

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A103
Title: Describing a Christian Life of Faith in the Episcopal Tradition
Proposer: Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized
Topic: Christian Formation, Ministry

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-C005 Create a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized

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

2018-A136 On the Topic of Amending I.1.2(n) [Standing Commissions] (Rejected)
2009-A083 Encourage Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation
1988-A121 Add Canon III.1 [Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons]

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

[A Christian Life of Faith: Signs and Thresholds along the Way](#), November 18, 2020.

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.

A103 - Describing a Christian Life of Faith in the Episcopal Tradition

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 14 - Christian Formation & Discipleship

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention commend to each diocese A Christian Life of Faith: Signs and Thresholds Along The Way as a discernment tool and formation guide for baptized Episcopalians, directing it particularly to Commissions on Ministry as a resource to fulfill Title III: Canon 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons which states, “Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons”; and be it further

Resolved, That Executive Council appoint a liaison to the “Christian Life of Faith” writing group for the purposes of regular communication and mutual accountability.

Explanation

A Christian Life of Faith: Signs and Thresholds Along The Way is designed to encourage and engage all the baptized in the work of building up the church by identifying their gifts for ministry, employing their gifts for ministry, and focusing on full engagement of their ministries in daily life, work, and leisure. Fortunately, there are recognizable signs of maturing in our relationship with God. They are marks of our deepening knowledge and understanding, the shaping of our values and attitudes, as well as the honing of our practices and skills. As we more fully embrace our identity as disciples and members of the Body of Christ, there also are thresholds that we can cross — Claiming, Engaging, Sustaining, and Cultivating / Catalyzing. Each threshold marks accepting increased

responsibility to proclaim God's loving, liberating, life-giving Good News (evangelism) and to help others to find their paths as we pass on our faith (faith formation).

The document identifies these signs and thresholds as markers of maturation during a faith-filled journey. The first part of the document is primarily for individuals who may want to wonder, widen, and deepen their understanding of themselves and of God. For these individuals, the signs and thresholds are a type of discernment or self-assessment tool to prompt reflection upon where they are in their personal faith and ministry development. The hope is that individuals will find descriptions that affirm their strengths and capacities, as well as indicate areas where they may want to stretch and search for resources that enhance spiritual growth and leadership.

The second part of the document is primarily intended for those responsible for passing on the teachings of the church (Commissions on Ministry, faith formation leaders, spiritual directors, clergy, vestry members, chaplains, diocesan directors, etc.). This section compiles the signs and thresholds into a grid for comparison across thresholds. The grid is designed to help facilitators, companions, and/or teachers to see the scope and sequence of how the stages relate and guide their adaptation of educational and formational resources for local contexts. The hope is that the signs and thresholds will promote deeper faith and ministry development in a congregation, intentional community, or diocese as, together, we move ever closer to the dream of God.



Resolution Number: 2018-C005
Title: Create a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church to appoint a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized including members experienced in Christian formation and education, and consisting of a minimum of two bishops, five (5) priests and/or deacons and five (5) lay persons, who represent the diversity of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force identify or develop curricula, practices, and strategies that can be used by dioceses and congregations to encourage and engage all the baptized in the work of building up the church by identifying their gifts for ministry, employing their gifts for ministry, and focusing on full engagement of their ministries in daily life, work, and leisure; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force report to the 80th General Convention with recommended strategies for the affirmation, development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons in the areas of gifts discernment, education and training for ministry, and leadership development; 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 \$60,000 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. 1135.