

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A071
Title: Amend Canons III.6.5, III.8.5, and III.10.1
Proposer: Task Force on Theology of Money
Topic: Canons, Fiscal Responsibility, Stewardship

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A061 Create a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money
2012-A088 Set Expectations for Steward Leaders
2006-A102 Urge Dioceses to Offer Resources in Personal Financial Management
2003-D033 Promote Understanding of Basic Financial Matters

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

2018-A021 Refer a Resolution to Amend Canon III.3.8.5(g) [Theological Education] (Referred)
2018-A108 Amend Canon III.6.5(g) and III.8.5(g) [Sexual Misconduct Prevention]
1982-A120 Reaffirm a Concept of Stewardship in Responsible Spending

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.

A071 - Amend Canons III.6.5, III.8.5, and III.10.1

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: Yes

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 15 - Ministry

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention, in support of the canonical requirement of rectors and priests-in-charge to ensure that all persons in their charge are instructed concerning Christian stewardship, amend Canon III.6.5.g as follows:

Can.III.6

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

g. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
4. the Church's teaching on racism.
5. *Stewardship and the Church's theology of money.*

And be it further

Resolved, that Canon III.8.5.h be amended to as follows:

Can.III.8

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

h. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof, utilizing, but not limited to use of, the Title IV training website of The Episcopal Church.
4. the Church's teaching on racism.
5. *Stewardship and the Church's theology of money.*

And be it further

Resolved, that Canon III.10.1.c be amended to as follows:

Can.III.10

Sec. 1. Prior to reception or ordination, the following must be provided

c. evidence of training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
4. training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.
5. *Stewardship and the Church's theology of money.*

And be it further

Resolved, that such training shall be made available to all persons in this Church, both lay and ordained.

Explanation

Canon III.9.6.b.2 assigns rectors and priests-in-charge the duty of ensuring that all persons in their charge are instructed concerning Christian stewardship. The ministry of deacons often involves the allocation of resources, a responsibility which should be informed by a Christian theology of money. Clergy of this Church, whether deacon or priest, often lack an understanding of stewardship and the theology of money which would enable them to fulfill their duties of stewardship education and the responsible use of God's gifts. In other words, we make clergy responsible for stewardship education but give them no tools with which to do it. This resolution would address this problem by requiring formation for all candidates for ordained ministry in the theology of money and stewardship. This training would be available to all members of this Church, much as anti-racism training is required for certain leadership roles yet may be taken by any Episcopalian.



Resolution Number: 2018-A061
Title: Create a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church to appoint a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money, consisting of four (4) bishops, five (5) presbyters or deacons, and six (6) lay persons, who represent the cultural and economic diversity of the Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the Task Force be directed to use scripture, approved liturgical resources, other theological texts, and previous actions of General Convention to summarize the ways in which The Episcopal Church understands the theology of money and financial resources in the way we give, invest, and spend; and be it further
Resolved, With regards to investment beliefs, that the Task Force should examine the following elements of responsible investing consistent with the Church's faith and mission as practiced today by many institutional investors across the Church: applying ethical guidelines in investment selection and management, shareholder activism, and investing for responsible social and environmental outcomes as well as financial return; and be it further
Resolved, That the Task Force be directed to present its findings and recommendations to the 80th General Convention; and be it further
Resolved, That the Task Force be directed to make available its findings and recommendations as a resource to guide and inform policy on giving, spending, and investing across The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1068.



Resolution Number: 2012-A088
Title: Set Expectations for Steward Leaders
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention adopt the following expectations for steward leaders in The Episcopal Church:

Proposed Expectations for Steward Leaders in the Episcopal Church

Trusting in God's Abundance, we will...

Proclaim a Theology of Abundance and Spirituality of Money

- Articulate and share clearly a personal stewardship story as it relates to money, resources, and relationships, and model this practice in community as an example to others;
- Foster a climate that invites others to explore the freedom to be faithful with their money, resources, and relationships;
- Articulate an eternal understanding of financial stewardship to include annual giving, major giving and planned giving;
- Live publicly the holy habits of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath time, and weekly corporate worship; and
- Practice the basic principles of personal and corporate financial management leading to a healthy relationship with money as integral to our faith in God.

Teach Biblical and Theological Principles of Stewardship

- Listen to and interpret scripture and tradition with an ear for stewardship themes;
- Speak and preach prophetically, boldly, and regularly about stewardship;
- Engage in individual and corporate study of scripture related the theology of stewardship;
- Raise awareness of the history of stewardship in the life of local congregations and the wider church, including the faithful gifts of those who have gone before; and
- Build up and empower others in these expectations of steward leaders.

Engage and Critique Culture

- Have an informed theological position about social, ecological and economic justice;
- Speak to the vision of a divine economy (oikonomia) and the ways it is in tension with our global economy;
- Articulate the tension between the current consumer culture and following Christ; and
- Gather and empower groups of people to inspire action around common missions and goals.

Embrace the Interconnected Relationships between all Persons and Creation

- Understand our central call to steward the well-being of the entire created order;
- Speak to the impact of our lifestyles on all of God's Creation;
- Discern and enable the unique gifts of people to build up the Kingdom of God; and
- Utilize diverse approaches to stewardship based on generational and cultural differences.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 475-476.



Resolution Number: 2006-A102
Title: Urge Dioceses to Offer Resources in Personal Financial Management
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention urge each diocese, over the course of the next triennium, to offer training, education, and resources that promote the healthy role of money in our lives, biblical teachings about financial matters, and the faithful habits of budgeting, sharing, saving, responsible handling of debt, and life and estate planning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Stewardship be directed to train a team of trainers capable of leading these diocesan events; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses be urged to designate February of each year as “Debt Awareness Month,” and that the Office of Stewardship be urged to prepare suitable multi-generational materials for use in congregations, paying special attention to children and youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 439-440.



Resolution Number: 2003-D033
Title: Promote Understanding of Basic Financial Matters
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention, mindful of the rubric found on page 445 of The Book of Common Prayer, direct every congregation to provide educational opportunities and other resources for Christians of all ages that promote understanding the role of money in our lives; Biblical teachings about financial and material matters; and good stewardship relating to budgeting, saving, responsible handling of debt, life planning and the making of wills, recognizing that from the earliest years and throughout life, attitudes toward money influence who we are and the choices we make, and that the spiritual practice of stewardship begins with a joyous awareness of God's love for us and a gratitude for the abundance of God's gifts; and be it further*

Resolved, That the Office of Stewardship of the Episcopal Church Center and Dioceses assist congregations by recommending appropriate materials.

***From Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child, The Book of Common Prayer, page 445, "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 676f.