

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A104  
**Title:** Creation of a Digital Hub for Formation Resources (in English, Spanish, and French)  
**Proposer:** Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized  
**Topic:** Christian Formation

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-C005 Create a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized  
2015-A046 Create a Resource List for Lay Leadership Formation Resources  
2015-A075 Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources  
2012-D037 Fund Lifelong Christian Formation and Vocation  
2009-A083 Encourage Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation  
2009-A086 Continue the "Theological Education for All" Internet Resource

### **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)

*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.*

# A104 - Creation of a Digital Hub for Formation Resources (in English, Spanish, and French)

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**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:** Yes

**Cost:** \$30,000.00

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 14 - Christian Formation & Discipleship

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention instruct Executive Council to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized and the Task Force on Theological Networking to develop a plan for a sustainable digital hub for Episcopalians to access formation resources for lay and ordained vocations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Executive Council present a report with the plan (to include recommended structure, content, staffing, timeline, and budget) to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That \$30,000 be budgeted for the work of developing this plan over the next triennium.

## Explanation

Most church-wide funding for formation is currently committed to the discernment, preparation and practice of ordained ministry, while 99.2% of our Church is baptized lay members. The most recent projections of Episcopal Church membership are dire. No amount of restructuring or reimagining local ministry will grow a vibrant church without a

consistent commitment to lifelong Christian formation, the making of disciples who make disciples.

As our research over this past triennium has demonstrated, the Episcopal Church is blessed with formation resources (curriculum and proven practices), gifted Christian educators, writers, artists, videographers, publishers, and networks dedicated to formation, evangelism, discipleship, camps and conference ministries, chaplaincies and more, but, tragically, efforts are siloed. Local congregations are often unaware of all that is available, have difficulty accessing quality resources for their context, and/or do not have clergy or lay leaders trained to teach the faith well.

There is an urgent need for easily accessed, open source formation resources from discernment practices through preparation for ministry in daily life, including ordination. As a denomination, we must move from a free market system of resource distribution toward a collaborative clearinghouse that curates and promotes theologically and pedagogically robust resources for use in diverse cultural contexts. We need a denominational portal for individuals, congregations, schools, chaplaincies and camps, Commissions on Ministry, seminaries, diocesan schools, and Episcopal leaders to access resources to grow faith and live our baptismal theology with confidence.

Such an undertaking is ambitious and requires leadership at the church-wide level to emphasize the urgency, increase visibility, and establish accountability. The Anglican Communion has set a good example with its Season of Intentional Discipleship (<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/intentional-discipleship.aspx>).

Other denominations in the U.S. have made similar commitments, for example the United Methodist Church (UMC)'s e-learning discipleship platform <https://discipleship-ministries.teachable.com/> and ResourceUMC, the online destination for Methodist leaders <https://www.resourceumc.org/>.



**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.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A046  
**Title:** Create a Resource List for Lay Leadership Formation Resources  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Executive Council to oversee the establishment of an online resource list and library of materials and programs for licensed lay leadership in small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That every diocese be interviewed to determine if there are any local internal resources that may be appropriate to be included in the resource list so that each diocese may provide leadership formation for all licensed lay ministries through a variety of methods appropriate to the need of the diocese; and be it further*

*Resolved, That a report by the Executive Council be made to The Episcopal Church by June 30, 2016 so that access to information may be distributed to the wider Church; 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 \$100,000 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), p. 416.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A075  
**Title:** Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center establish a prominent tab or link on the website of The Episcopal Church to give persons seeking Christian Formation resources access to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize to dioceses, congregations, and Christian Formation leaders the availability of these websites that provide helpful Christian Formation resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses and congregations with websites consider including links to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Christian Formation leaders throughout The Episcopal Church be encouraged to share with these websites suitable formation resources that they themselves have developed.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 916.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-D037  
**Title:** Fund Lifelong Christian Formation and Vocation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm and commit to strengthen Lifelong Christian Formation and Vocation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That since, “To teach, baptize and nurture” is the Second of the Five Marks of Mission, it is therefore one of the imperatives that should guide the works and actions of this Convention and beyond; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of at least \$2,909,178 (the total amount proposed in lines 63 to 71 under the Second Mark of Mission in the Presiding Bishop’s Draft Budget) for support of Lifelong Christian Formation and Vocation for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 210-211.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A083  
**Title:** Encourage Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention strongly encourage all dioceses to formulate a strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation in the next triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That such strategies should encompass and be suitable for all persons (e.g. various ages, languages and abilities). These strategies should be responsive to diocesan and societal contexts and accurately depict the current education and formation status. Because formation is not limited to a cognitive experience (classroom), formation should be holistic (encompasses learning, action and reflection); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Congregational Life Center design an instrument and system of collection that will document currently available and successful programs, activities and resources. The instrument will pay special attention to resolutions adopted and resources highlighted at the 76th and each successive General Convention. In addition, such an endeavor will seek to gather the aspirations for diocesan future programs/activities concerning Christian formation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the information and data collected be forwarded to the SCLEF by January 31, 2011.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 193-194.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A086  
**Title:** Continue the "Theological Education for All" Internet Resource  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention commends the Council of Seminary Deans and the Office of Ministry Development for the creation of the Theological Education for All Internet Resource; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention urges the Presiding Bishop and Chief Operating Officer to allocate Episcopal Church Center staff resources to the continued development and maintenance of that web site; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$15,000 for the implementation of this resolution during the 2010-2012 triennium.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 193.