

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C060
Title: Evangelism Endowment Fund
Proposer: Province IV
Topic: Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A005 Support Network of Planting Congregations
2018-A032 Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
2015-D005 Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
2006-A042 Establish a Church Planting Initiative

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

2006-B023 Respond to Reported Decline of the Church
2003-A073 Develop Practices for Church Planting

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.

C060 Evangelism Endowment Fund

Proposer	Province IV
Endorsed by	—
Supported by	—
HiA / Leg. Cttee	House of Deputies / —
Current Status	—
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention and The Episcopal Church celebrates and supports the planting of new congregations and ministries, the training and recruiting of church planters and mission developers, and the fostering of a church-wide network of support for new ministry development that was originally funded by GC2018-A005 and GC2018-A032; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize establishing new Episcopal communities that are especially committed to mission and evangelism engaging under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, disabled persons, members of LGBTQIA communities, BIPOC communities, economically disadvantaged people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, Given the importance of evangelism and church planting for the future of The Episcopal Church, that an Endowment Fund for The Episcopal Church be authorized by the 80th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this Endowment Fund be funded by any manner considered appropriate by Executive Council and solicited from the church-wide budget, dioceses and congregations through their respective legislative bodies and other appropriate means; and be it further

Resolved, That this authorization be implemented by action of the Executive Council.

EXPLANATION

There is a great need to break out of the triennial cycle of funding Evangelism and Church Planting from the budget of The Episcopal Church and establish a longer term funding source for this important work. This plays the “long game” for innovation and experimentation in evangelism practices, relieving pressure from our fluctuating triennial cycles of funding.



Resolution Number: 2018-A005
Title: Support Network of Planting Congregations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support emerging communities through the good work initiated by GC2015 – D005 and A012 to develop a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters and mission developers; and establishing new congregations or mission enterprise zones each triennium that are especially committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, differently abled persons, people identifying as members of LGBTQIA+ communities, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church honors the holy experiments emerging throughout the Church – experiments that build partnerships within and beyond the church, expand the language of ministry, create new ways to engage the people of God, harvest and share learnings, and lend courage to those leading new ministries and lower the cost of failure through a network supporting mission development; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for sustaining this church planting network will be \$5,800,000.00 for 2019-2021 to be allocated as follows:

\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders

\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations

\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders in church planting for various cultural contexts

\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network

\$3,000,000 for grants to support congregations with the grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

\$500,000 in matching funds for the support of leadership development programs for the next generation of church planters and ministry developers;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$6 million per triennium to plant new congregations, so that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers, as we all are learning how to nurture new ministries that challenge our assumptions about how to share the gospel with new cultures and generations,

and that dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies continue the advisory group of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and continuing to develop a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church planters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,800,000 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), pp. 1052-1053.



Resolution Number: 2018-A032
Title: Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention requests that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies in consultation with the Church Center staff create a church-wide Community of Practice that works with congregations and their bishops to help them redevelop to better engage the cultural realities of their communities for the sake of launching new ministries and multi-cultural missional initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of redeveloped congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means and through developing online resources that provide detailed information about the redevelopment efforts happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the cost of this initiative will be equally shared by the church-wide budget, participating dioceses and redeveloping congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the presiding officers appoint a task force to coordinate this initiative in collaboration with Church Center staff. That task force may be combined with a task force on Church Planting and Missional Initiatives at the discretion of the presiding officers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$725,000 during the triennium 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), pp. 542-543.



Resolution Number: 2015-D005
Title: Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention create a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters; and establishing new congregations each triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for creating this congregational network will be \$5,000,000 to be allocated as follows:

\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders

\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations

\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders for Latino/Hispanic ministries

\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network

\$2,700,000 for grants to support up to 30 congregations with the size and grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention encourages the Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$5 million per triennium to plant new congregations, with the hope that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute a minimum of 20% of the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint an advisory group of not more than twelve people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, and academics working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including developing criteria for receiving grants, providing a reporting process, making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and developing a network of coaches and internship sites; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of plants of new congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means, and through developing a website that provides detailed information about the various planting initiatives happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,000,000 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), pp. 314-315.



Resolution Number: 2006-A042
Title: Establish a Church Planting Initiative
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention establish a Church Planting Initiative to raise funds for new congregations in the dioceses of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention call every diocese of this Church to identify and document with projected costs and demographics including racial, ethnic, generational, and socioeconomic makeup of the targeted areas, prime opportunities for the development of new congregations including new college campus missions, and communicate this list of opportunities to the Office of Congregational Development by June 30, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development be directed to assemble these reports by December 30, 2007, and convey to Executive Council, in its regular report a comprehensive list of opportunities for new church and campus ministry development and projected costs, and to communicate this list through electronic and print media to the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That upon receipt of the comprehensive report for New Church Development the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council implement a major gifts campaign to fund the Church Planting Initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development in cooperation with the Ethnic Ministries offices, especially the Hispanic Ministries Office, lead and support the Church Planting Initiative by: keeping the church abreast of best practices for church, campus mission and ministry planting; raising awareness of opportunities for starting new congregations, campus mission and ministries throughout the church; assisting individual dioceses in planning and developing a vision and a plan for this Initiative; developing tools for assessing candidates for new church development; and recommending matching grants for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church be a financial partner with dioceses by providing matching grants to dioceses for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider the Church Planting Initiative budget for development staff to identify and nurture new sources of revenue in the grants, gifts, endowments and/or capital fund drives be increased from \$75,000 to \$475,000 during each year of the 2007–2009 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 655-656.