

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A097
Title: Evaluating Experiments in Adaptive Change
Proposer: House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
Topic: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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.

A097 - Evaluating Experiments in Adaptive Change

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 04 - Governance & Structure

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the Presiding Officers' decision to convene legislative committees and resolution hearings in advance of the 80th General Convention be commended as an experiment that can help the Episcopal Church learn more about how to adapt its structures and governance to the post-COVID world; and be it further

Resolved, That Executive Council conduct, with professional support from program evaluation specialists, an evaluation of the process by which legislative committees and resolution hearings convened online in advance of General Convention and of the outcomes for the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the evaluation include assessment of the ways in which conducting legislative committee business online promoted or hindered diversity, equity and inclusion and the involvement of people in the wider church, particularly people of color, people younger than age 40, and people from dioceses outside the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That Executive Council conduct this program evaluation with the intent of creating a model for evaluation of future adaptive change experiments, recognizing that the Episcopal Church must continue to change and evolve in order to respond to God's mission in all of its contexts.

Explanation

The Episcopal Church must develop the discipline of making experimental changes in its polity, governance and structure and evaluating those experiments. By learning to experiment without fear of failure or retribution, gather evaluative data, and then refine our experiments, we will be more able to face the challenges facing the institutional church and to participate in God's mission in the 21st century.