

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A098
Title: On Online Tools for Adaptive Leadership
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)

2012-D064 On the Topic of Web-Based Communication (Rejected)

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.

A098 - On Online Tools for Adaptive Leadership

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

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

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$250,000.00

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 80th General Convention direct the Executive Council to oversee the development of collaborative online tools that can facilitate the work of interim bodies committed to leading adaptive change in the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the chair and vice-chair of Executive Council, in consultation with the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Governance and Operations, appoint a task force of experienced churchwide leaders to make recommendations about the range of communication and collaboration tools needed to support adaptive change work, including tools that will facilitate real-time collaboration, be responsive on mobile devices, and entirely replace the current Extranet platform; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention Office be directed to implement the recommendations of the task force in time for use by the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That \$250,000 be budgeted for the subscription, development and implementation of these tools.

Explanation

Despite significant investment of time and money, the Extranet is a hindrance to the kind of real-time collaborative work required to facilitate adaptive change in the church. The

Extranet is not intuitive, it does not provide the options for real-time interaction, and it does not thread messages. Leaders who have been stymied by its inadequacies have been forced to informal use of other tools; as a result, information and records about the work of churchwide bodies is dispersed and often unavailable. Especially during the pandemic, the church's lack of capacity to collaborate has significantly limited the ability of its leaders to respond to rapidly changing circumstances and contexts. The leaders who are most in need of tools that work, and who have been most affected by the inadequate nature of the current platform, should lead this work.