

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D068
Title: Biblical Standard of the Tithe
Proposer: Mr. Randy Winn
Topic: Tithing

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-B028 Support Transformational Giving and the Biblical Tithe
2009-D055 Reaffirm Tithe as Minimum Standard of Giving
2003-A135 Encourage All Members to Develop a Personal Spiritual Discipline
2000-A106 Adopt the Stewardship Statement and Affirm Tithing
1997-A066 Develop Educational Program on Planned Giving and Tithe
1997-A138 Affirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
1994-A120 Reaffirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
1991-A187 On the Topic of Tithes and Bequests (Rejected)
1988-A164 Affirm the Tithe As the Standard of Giving and Signify by Signatures
1982-A116 Affirm the Tithe As the Standard of Giving

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

2012-A089 On the Topic of Holy Habits (Rejected)
2000-C005 On the Topic of Funding the National Church Through a Diocesan Tithe (Rejected)
1988-D165 Urge Each Household to Make a Financial Pledge
1988-A166 Request That the Practice of Stewardship Be an Integral Part of Seminary Life
1985-D140 Encourage Congregations to Accept the Practice of Giving to Others

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.

D068 - Biblical Standard of the Tithe

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Mr. Randy Winn

Endorsed by: Mr. Kevin Babb, Mr. Gerry Smith

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 18 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby commends the Biblical standard of the tithe to all Episcopalians as an essential element of being faithful Christians, and that the 80th General Convention encourages all Episcopalians who have not yet adopted the tithe as part of their personal financial commitment to God to move toward the tithe with all deliberate speed by giving to God a larger percentage of their income in each of the next two years with the firm purpose of achieving the tithe by the next General Convention and that General Convention expects God to pour out blessings upon God's faithful people as they put God to the test in the matter of the tithe, as promised in Malachi chapter 3 verse 10.

Explanation

God calls us in Scripture to recognize that all we are, and all we have has come from a gracious giver of all things; and we are not our own but "were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20); and; Holy Scripture and numerous resolutions passed by General Convention commend the principle of returning a tenth of one's income (tithing) to God through the church as a part of being responsible stewards of God's property entrusted to us; and God promises to "throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" for those who "test [Him] in this." (Malachi 3:10)



Resolution Number: 2018-B028
Title: Support Transformational Giving and the Biblical Tithe
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and The Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support enhanced transformational giving among its members through a commitment to proportional giving to church ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continue to embrace the biblical tithe of 10% as a standard for faithful generosity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continue its support of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) and request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 for the years 2019-2021.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1068-1069.



Resolution Number: 2009-D055
Title: Reaffirm Tithing as Minimum Standard of Giving
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm the tithing as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention Secretariat is requested to make provisions for the members of each House conveniently to indicate that they either are tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years, by signing their name and clearly printing their name and diocese, or, if they feel it inappropriate to make such a private matter public, signing and clearly printing the word "Anonymous" and giving either their state of residence or the state or foreign country where they were born; and be it further

Resolved, That the record of names and "Anonymous" signings be published in the Convention Journal and in such other Church publications as the Presiding Bishop may designate.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 806-807.



Resolution Number: 2003-A135
Title: Encourage All Members to Develop a Personal Spiritual Discipline
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That in recognition of the church's tradition of calling us to work, pray, and give for the spread of God's kingdom, all members of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to develop a personal spiritual discipline that includes, at a minimum, the holy habits of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath time, and weekly corporate worship; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bishops and Deputies of the 74th General Convention be given an opportunity to sign the following declaration:

As Christian stewards and leaders of The Episcopal Church, we affirm that we are tithing, or have adopted a plan to work toward tithing as a minimum standard for our giving; and that, if we are not already doing so, we are committed to give priority to corporate worship, personal daily prayer and study, and Sabbath time in our own lives; and we invite all members of The Episcopal Church to join us in these holy habits; and be it further

Resolved, That we commit ourselves to present this declaration to our diocesan conventions for adoption and signature, and in turn to the vestries and people of our parishes, missions, and university centers; and be it further

*Resolved, That the Secretary publish a list of the General Convention signatories in the Journal of the 74th General Convention and provide the same to *Episcopal Life* for publication of the statement and the list of signatories.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 588f



Resolution Number: 2000-A106
Title: Adopt the Stewardship Statement and Affirm Tithing
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopt the following Stewardship Statement of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development to be its own:

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT

We believe... We are the children of God, and we need to give. In every aspect of our lives we are entrusted to be stewards of God's creation. God invites us to give freely and to exercise joyfully our gifts through mission and ministry.

We commit ourselves... To boldly claim God's abundant provision in our lives; to offer extravagantly our time, talent, and money to do God's work; and to practice tithing as a minimum standard of giving.

We challenge members of the Episcopal Church... To confront our fears of scarcity; to embrace a new vision of stewardship through a joyful response to God's extravagant gifts; and to empower the mission of Christ through generous giving.

We invite... Leadership groups in dioceses and congregations to develop their own stewardship statements in order to promote response to the gospel;

and be it further

Resolved, That we, the Deputies and Bishops of this Convention, give thanks to God for those who embrace tithing as a faithful individual response to the grace of God; and do hereby affirm through our signatures these professed beliefs and practices; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signatures in the Journal.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 443.



Resolution Number: 1997-A066
Title: Develop Educational Program on Planned Giving and Tithe
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention direct the Executive Council and the Church Center staff to develop and implement a comprehensive educational program on planned giving for the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention direct the Executive Council and the Church Center staff to develop a comprehensive program to encourage our members to see the tithe as the minimum standard in their estate giving.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 183.



Resolution Number: 1997-A138
Title: Affirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm the tithe as the minimum standard of individual giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That we the Deputies and Bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted, or will adopt, a plan to tithe within the next three years; and be it further

Resolved, That we call each diocese, congregation and individual of this Church to join us in accepting and teaching the tithe as the minimum standard of individual Christian giving; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese and congregation engage in a process to adopt its own stewardship statement affirming the tithe as the minimum standard of individual Christian giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development report to the 73rd General Convention the results of the processes in the Dioceses and Congregations so that the models may be shared Church wide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to distribute signatory pages for Bishops and Deputies of each diocese signifying their commitment to the tithe as the minimum standard of individual Christian giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signatures in the Journal.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 163.



Resolution Number: 1994-A120
Title: Reaffirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirms the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That we the Deputies and Bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted, or will adopt, a plan to tithe within the next three years; and be it further

Resolved, That we call all members of this Church to join us in accepting the tithe as the minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to distribute signatory pages for Bishops and Deputies of each Diocese signifying their commitment to the tithe as the minimum standard of giving; and be it further

*Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signators in the *Journal*.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 172.



Resolution Number: 1991-A187
Title: On the Topic of Tithes and Bequests
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That we the members of this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States reaffirm the tithe as the minimum of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That we the deputies and bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm with our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted or will adopt a plan to do so within the next three years; and be it further

Resolved, That we the deputies and bishops of this Convention, as stewards of our accumulated assets, have each executed, or will within this *triennium* execute, wills arranging to leave bequests *as we are able* for religious and charitable purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That we do call all members of the Church to join us in these actions: and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to prepare and distribute signatory pages for bishops and deputies of each diocese signifying their commitment to these actions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signatures in the Journal of the 1991 General Convention.



Resolution Number: 1988-A164
Title: Affirm the Tithes As the Standard of Giving and Signify by Signatures
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That we the members of this 69th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the tithes as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further
Resolved, That we the deputies and bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted or will adopt a plan to tithes within the next three years; and be it further
Resolved, That we do call all members of the Church to join us in accepting the tithes as the minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to prepare and distribute signatory pages for bishops and deputies of each diocese signifying their commitment to the tithes as the minimum standard of giving; and be it further
Resolved, That the Secretary [of the Convention] be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signatures in the Journal.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 208.



Resolution Number: 1982-A116
Title: Affirm the Tithe As the Standard of Giving
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the tithe be affirmed as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That we Deputies and Bishops do hereby pledge ourselves to tithe, or to work towards tithing, as a minimum standard of our own giving and of our witness in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That we do call all of the Church to join us in accepting the biblical tithe as the minimum standard of Christian giving.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-111.