

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A110  
**Title:** Continuation and Expansion of Task Force on Ministry to Individuals with Mental Illness  
**Proposer:** Task Force on Ministry with Individuals with Mental Illness  
**Topic:** Health

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-C034      Create a Task Force on Mental Illness

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

2015-C020      Increase Ministry and Mission to the Mentally Ill  
1991-D088      Encourage Understanding of Mental Illness and the Needs of the Mentally Ill

*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.*

# A110 - Continuation and Expansion of Task Force on Ministry to Individuals with Mental Illness

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Task Force on Ministry with Individuals with Mental Illness

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$21,700.00

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 13 - Committees & Commissions

**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 continue The Task Force on Ministry to Individuals with Mental Illness, in order to aid in the direction and development and provision of resources, trainings, and curricula in pastoral and ministerial mental health care for The Episcopal Church, its provinces, dioceses, parishes, seminaries, schools, and affiliated organizations, among all of its bishops, priests, deacons, and parishioners; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Task Force on Ministry with Individuals with Mental Illness be expanded to eighteen in its membership that represents a depth and range of professional, personal, familial, and organizational experience with mental illness, in order to successfully develop and provide aforementioned resources, trainings, and curricula;

*Resolved*, That the Task Force on Ministry with Individuals with Mental Illness, in its expanded version in conjunction with its development of and provision of aforementioned trainings, will develop and share resources for The Episcopal Church, its various organizations, and all of its people centered on pastoral and ministerial mental health care; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this expanded Task Force report back on its actions to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 80th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$21,700 to complete resources for churchwide distribution and use by the next triennium.

## **Explanation**

In the three-year period in which the Task Force on Ministry with Individual with Mental Illness has begun its work, the world and especially The United States experienced instability in ways that do not often occur to this degree or in this many simultaneous ways. The task force convened because mental health concerns in The Episcopal Church are finally being realized as part of our lay and ordained spiritual calling and not simply a secular psychological matter. As the three years of service for this task force come to an end, the situation of the world and country with respect to COVID-19, politics and leadership, and racism exacerbate stress, depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns for those in our churches and schools. This task force must continue as we, The Church, continue not just to observe, but to preemptively create systems through which both lay and ordained persons can seek, find, and execute healing practices around the strains of our times. The continuation and expansion of the task force will support the completion and distribution of informational resources, the implementation of trainings around the United States (and beyond) by which lay and ordained leaders can learn how to better recognize signs of mental health distress and minister to those in need of that crucial mental health care from a spiritual/religious standpoint, and the development of robust curriculum that will expand upon the trainings offered by partner organizations.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-C034  
**Title:** Create a Task Force on Mental Illness  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize the establishment of a Task Force on Mental Illness to further the Episcopal Church's commitment to, with and for persons with mental illness and their families as reflected in the General Convention resolution 2015-C020, as adopted and which reads:***

(2015-C020)

***Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls upon diocese, congregations, schools and other entities of The Episcopal Church to explore and adopt best practices for the vitality and increased capacity of their mission and ministry in the inclusion, support and spiritual care for persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further***

***Resolved, That dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of The Episcopal Church increase understanding about mental illness by providing educational material and training; utilizing existing programs such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, veterans groups, government departments on mental health, local organizations and other programs; and sharing the information so it is readily accessible.***

And be it further;

***Resolved, That this task force be appointed jointly by the Presiding Officers, with between 10 and 12 members, two or three of whom shall be bishops, two or three of whom shall be clergy, and not more than six lay persons, and all of the members shall have some professional, family or personal background with mental illness, and that this task force report back to the 80th General Convention; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 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. 894.