research on Giving by Faith Communities of Color,” and its goal to support communities of color in their ongoing stewardship programs and initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urges the offices of The Episcopal Church Center, dioceses, and congregations to cooperate with, and support the efforts of, the Collective Foundation in the “Research on Giving by Faith Communities of Color” project in partnership with other denominations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 873.