

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C068
Title: Suicide Prevention
Proposer: Province V
Topic: Health

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-C014 Urge Clergy Training on Suicide Prevention
2000-D008 Adopt Diocesan Resolution on Suicide Prevention
1994-C026 Address Youth Suicide and Conflicts Over Sexuality
1988-D132 Support Exploration of Causes of Suicide Among Gay and Lesbian Youth

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

1991-D050 On the Topic of Youth Suicide (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.

C068 Suicide Prevention

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| Proposer | Province V |
| 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 recognize that all Episcopal churches frequently find themselves on the front line of suicide intervention and suicide prevention among all age groups; and be it further

Resolved, that this General Convention recognize the good work accomplished by the Department of Faith Formation, thanks to the passage of Resolution 2018 C-014; and be it further

Resolved, that Resolution 2018 C-014 be expanded to encompass training on suicide prevention for all age groups and that training be made available to all interested and able members of Episcopal congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the individuals involved in undertaking this work remain cognizant of its relationship to other issues of serious concern to The Episcopal Church: gun violence prevention, substance use, military service, LGBTQ+, and mental health wellness; and be it further

Resolved, that as an outreach component to this expanded suicide prevention effort that all branches of The Episcopal Church including every diocese and congregation be encouraged to lobby their respective state governments to adequately fund and implement the new 988 suicide prevention hotline; and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council of the General Convention administer this Resolution or refer it to the appropriate body; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$200,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2018-C014
Title: Urge Clergy Training on Suicide Prevention
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognize that clergy and adults who work with youth are often on the frontlines of suicide prevention; and be it further

Resolved, That the institutions and diocesan programs that educate Priests and Deacons be encouraged to offer four (4) hours of suicide prevention education, using evidence-based trainings, for its students, and that dioceses offer similar suicide prevention training for their clergy and adults who work with youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Local Ministry and Mission administer this program, or refer it to the appropriate body for administration; 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 \$75,000 for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge local congregations to call on state and federal leaders to develop and implement strategies to increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 682-683.



Resolution Number: 2000-D008
Title: Adopt Diocesan Resolution on Suicide Prevention
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention adopt and affirm the resolution on Suicide Prevention by the Diocese of West Tennessee at its 19th convention, March 25, 2000:

1. **We affirm our belief that, as St. Paul teaches (Romans 8:39), "Nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**
2. **We pledge ourselves to collaborate with other religious bodies and secular agencies in educating ourselves to recognize and minister more appropriately to those among us who are especially at risk of suicide as well as those who are impacted by the suicide of others; and**
3. **We urge that all levels of the Episcopal Church, parochial, diocesan, and national, accord high priority to the prevention of suicide in prayers and programming.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 173.



Resolution Number: 1994-C026

Title: Address Youth Suicide and Conflicts Over Sexuality

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, , the House of Deputies concurring, That the members of this Church seriously address the issues of youth suicide and runaway/throwaway youth, especially as these result from conflict over sexuality, sexual identity, and sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations and dioceses of this Church are strongly encouraged to identify and use as soon as possible educational materials directed to parents which will assist them in understanding their children's sexuality and in caring for their children regardless of whatever their sexuality may be; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Education for Mission and Ministry, through the Youth Ministries Office, be directed to prepare educational materials to help youth understand their sexuality; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention allocate \$15,000.00 for these purposes for the 1995-1997 Triennium, subject to funding in the Budget.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 778.



Resolution Number: 1988-D132

Title: Support Exploration of Causes of Suicide Among Gay and Lesbian Youth

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That this 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize with love and compassion the tragic suffering of gay and lesbian youth and the loss of life of these children and others who felt compelled to end their lives; and be it further

Resolved, That this Episcopal Church pledge pastoral support of troubled youth, including exploration of the root causes of why many gay and lesbian children are driven to suicide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Youth Ministries Office of the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit be requested to include in their present resources information on the diverse dimensions of suicide, including gay and lesbian, for distribution to dioceses and congregations throughout the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 707.