

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C009
Title: Mandates Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation Training for the House of Deputies
Proposer: California
Topic: Canons, Racism, Reconciliation, Rules of Order

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A015 Direct Interim Bodies to Undergo Anti-Racism Training
2018-A045 Reaffirm and Report on Anti-Racism Training
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2000-B049 Require Anti-Racism Training
1991-A206 Amend Canon I.1.4 [Add (b): Deputies to Communicate General Convention Actions]
1991-A208 Amend Canon I.1.4 [Add (c): Forum for General Convention Reporting]
1988-A171 Amend Canon I.1.4 [Deputies to Be Elected Twelve Months Prior to Convention]

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.

C009 - Mandates Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation Training for the House of Deputies

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: California

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 01 - Rules of Order/HoD

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, That Canon I.1.4 be amended as follows:

Canon I.1, Section 4: Election of Deputies

a. All jurisdictions of this Church entitled by the Constitution or Canons to choose Deputies to the General Convention shall be required to do so not later than twelve months preceding the opening date of the General Convention for which they are chosen. Deputies of jurisdictions failing so to elect may not be seated unless permitted by ruling of the Presiding Officer.

b. Six months prior to the opening date of the General Convention, the Deputies from each Diocese shall comply with training standards as established in the Rules of Order for the House of Deputies.

h c. It shall be the duty of each seated Deputy to communicate to the electing jurisdiction the actions taken and the positions established by the General Convention.

€ d. It shall be the responsibility of each Diocese to provide a forum in which the Deputies to the General Convention from that jurisdiction have opportunity to report.

And be it further

Resolved, that the Rules of Order - House of Deputies Section III be amended as follows:

Rules of Order - House of Deputies Section III: Deputations

A. Chair of Deputation

1. At least one year before the first legislative session of the General Convention, each Deputation will:

- i. designate a Chair; and
- ii. notify the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the name of the Chair

2. The Deputation Chair will:

- i. serve as the primary contact for House of Deputies communications;
- ii. certify the Deputation's votes by orders;
- iii. certify changes in the Deputation during General Convention;
- iv. perform other duties as directed by the President

B. Mandates Training, Compliance, and Reporting

1. Within three years before the first legislative session of the General Convention, each deputation shall:

- i. have elected Deputies and 1st Alternate Deputies complete Anti-Racism and Racial Reconciliation coursework utilized for diocesan or provincial training programs;*
- ii. encourage remaining Alternate Deputies to comply; and*
- iii. file a single submission with all training certificates to the Secretary of the House of Deputies six months prior to the opening date of General Convention.*

2. Waivers will apply to:

- i. Dioceses outside the United States until language proficient training programs are readily available; or*
- ii. The Committee on Credentials will hear and decide any disputes on certification of Deputations and will report their decision to the House.*

~~B.~~ C. Certification of Alternate Deputies as Deputies

1. Alternate Deputies may not sit or vote with their Deputations, unless and until certified by the Committee on Credentials as a substitute for a Deputy.

2. The Committee on Credentials will certify Alternate Deputies as Deputies before each session.

3. The procedures for certification will be those determined by the Secretary of the

House of Deputies.

4. An Alternate Deputy will serve for one or more legislative sessions as Deputy but only until the Deputy for whom he or she substituted is able to resume their seats.

5. The Committee on Credentials will hear and decide any disputes on certification of Deputies and will report their decision to the House.

Explanation

At the 73rd General Convention in Denver 2000, Resolution 2000-B049 (https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2000-B049) required *“lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards be required to take anti-racism training and receive certification of such training”* and *“that each diocese select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the diocesan and parochial levels, each province and diocese to determine those lay and clergy leaders who are to take the training.”*

The Episcopal Church builds on the framework of Becoming Beloved Community (<https://episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community>) created in response to General Convention Resolution 2015-C019 - Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation (https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2015-C019). This established response to Systematic Racial Injustice enhances the capacity of The Episcopal Church to work in communities to organize; advocate; and dismantle systems, policies and practices that reinforce violence and acts and perpetuate the sin of racism.

Many of our Dioceses require Anti-Racism training for those serving on Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Secretary of Convention, Treasurer, and other diocesan bodies. In the Diocese of California, the General Convention Deputies and Alternates also adhere to this training standard. Since GC 2012, the General Convention’s Joint Standing Committee on Nominations began tracking the Anti-Racism training requirement for churchwide leadership (Church Pension Fund Trustee, Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Executive Council, General Board of Examining Chaplains, General Theological Seminary Trustee, and the Officers of General Convention). These reports illustrate a trend towards compliance from 76% (GC 2012), 84% (GC 2015), and 85% (GC 2018).

During General Convention the House of Deputies experiences a 45% turnover of new deputies (GC2015-GC2015 – 398: <https://houseofdeputies.org/2015/08/04/demographics-house-deputies/>; GC2018-364: <https://houseofdeputies.org/2018/07/03/demographics-of-the-house-of-deputies-at-gc79/>) each triennium. With no canonical training mandates for both clergy and lay Deputies, establishing canonical standards would be beneficial to new Deputies. First and Second time Deputies comprise 67%, and thus, have significant impact on legislative, budgetary, and election matters.

The requisite Anti-Racism training is the foundation coursework for all churchwide leaders. We are affirming that Deputies from each Diocese achieve this minimum

standard. For each subsequent cycle, we are proposing ongoing Racial Reconciliation training programs every three years as new continuing education. By regularizing the House of Deputies training standards, our hope is new programs like the Anti-Sexism Training

(https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing_and_interim_bodies/interim_bodies/1010/mandate) will be on the horizon.

Funding for trainings would be furnished locally by each Diocese.



Resolution Number: 2018-A015
Title: Direct Interim Bodies to Undergo Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm that the “mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” (BCP 855, Catechism). And that the work of The Jesus Movement is articulated in the pursuit of the reconciliation of humanity in the pursuit of Racial Reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention acknowledge the work of the Church happening in Interim Bodies is done by groups of Episcopal neighbors, initially strangers to one another, under time and budget constraints and that, as Interim Bodies work, opportunities abound for conscious and unconscious bias to manifest itself and can take the form of oppression and aggression counter to the work of the Body and the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention require the constituted Interim Bodies of the 2019-2021 triennium to include an Anti-Racism/Diversity/Bias Awareness component at their initial meetings and that the cost of such trainings be folded into the budget for each Interim Body.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 689.



Resolution Number: 2018-A045
Title: Reaffirm and Report on Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That we acknowledge that not all dioceses have followed the spirit of the anti-racism training required in Title III or General Convention Resolution 2000-B049 regarding training of all ordained persons and lay leadership; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge that the work of dismantling racism is an essential part of spiritual formation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention re-affirms the necessity and importance of anti-racism training for the lay and ordained leadership of The Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to committees, commissions, agencies, task forces, and boards; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and The Episcopal Church staff, The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing and Christian Formation professionals be encouraged to work together to continue to expand the resources available for trainings that can be adapted to different contexts and that address the multiplicity and intersectionality of oppressions that exist in society, and maintain online a recommended list of curricula and programs as they are developed, that could be used for anti-racism training and for training facilitators; and be it further

Resolved, That the lay and ordained leadership of The Episcopal Church are also expected to engage in ongoing spiritual formation and education focused on racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as part of our Church's commitment to Becoming Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That each committee, commission, agency, task force, and board, and each province and diocese maintain a register of those who have participated in training, and annually report to the Executive Council through the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism by January 1 each year, how many people have participated in training and what other Becoming Beloved Community formation opportunities have been offered and that the Council report on this information to future General Conventions until such time as the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism or its succeeding body determines it is no longer necessary.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 669.



Resolution Number: 2015-C019
Title: Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church confesses that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, the abomination and sin of racism continue to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity; we formally acknowledge our historic and contemporary participation in this evil and repent of it; and be it further

Resolved, That in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015; numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed black men and youth at the hands of law enforcement personnel; and the moral atrocity of mass incarceration in which a hugely disproportionate number of persons of color have been unfairly caught in the net of an unjust criminal justice system, the 78th General Convention affirms as a top priority of The Episcopal Church in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church understands and affirms that the call to pray and act for racial reconciliation is integral to our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to our living into the demands of our Baptismal Covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies be charged to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church's work of racial justice and reconciliation; 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 \$1.2 million for the Triennium 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), pp. 310-311.



Resolution Number: 2000-B049
Title: Require Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That beginning on September 1, 2000 the lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards be required to take anti-racism training and receive certification of such training; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the national level; that each province select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the provincial level; and that each diocese select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the diocesan and parochial levels, each province and diocese to determine those lay and clergy leaders who are to take the training; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on National Concerns continues to develop a list of such appropriate resources; and be it further

Resolved, That each national committee, commission, agency, and board, and each province and diocese maintain a register of those who are trainers and those who have been trained, and forward this information to the Executive Council by January 1, 2003, and every two years thereafter, and the Council report on this information to the 74th and 75th General Conventions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 603.



Resolution Number: 1991-A206

Title: Amend Canon I.1.4 [Add (b): Deputies to Communicate General Convention Actions]

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.1.4 be amended by designating the present text as "(a)" and by adding the following new Clause (b):

(b) . It shall be the duty of each seated Deputy to communicate to the electing jurisdiction the actions taken and the positions established by the General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 300.



Resolution Number: 1991-A208

Title: Amend Canon I.1.4 [Add (c): Forum for General Convention Reporting]c

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.1.4 be amended by adding the following new clause (c):

(c) It shall be the responsibility of each Diocese to provide a forum in which the Deputies to the General Convention from that jurisdiction have opportunity to report.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 300.



Resolution Number: 1988-A171

Title: Amend Canon I.1.4 [Deputies to Be Elected Twelve Months Prior to Convention]

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the first sentence of Canon I.1.4 be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. All jurisdictions of this Church entitled by the Constitution or Canons to choose Deputies to the General Convention shall be required to do so not later than ~~the year preceding the year of~~ *twelve months preceding the opening date of the General Convention* for which they are chosen.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 174.