

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A026

Title: Establishing a Database for Title IV Outcomes on the Office of Transitional Ministry Profiles of Clergy

Proposer: Interim Body to Oversee the Continuing Development of Anti-Harassment Best Practices, Model Policy Examples and Varied Training Materials

Topic: Discipline, Technology

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A120 Amend Canons IV.19.30, III.12.7(c), and IV.13.11 [Preserve Records]

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

None

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](#).

A026 - Establishing a Database for Title IV Outcomes on the Office of Transitional Ministry Profiles of Clergy

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Interim Body to Oversee the Continuing Development of Anti-Harassment Best Practices, Model Policy Examples and Varied Training Materials

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

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 authorize the establishment of a Title IV data base on the Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) website, of which will hold all pastoral responses, pastoral directions, Accords, and decisions regarding clergy discipline, for the purpose of transparency, integrity, and accountability of all clergy search processes in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, that each Diocese shall send all mentioned materials to the Office of Transitional Ministry within thirty days of their becoming effective; and be it further

Resolved, That the OTM staff be charged with the responsibility of data entry and updates of any materials.

Explanation

It will make the church a safer place for everyone. It will also enable the search processes of the church at all levels to be more transparent, honest, and accountable to its members when actively searching for new clergy. This best practice will also remove some of the pressure of diocesan transition officers and bishops who frequently are tasked with learning of multiple clergy candidates in a short amount of time.



Resolution Number: 2018-A120
Title: Amend Canons IV.19.30, III.12.7(c), and IV.13.11 [Preserve Records]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention hereby amends Canon IV.19.30 to read as follows by the addition of the following subsection:

(d) The Archives of the Episcopal Church (the “Administrator”) shall create, administer and maintain a limited access secure central database registry to track data pertinent to proceedings under this Title (the “Database”) for the purpose of providing data and statistical information to assist in the furtherance of policymaking, education, ministry, and other governance objectives of the Church (collectively the “Database Purposes”).

(1) The Database shall only include disciplinary matters under this Title that are referred to the Reference Panel pursuant to Canon IV.6.6 or IV.6.7.

(2) The Diocese, Disciplinary Board, Church Attorney and Respondent (or Respondent’s Advisor) as applicable shall complete and submit forms to the best of their knowledge, including questionnaires as prescribed and created by the Standing Commission on Structure Governance Constitution and Canons or its successor standing commission in consultation with the Administrator, Chief Legal Officer, and Office of Pastoral Development.

(3) The Database shall not contain: (i) the personal identifying information of the Respondents, Complainants, Injured Persons, or witnesses; (ii) Privileged Communications; or (iii) other information that would be otherwise prohibited from disclosure under this Title or other applicable law.

(4) The Administrator shall make reports from the Database accessible to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, Chief Legal Officer, Office of Pastoral Development, and Executive Council. The Administrator will also make reports from the Database accessible to other Church governance bodies or other Church officials provided that such bodies and officials are seeking to use reports from the Database in furtherance of the Database Purposes and have received the approval of the Executive Council and the Chief Legal Officer of the Church. From time to time the Executive Council or the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons may publish statistical information and other reports

derived in from the Database provided that such publication is consistent with this canon.

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.12.7(c) is hereby amended as follows:

(c) In the case of the release and removal of a Bishop from the ordained Ministry of the Church as provided in this Canon, a declaration of removal and release shall be pronounced by the Presiding Bishop in the presence of two (2) or more Bishops, and shall be entered in the official records of the House of Bishops and of the Diocese in which the Bishop being removed and released is canonically resident. The Presiding Bishop shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary of the Convention and the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Standing Committee of the Diocese in which the Bishop was canonically resident, to all Bishops of this Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of this Church, the Recorder, the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the General Convention, *The Archives of the Episcopal Church*, The Church Pension Fund, and the Board for Transition Ministry.

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon IV.13.11 be amended as follows:

Sec. 11. If the determination is to dismiss the matter, the Hearing Panel shall issue an Order which shall include the reasons for dismissal and which may contain findings exonerating the Respondent. A copy of the Order shall be provided to the Bishop Diocesan, the Respondent, the Respondent's Advisor, the Complainant, the Complainant's Advisor, and the Church Attorney, *and a record copy of the Order shall be kept by transmitting a copy to The Archives of the Episcopal Church.*

And be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$25,000 to provide for the creation of the database.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1140-1141.