

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A095
Title: Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
Proposer: Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment
Topic: Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A005 Support Network of Planting Congregations
2018-A032 Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
2015-D005 Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
2009-A067 Develop a Strategy with Covenant Partners for Starting New Congregations
2006-A042 Establish a Church Planting Initiative
2003-A073 Develop Practices for Church Planting

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

2012-D023 Affirm Episcopalians as Evangelists to Grow the Church
1997-D044 Request Dioceses to Adopt an Annual Goal for New Church Starts
1994-D110 Authorize the Establishment of the Plant-A-Church Fund for Evangelism
1991-D106 Establish 1000 New Congregations by the Year 2000

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.

A095 - Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$5,800,000.00

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 11 - Evangelism & Church Planting

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrates and supports the planting of new congregations and ministries, the training and recruiting of planters and mission developers, and the fostering of a church-wide network of support for new ministry development that was originally funded by GC2018-A005 and GC2018-A032; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize establishing new Episcopal communities that are especially committed to mission and evangelism engaging under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, disabled persons, members of LGBTQIA communities, BIPOC communities, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for sustaining this new ministry development will be \$5,800,000.00 for 2022-2024 to be allocated as follows:

- \$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to train clergy and lay leaders in planting congregations
- \$600,000 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for planters of congregations
- \$1,000,000 for the continuing development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders in church planting for various cultural contexts

- \$500,000 to support a church-wide office staff person to oversee the planting network.
- \$3,000,000 for grants to new and existing church plants, to be administered by the Task Force for Church Planting in consultation with the Churchwide Office Staff Officer for church planting.
- \$500,000 for the support of leadership development programs for the next generation of church planters and ministry developers;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office establish an advisory group to study the possibility of creating an endowment for church plants; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will be required to contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers. Those dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention embrace the future of our Church by, after this Triennia, moving the funding for a church-wide office staff-person to oversee the planting network (Staff Officer for Church Planting) into the continuing budget for the Presiding Bishop's staff; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,800,000 for the implementation of this resolution.



Resolution Number: 2018-A005
Title: Support Network of Planting Congregations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support emerging communities through the good work initiated by GC2015 – D005 and A012 to develop a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters and mission developers; and establishing new congregations or mission enterprise zones each triennium that are especially committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, differently abled persons, people identifying as members of LGBTQIA+ communities, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church honors the holy experiments emerging throughout the Church – experiments that build partnerships within and beyond the church, expand the language of ministry, create new ways to engage the people of God, harvest and share learnings, and lend courage to those leading new ministries and lower the cost of failure through a network supporting mission development; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for sustaining this church planting network will be \$5,800,000.00 for 2019-2021 to be allocated as follows:

\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders

\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations

\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders in church planting for various cultural contexts

\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network

\$3,000,000 for grants to support congregations with the grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

\$500,000 in matching funds for the support of leadership development programs for the next generation of church planters and ministry developers;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$6 million per triennium to plant new congregations, so that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers, as we all are learning how to nurture new ministries that challenge our assumptions about how to share the gospel with new cultures and generations,

and that dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies continue the advisory group of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and continuing to develop a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church planters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,800,000 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), pp. 1052-1053.



Resolution Number: 2018-A032
Title: Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention requests that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies in consultation with the Church Center staff create a church-wide Community of Practice that works with congregations and their bishops to help them redevelop to better engage the cultural realities of their communities for the sake of launching new ministries and multi-cultural missional initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of redeveloped congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means and through developing online resources that provide detailed information about the redevelopment efforts happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the cost of this initiative will be equally shared by the church-wide budget, participating dioceses and redeveloping congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the presiding officers appoint a task force to coordinate this initiative in collaboration with Church Center staff. That task force may be combined with a task force on Church Planting and Missional Initiatives at the discretion of the presiding officers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$725,000 during the triennium 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), pp. 542-543.



Resolution Number: 2015-D005
Title: Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention create a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters; and establishing new congregations each triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for creating this congregational network will be \$5,000,000 to be allocated as follows:

\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders

\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations

\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders for Latino/Hispanic ministries

\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network

\$2,700,000 for grants to support up to 30 congregations with the size and grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention encourages the Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$5 million per triennium to plant new congregations, with the hope that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute a minimum of 20% of the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint an advisory group of not more than twelve people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, and academics working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including developing criteria for receiving grants, providing a reporting process, making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and developing a network of coaches and internship sites; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of plants of new congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means, and through developing a website that provides detailed information about the various planting initiatives happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,000,000 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. 314-315.



Resolution Number: 2009-A067
Title: Develop a Strategy with Covenant Partners for Starting New Congregations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize that new church development is a high missional priority and an effective tool to present the Gospel, to incorporate the seeker and to welcome the lost home; and be it further

Resolved, That the Program officer, Church Planting and Ministry Re-Development of The Episcopal Church's Evangelism and Congregational Life Center to collaborate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and others to develop resources for starting new congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That these resources include case studies, best practices, approaches to be avoided and effective action plans for starting and sustaining new faith communities; and be it further

Resolved, That this resource be published and presented to the Executive Council and to the House of Bishops at their first meeting in 2011.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 281.



Resolution Number: 2006-A042
Title: Establish a Church Planting Initiative
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention establish a Church Planting Initiative to raise funds for new congregations in the dioceses of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention call every diocese of this Church to identify and document with projected costs and demographics including racial, ethnic, generational, and socioeconomic makeup of the targeted areas, prime opportunities for the development of new congregations including new college campus missions, and communicate this list of opportunities to the Office of Congregational Development by June 30, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development be directed to assemble these reports by December 30, 2007, and convey to Executive Council, in its regular report a comprehensive list of opportunities for new church and campus ministry development and projected costs, and to communicate this list through electronic and print media to the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That upon receipt of the comprehensive report for New Church Development the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council implement a major gifts campaign to fund the Church Planting Initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development in cooperation with the Ethnic Ministries offices, especially the Hispanic Ministries Office, lead and support the Church Planting Initiative by: keeping the church abreast of best practices for church, campus mission and ministry planting; raising awareness of opportunities for starting new congregations, campus mission and ministries throughout the church; assisting individual dioceses in planning and developing a vision and a plan for this Initiative; developing tools for assessing candidates for new church development; and recommending matching grants for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church be a financial partner with dioceses by providing matching grants to dioceses for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider the Church Planting Initiative budget for development staff to identify and nurture new sources of revenue in the grants, gifts, endowments and/or capital fund drives be increased from \$75,000 to \$475,000 during each year of the 2007–2009 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 655-656.



Resolution Number: 2003-A073
Title: Develop Practices for Church Planting
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church Center to:

- **develop a system for identifying persons with the skills and temperament to plant new churches and/or revitalize existing congregations;**
- **in cooperation with the Office on Ministry Development, develop and recommend practices for recruiting, training, deploying, and retaining such persons;**
- **develop and carry out events to include an annual national conference of church planters to share stories and resources;**
- **develop training and mentoring programs for laypersons and congregations involved in church planting;**
- **through the office of the Director of Research at the Episcopal Church Center, conduct and fund research into how other denominations plant and sustain new churches, with special emphasis on learning best practices for planting churches in less affluent areas or areas with negative population growth;**
- **and make an annual report to the Executive Council and The Episcopal Church at-large on the net increase in new church starts; and be it further**

Resolved, That we commend the work already begun by the Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church Center.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 312f.