

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-D080  
**Title:** Building Community to Discern and Call Episcopal Leadership in the Episcopal Church on Navajoland  
**Proposer:** The Rev. Leon Sampson  
**Topic:** Bishops, Native Americans and Ministry

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

1994-A013 Amend Constitution Article I.4 [House of Deputies Representation--Second Reading]  
1988-B003 Support Proposal to Elect a Bishop for the Church in Navajoland  
1982-D013 Amend Canons I.8, 10 as follows:  
1976-B175 Amend Canons I.8, 10 as follows:  
Canon I.8.1 [Of Provinces]  
Canon I.8.2 [Of New Dioceses in Provinces]  
Canon I.8.7 [Of Provincial Representatives]  
Canon I.10.2 [Representation of an Area Mission]  
Canon I.10.3 [Transfer of Status of Missionary District]

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

2018-D010 Create an Indigenous Theological Education Coordinator Position  
2015-A028 Support Indigenous Theological Training and Education  
2012-A133 Fund Theological Training for Indigenous Peoples  
2006-A084 Amend Canons III.17.7 and I.11.2 [Of Missionary Jurisdictions]

*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.*

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# D080 - Building Community to Discern and Call Episcopal Leadership in the Episcopal Church on Navajoland

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** The Rev. Leon Sampson

**Endorsed by:** The Rev. Cathlena Plummer, Ms. GJ Gordy

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$50,000.00

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 10 - Congregational & Diocesan Vitality

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

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

That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm its “readiness to affirm the election and consecration as Bishop someone so called and nominated by the Episcopal Church in Navajoland;” and be it further

*Resolved*, the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of North America establish a process, within its Constitution and Canons, for the Episcopal Church on Navajoland to discern and call its own bishop, subject to the consent of the House of Bishops; and be it further

*Resolved*, the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of North America collaborate with and support the Episcopal Church on Navajoland in establishing its own rules and procedures for the local discernment and calling of a bishop; and be it further

*Resolved*, the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of North America create a process, within the parameters of its Constitution and Canons, for the Episcopal Church on Navajoland, in the event that the person it discerns and calls to serve as bishop is not confirmed by the House of Bishops, to continue its discernment subject to the rules and process it adopts, and call another candidate to serve as its bishop, subject to the consent of the House of Bishops; and be it further

*Resolved*, the 80th General Convention appropriate \$50,000 to support these efforts.

## **Explanation**

Pursuant to Resolutions 1976-B175 and 1979-C05, the Episcopal Church on Navajoland (Navajoland) was created out of ceded territories from the Diocese of Utah, Arizona, and the Rio Grande. Pursuant to Resolution 1982-D013, Navajoland was canonically recognized as the only Area Mission of the Episcopal Church. In 1988, pursuant to Resolution

1988-B003, the 69th General Convention declared its “readiness to affirm the election and consecration as Bishop someone so called and nominated by the Episcopal Church in Navajoland.”

Despite the 69th General Convention’s stated confidence in the people of Navajoland to discern and call its own leadership, a 1994 amendment to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church was required to afford deputies from ECN full voice and vote at General Convention (1994-A013). And, despite the 69th General Convention’s stated confidence in the people of Navajoland to discern and call its own leadership, Navajoland continues to have its bishops “assigned by the House of Bishops,” pursuant to Canon I.11.2(c) of Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

The people of Navajoland remain ready to discern and call their own episcopal leadership. The people of Navajoland hope that the Episcopal Church will recognize the work of the Spirit in their midst and honor their own distinct processes of discernment. The people of Navajoland desire collaboration with the House of Bishops, General Convention, and the Presiding Bishop’s Office to develop a joint process of discernment for episcopal leadership within the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in order to discern and call their own bishop.





**Resolution Number:** 1994-A013  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article I.4 [House of Deputies  
Representation--Second Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution be amended as follows:  
(Section 4, line 2) "... with the General Convention, each Area Mission established as provided  
by Article VI herein, and the Convocation ..." (Section 4, line 9) "... Each Diocese , Area  
Mission, and the ..."*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church,  
Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 307-08.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-B003  
**Title:** Support Proposal to Elect a Bishop for the Church in Navajoland  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 69th General Convention support the proposal from the Convocation with gratitude for the life and mission of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention declare its readiness to affirm the election and consecration as Bishop someone so called and nominated by the Episcopal Church in Navajoland.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 684.



**Resolution Number:** 1982-D013

**Title:** Amend Canons I.8, 10 as follows: Canon I.8.1 [Of Provinces] Canon I.8.2 [Of New Dioceses in Provinces] Canon I.8.7 [Of Provincial Representatives] Canon I.10.2 [Representation of an Area Mission] Canon I.10.3 [Transfer of Status of Missionary District]

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended

**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Title I, Canon 8, Sections 1, 2(a), 2(b), and 7, and Title I, Canon 10, Section 3(g) be amended and that a new subsection be added to Title I, Canon 10, Section 2, as follows:*

**TITLE I.**

**Canon 8.**

**Sec. 1....The Eighth Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii, the Dioceses of this Church in the Philippines and Taiwan, and the Area Mission of Navajoland.**

**TITLE I**

**Canon 8.**

**Sec.2 (a).** When a new *Diocese or Area Mission* shall be created wholly within any Province, such new *Diocese or Area Mission* shall be included in such Province. In case a new *Diocese or Area Mission* shall embrace territory in two or more Provinces, it shall be included in and form a part of the Province wherein the greater number of Presbyters and Deacons in such new *Diocese or Area Mission* shall, at the time of its creation, be canonically resident. Whenever a new *Diocese or Area Mission* shall be formed of territory not before included in any *Diocese Province*, the General Convention shall designate the Province to which it shall be annexed.

**TITLE I.**

**Canon 8.**

**Sec. 2(b).** By mutual agreement between the Synods of two adjoining Provinces, a *Diocese or Area Mission* may transfer itself from one of such Provinces to the other, such transfer to be considered complete upon approval thereof by the General Convention. Following such approval, Canon 1.8.1 shall be appropriately amended.

**TITLE I.**

**Canon 8.**

**Sec. 7.** Each *Diocese and Area Mission* within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies by Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in the *Diocese or Area Mission*, and Lay Persons, communicants of this Church ~~having domicile in good standing, but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese or Area Mission~~, in such number as the Provincial Synod, by Ordinance, may provide. Each *Diocese and Area Mission* shall determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen.



**TITLE I**

**Canon 10.**

*Sec. 2(f). An Area Mission which shall have been undertaken under the sole auspices of this Church, with a Bishop of this Church assigned to give episcopal oversight, shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Bishops and the Provincial House of Deputies in the Province of which it is a part .*

**TITLE I.**

**Canon 10.**

**Sec. 3(g). At the request of the Convention of a Missionary Diocese, accompanied by the Bishop's written resignation of his permanent jurisdiction therein, the General Convention may alter the status of a Missionary Diocese to that of an Area Mission, under such terms and conditions as may be stipulated by the House of Bishops in accordance with Canon L.10.2(a); and in such case, its right to representation by Deputies in the General Convention and the Provincial Synod shall cease.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-172.



**Resolution Number:** 1976-B175  
**Title:** Accept Diocesan Lands on Behalf of the Navajo Area Mission  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 1976, accept from the Dioceses of Utah and Arizona a cession of such portions of the said Dioceses as encompass lands of the Navajo Reservation, as well as the congregations of the Navajo Episcopalians on or adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the said Reservation, in order that the House of Bishops may establish an Area Mission within said ceded territory in accordance with Article VI., Section 1; such cession to be contingent upon the decision of the House of Bishops to establish such a mission.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-62.