

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-D088  
**Title:** Development of Digital and Evangelism Resources  
**Proposer:** The Rev. Everett Lees  
**Topic:** Evangelism, Technology

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

2018-A082 Urge Completion of Curriculum on Social Media for Evangelism  
2015-A173 Promote Evangelism Resources and an Action Plan  
2015-B009 Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative

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

2012-A147 Continue Forward Movement

*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.*

# D088 - Development of Digital and Evangelism Resources

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** The Rev. Everett Lees

**Endorsed by:** Fr. Chas Marks, Mr. Andy Richardson

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

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

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$150,000.00

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 11 - Evangelism & Church Planting

**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 direct Forward Movement to develop digital resources for evangelism and discipleship; and be further

*Resolved*, That \$150,000 be budgeted for Forward Movement to develop digital resources for evangelism and discipleship, which shall be provided to the church free of charge.

## Explanation

Additional digital resources need to be developed to invite and form disciples of Jesus. Forward Movement is the ideal partner for the Episcopal Church to develop these digital resources. Forward Movement would adapt current and future resources utilizing video and apps. In addition to providing social media resources for the church to use free of charge. This grant would also allow them to improve the Day by Day app with additional features for discipleship and prayer. Resources for The Path, Transforming Questions, Walk in Love, and Inwardly Digest would be available in new and accessible ways.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A082  
**Title:** Urge Completion of Curriculum on Social Media for Evangelism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention convey to the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation the desire that the curriculum started by the General Convention Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism be brought to its completion in this coming triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That said curriculum be utilized as part of The Episcopal Church's ongoing work of training evangelists, both face-to-face and digital evangelists, in preparation for Revivals and most especially in those places where a Revival may not be possible due to size, logistics, and other considerations so that digital evangelists are trained to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with traditionally underserved populations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation explore the mutual benefit of developing relationships with para-Church organizations such as Forma, the Episcopal Evangelism Society, and Episcopal Communicators to provide such training to other trainers whose reach might allow for the expansion of Episcopal Evangelists throughout the Church, with the goal of having at least one licensed evangelist trained in digital techniques in every Diocese by the end of the Triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 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. 1054-1055.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A173  
**Title:** Promote Evangelism Resources and an Action Plan  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention shall promote the gathering and sharing of evangelism resources for the purpose of energizing the Church to boldly and fearlessly share the Good News of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Forward Movement, in collaboration with the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, shall convene by December 31, 2016 an Evangelism Summit, a gathering of leaders from across The Episcopal Church who are engaged in the work of evangelism, both in training and equipping; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Summit shall identify existing evangelism resources, gaps and challenges. The purpose is to develop an evangelism road map: to propel the church beyond its walls, to spread the Gospel, proclaim the Kingdom, and to share the love of God in the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That these evangelism resources including a plan of action be shared no more than six months following the conclusion of the Summit with the wider Episcopal Church by the attendees of the Summit within their networks, such as the Episcopal Asset Map ([episcopalassetmap.org](http://episcopalassetmap.org)), and in other ways; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Forward Movement collaborate with the Development Office of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to fund this work through grants and contributions for the implementation of this resolution, especially to ensure participation in the Summit by the widest representation of all God's People.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 370.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-B009  
**Title:** Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to develop and conduct a digital evangelism initiative consisting of several campaigns, with equitable representation among the domestic provinces, with at least one campaign per year in a language other than English, for the benefit of the entire church, and for the purpose of meeting the demand online for the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of The Episcopal Church; to build and maintain a database of prospects; to cultivate those prospects via email, social media, blogs, and other means as shall prove effective; and to partner with dioceses to refer qualified prospects to local congregations, church plants, or other appropriate ministries; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the budget allocated for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be assumed to include funding for creating this digital evangelism initiative of \$3,000,000; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church Development Office is directed to prioritize raising funds for this digital evangelism initiative, with the expectation that \$1.5 million will be raised this triennium to support this initiative from dioceses that stand to benefit as well as other interested networks, persons, and entities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society report back to this Convention in three years' time with the results of this initiative, and with a recommendation for or against the creation of a permanent digital missionary presence online of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$3,000,000 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), p. 331.