

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A016
Title: Reaffirm and Commit to the Goal of a Permanent Location of an Archives for the Episcopal Church
Proposer: Secretary of General Convention
Topic: Archives

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A162 Reaffirm the Goal of an Archives Center for The Episcopal Church
2006-A143 Authorize Relocation of the Archives of The Episcopal Church
2000-A014 Evaluate Options for a Modern Archival Facility for The Episcopal Church

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

2012-A146 Fund The Archives of the Episcopal Church
1985-A075 Approve Housing the Church Archives at the Seminary of the Southwest

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

Report to the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Governance and Operations, [Board of the Archives](#), April 2019.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).

A016 - Reaffirm and Commit to the Goal of a Permanent Location of an Archives for the Episcopal Church

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Secretary of General Convention

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: Yes

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention commend the work of the Episcopal Archives staff for transferring more than 60 years of physical holdings from the Seminary of the Southwest to an interim location in Austin during the pandemic, at the same time maintaining the digital archive and providing research assistance to all who requested it; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention recognize the current relocation is an interim solution only and the need for a permanent historical records depository and research center remains a priority for the Church, recognizing that the Executive Council first identified this need in a resolve of February 2001 and General Convention reaffirmed the work to find a permanent center in both 2006-A143 and 2012-A162; that General Convention recognize property bought in Austin Texas for a possible Archives site was sold by the church in 2020, recognizing a net gain of over \$20 million for the church, to be administered by Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention reaffirm the need for a permanent location of the Archives and authorize the Board of the Archives, with the advice and consent of the

Executive Council, and with the aid of prudently selected individuals and advisory bodies, to investigate, evaluate, and adopt a plan for the location of The Archives of the Episcopal Church to an appropriate and accessible site within the United States, adequate for the present and future needs of the historical records of this Church, as contemplated by Canon 1.5 and described in Keeping Archives, Keeping Faith: Archives Board Report to Executive Council (June 2019); and be it further

Resolved, That the study to be completed by 2027; Funding for the recommendation of a site and for the move to a permanent location be utilized by funds realized by the 2020 sale of land acquired by Executive Council for this purpose in Austin.

Explanation

This resolution was referred from the 80th General Convention, proposed by Ms. Pan Adams-McCaslin and endorsed by Ms. Margaret Porter and Prof. Lawrence Hitt II, listed as 2022-D077, and referred to Legislative Committee 17 - Agencies & Boards.



Resolution Number: 2012-A162
Title: Reaffirm the Goal of an Archives Center for The Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend the work of the Episcopal Archives Strategy Committee for their considerable efforts to establish a solid plan for a sustainable building project on land purchased in Austin, Texas for a new Archives and Mission Research Center; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention reaffirm Resolution 2006-A143 as the basis for the work that remains to successfully construct an historical records repository as a visible public presence for The Episcopal Church, and does hereby:

- **Authorize the Board of the Archives, with aid of individuals and advisory bodies of its prudent selection and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, to investigate, evaluate and adopt a plan, and to relocate the Archives of The Episcopal Church to a site within the United States appropriate to and which will be adequate for the present and future needs of the Archives of this Church, as contemplated by Canon I.5. to be completed as soon as adequate funding resources can be identified and secured;**
- **Authorize the Board of the Archives, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, to raise funds for planning, construction, relocation and endowment of an archives facility for The Episcopal Church, to utilize funding made available to the Strategy Committee, and to draw upon the services of the appropriate development office to commence a fund-raising case and campaign; and**
- **Authorize the Board of the Archives, upon the advice and consent of Executive Council, to incorporate in an appropriate state under the applicable not-for-profit corporation law and to seek 501(c)(3) recognition under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; provided, however, that the Articles of Incorporation shall include a dissolution provision conforming with appropriate state laws and the Internal Revenue Code that upon dissolution, extinction or the winding up of its affairs, all assets and property of said corporation would be assigned, transferred and paid over to or for the benefit of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 147-148.



Resolution Number: 2006-A143
Title: Authorize Relocation of the Archives of The Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention hereby:

1. **Authorize and direct the Board of the Archives and the Archives Strategy Committee heretofore established by Executive Council, as the same may from time to time be comprised, to investigate, evaluate and adopt a plan, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, to relocate the Archives of The Episcopal Church to a site within the United States appropriate to and which will be adequate for the present and future needs of the Archives of this Church, as contemplated by Canon I.5., and those using the resources of the Archives to be completed on or before January 1, 2010;**
2. **Authorize the Board of the Archives and the said Archives Strategy Committee, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, to commence a fund-raising case and campaign for the costs of planning, construction, relocation and endowment of an archives facility for The Episcopal Church; and**
3. **Authorize the Board of the Archives, upon the advice and consent of Executive Council, to incorporate under the State of New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and to seek 501(c)(3) recognition under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; provided, however, that the Articles of Incorporation shall include a dissolution provision conforming with the laws of the State of New York and the Internal Revenue Code that upon dissolution, extinction or the winding up of its affairs, all assets and property of said corporation would be assigned, transferred and paid over to or for the benefit of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 211.



Resolution Number: 2000-A014
Title: Evaluate Options for a Modern Archival Facility for The Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Board of the Archives of the Episcopal Church evaluate the options that are available in creating a suitable archival facility for gathering, safeguarding, and preserving records of enduring value to the Episcopal Church's spiritual and cultural heritage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board enter into partnership with the Executive Council and other church-wide constituencies to appoint a project team that will gather data, identify resources, and formulate specific plans for purposes of establishing a facility that will meet the needs of a modern records and information management program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board be authorized to work with the project team to select an alternative that best meets the needs of the national and local church and, with the Executive Council, to initiate actions necessary to create an archival facility that will be a center for education, evangelism, and service to the church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 201f.