

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-C021  
**Title:** Amend Canon 9.1 to change the Diocese of Puerto Rico to Province II  
**Proposer:** Puerto Rico  
**Topic:** Constitution, Provinces

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A072 Direct Dioceses to Review Provincial Relationships  
2003-A141 Admit the Diocese of Puerto Rico to the Episcopal Church

**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.*

# C021 - Amend Canon 9.1 to change the Diocese of Puerto Rico to Province II

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Puerto Rico

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** Yes

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 04 - Governance & Structure

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

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

That Canon I.9.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Subject to the provision in Article VII of the Constitution, the Dioceses of this Church shall be and are hereby united into Provinces as follows:

The First Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

The Second Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of New York and New Jersey, the Dioceses of Haiti and the Virgin Islands, and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe *and Puerto Rico*.

The Third Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The Fourth Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Louisiana, except for the portion thereof consisting of the Diocese of Western Louisiana.

The Fifth Province shall consist of the Diocese of Missouri, and of the Dioceses within the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

The Sixth Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

The Seventh Province shall consist of the Dioceses of Western Louisiana and of West Missouri, and of the Dioceses within the States of Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

The Eighth Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii, the Diocese of Taiwan and the Area Mission of Navajoland.

The Ninth Province shall consist of the Dioceses of this Church in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, ~~Puerto Rico~~, and Venezuela.

## **Explanation**

In accordance with Resolution 2018-A072, the Diocese of Puerto Rico approved the creation of a task force to study our relationship with the IX Province. After a thorough study, the task force presented its recommendation to the Puerto Rico diocesan convention of 2018 to start a search for a province in which our diocese would have a greater identification, recognizing our cultural, social, socio-political and religious realities of our society and of the 21st century. This recommendation was adopted by majority vote at the Puerto Rico diocesan convention of 2019.

After a process of dialogue with the Office of Pastoral Development of the Presiding Bishop. The provinces that complied with the principle of geographic proximity were identified. The identified provinces were: one (I), two (II), three (III) and four (IV).

Provinces two (II), three (III) and four (IV) showed the interest that our diocese be integrated into their province, therefore in a Special Convention on July 31, 2021, after six rounds of voting, province two (II) was selected.

At the Diocesan Convention held from October 22 to 23, the Diocese of Puerto Rico approved a resolution to formally submit the amendments and resolutions necessary to formalize and finalize the change of the Diocese of Puerto Rico from the ninth province to the second.

Therefore, we present this Resolution to the Convention, as to the effect to accept Puerto Rico desire to move into the II Province.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A072

**Title:** Direct Dioceses to Review Provincial Relationships

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted

**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That in the 2018-2021 triennium, each diocese of this Church review its involvement in and relationship to its current province, and faithfully discern whether, based on its identity, gifts and needs, it may wish to explore established constitutional and canonical paths toward becoming a constituent diocese of a different province.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 897.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A141  
**Title:** Admit the Diocese of Puerto Rico to the Episcopal Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 2003 General Convention admit the Diocese of Puerto Rico to The Episcopal Church USA and recognize it as a diocese in union with General Convention; and be it further Resolved, That Canon I.9.1 be amended to delete "and" before Honduras and insert "and Puerto Rico" after Honduras; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this amendment become effective immediately; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Diocese of Puerto Rico be entitled to all rights pertaining to membership in The Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, voice and vote in the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, in accordance with the rules of those houses; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Diocese of Puerto Rico be obligated to undertake all responsibilities pertaining to diocesan membership in The Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, conforming its constitution and canons to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; submitting annual diocesan and parochial reports to the General Convention Office; contributing annually to the apportionment budget of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; and reporting fully on any financial assistance it receives from the General Convention budget; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention affirm that the clergy and lay employees of the Diocese of Puerto Rico will be eligible to participate in companion pension plans administered by the Church Pension Fund, with benefits adapted to the particular needs of the Diocese and consistent with applicable law; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention urge the Church Pension Fund to work with the Diocese of Puerto Rico to develop a plan to cover the unfunded period of time for those of its clergy who previously participated in the Church Pension Fund when the Diocese was a member of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the portion of this resolution accepting the Diocese of Puerto Rico into union with the General Convention become effective immediately upon concurrence of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm the principle that dioceses of this church that are not located within the United States may seek autonomy according to the procedures set forth in Resolution [A]235a of the 1991 General Convention or may join other provinces of the Anglican Communion.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 151f.