

**General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022
Archives' Research Report**

Resolution No.: 2022-A099
Title: Research Capacity for The Episcopal Church
Proposer: House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
Topic: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

1997-A133 Request Executive Council to Refine Reports on Church Census

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.

A099 - Research Capacity for The Episcopal Church

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: Yes

Cost: \$450,000.00

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 Episcopal Church establish and fund significant professional research expertise and capacity to collect, aggregate, analyze, and publish data to support and bring insight, facts and understanding to the work of the General Convention, the Executive Council and all commissions, committees, boards and task forces of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church prioritize developing data expertise and capacity to advance adaptive change processes, including experimentation and evaluation, that can invigorate the church's participation in God's mission in the 21st century; 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 \$450,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Explanation

During its work in this triennium, the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee, charged with being "an energetic think tank and incubator for adaptive thinking, innovative ideas, and fresh approaches to the church's leadership, organizational thinking, and common life," found itself limited by the Episcopal Church's lack of meaningful capacity to collect and analyze data in a coordinated way. Other interim bodies also struggled to formulate and conduct research, and at times, many overlapping surveys were put in the field by disparate committees with no way to coordinate. In order for the Episcopal Church

to be the body of Christ in a world that badly needs our witness, we must have professional research expertise capacity that can help us reclaim and reinvent the church.



Resolution Number: 1997-A133

Title: Request Executive Council to Refine Reports on Church Census

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention commend the Office of General Convention and the Church Pension Group for their extraordinary work of addressing the deficiencies of data gathering for statistical reporting of the State of the Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the Executive Council continue the process of priority support for further refinement of statistical and ministry census reporting pertinent to the discernment of the State of the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 139-140.