

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A044
Title: Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries
Proposer: Advisory Group on Congregational Revitalization
Topic: Congregations, Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A095 Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
2022-A096 Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries
2018-A005 Support Network of Planting Congregations
2018-A032 Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
2015-D009 Create a Congregational Revitalization Network

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](#).

A044 - Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Advisory Group on Congregational Revitalization

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$500,000.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: Yes

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 08 - Congregational Vitality & Data-Driven Initiatives

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrates and actively supports the revitalization of congregations, seeking not to restore past glories, but to move into the new callings of our loving, liberating, life-giving God; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize the revitalization of congregations and a churchwide network of support for congregational revitalization work that was initiated by GC2018-A032; and be it further

Resolved, That in the revitalization of congregations, the Church continues to prioritize commitment to mission and evangelism engaging under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, disabled persons, members of LGBTQIA communities, BIPOC communities, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for development of sustainable congregational revitalization throughout the Church will be \$500,000 for 2024-2027 to be allocated as follows:

- \$100,000.00 to engage Bishops and the diocesan representative(s) they appoint in development of a framework for congregational revitalization, identifying roadblocks that regularly thwart this work and identifying resources that are proven to enhance this work;
- \$75,000.00 to engage clergy and lay leaders in gleaning learnings from congregational revitalization that they have successfully done and/or they have failed in attempts to do, identifying roadblocks that have thwarted their work and identifying resources that have enhanced their work;
- \$75,000.00 for translation services and to facilitate participation of Spanish-speaking lay and ordained leaders in training for congregational revitalization;
- \$75,000.00 for further development of five-phase congregational redevelopment strategy - (1) diagnosing/assessing resources and challenges, (2) discerning next calling, (3) connecting with local and diocesan partners, (4) iterating and continued resourcing, and (5) evaluating, refining and sustaining
- \$150,000.00 to support a team of local and regional church-wide office staff to oversee the work; and
- \$25,000.00 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for lay and ordained leaders in revitalization of their congregations;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies establish an Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in revitalizing congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential revitalizers, and developing a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church revitalizers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council consider a budget allocation of \$500,000.00 for the implementation of this resolution.



Resolution Number: 2022-A095
Title: Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrates and supports the planting of new congregations and ministries, the training and recruiting of planters and mission developers, and the fostering of a church-wide network of support for new ministry development that was originally funded by 2018-A005 and 2018-A032; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize establishing new Episcopal communities and strengthening existing ones that are especially committed to mission and evangelism engaging people historically underserved and/or under-represented by the Church, for example, people of color, immigrants and refugees, youth, young adults, people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQI+), gender non-conforming people, people living in poverty, people with disabilities and/or all others who are disenfranchised from the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for sustaining this new ministry development will be \$5,800,000.00 for 2022-2024 to be allocated as follows:

- **\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to train clergy and lay leaders in planting congregations**
- **\$600,000 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for planters of congregations**
- **\$1,000,000 for the continuing development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders in church planting for various cultural contexts**
- **\$500,000 to support a church-wide office staff person to oversee the planting network.**
- **\$3,000,000 for grants to new and existing church plants, to be administered by the Task Force for Church Planting in consultation with the Churchwide Office Staff Officer for church planting.**
- **\$500,000 for the support of leadership development programs for the next generation of church planters and ministry developers;**

And be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office establish an advisory group to study the possibility of creating an endowment for church plants and evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will be required to contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses engaged in church planting and evangelism to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers. Those dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention embrace the future of our Church by, after this Triennia, moving the funding for a church-wide office staff-person to oversee the planting network (Staff Officer for Church Planting) into the continuing budget for the Presiding Bishop's staff; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,800,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 774-775.



Resolution Number: 2022-A096
Title: Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrates and actively supports the revitalization of congregations, seeking not to restore past glories, but to move into the new callings of our loving, liberating, life-giving God; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize the revitalization of congregations and a church-wide network of support for congregational revitalization work that was initiated by 2018-A032; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies establish an advisory group of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in revitalizing congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential revitalizers, and developing a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church revitalizers; and be it further

Resolved, That in the revitalization of congregations, the Church continues to prioritize commitment to mission and evangelism engaging people historically underserved and/or under-represented by the Church, for example, people of color, immigrants and refugees, youth, young adults, people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQI+), gender non-conforming people, people living in poverty, people with disabilities and/or all others who are disenfranchised from the Church; and be it further; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for development of sustainable congregational revitalization throughout the Church will be \$2,000,000 for 2022-2024 to be allocated as follows:

- **\$100,000 to engage Bishops and the diocesan representative(s) they appoint in development of a framework for congregational revitalization, identifying roadblocks that regularly thwart this work and identifying resources that are proven to enhance this work;**
- **\$100,000 to engage clergy and lay leaders in gleaning learnings from congregational revitalization that they have successfully done and/or they have failed in attempts to do, identifying roadblocks that have thwarted their work and identifying resources that have enhanced their work;**
- **\$100,000 for translation services and to facilitate participation of Spanish-speaking lay and ordained leaders in training for congregational revitalization;**
- **\$200,000 for further development of five-phase congregational redevelopment strategy - (1) diagnosing/assessing resources and challenges, (2) discerning next calling, (3) connecting with local and diocesan partners, (4) iterating and continued resourcing, and (5) evaluating, refining and sustaining**
- **\$1,000,000 to support a team of local and regional church-wide office staff to oversee the work; and**
- **\$500,000 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for lay and ordained leaders in revitalization of their congregations.**

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$2,000,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 773-774.



Resolution Number: 2018-A005
Title: Support Network of Planting Congregations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support emerging communities through the good work initiated by GC2015 – D005 and A012 to develop a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters and mission developers; and establishing new congregations or mission enterprise zones each triennium that are especially committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, differently abled persons, people identifying as members of LGBTQIA+ communities, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church honors the holy experiments emerging throughout the Church – experiments that build partnerships within and beyond the church, expand the language of ministry, create new ways to engage the people of God, harvest and share learnings, and lend courage to those leading new ministries and lower the cost of failure through a network supporting mission development; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for sustaining this church planting network will be \$5,800,000.00 for 2019-2021 to be allocated as follows:

\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders

\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations

\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders in church planting for various cultural contexts

\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network

\$3,000,000 for grants to support congregations with the grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

\$500,000 in matching funds for the support of leadership development programs for the next generation of church planters and ministry developers;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$6 million per triennium to plant new congregations, so that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute significant, resource appropriate, and local funding to support the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers, as we all are learning how to nurture new ministries that challenge our assumptions about how to share the gospel with new cultures and generations,

and that dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies continue the advisory group of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and continuing to develop a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church planters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,800,000 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. 1052-1053.



Resolution Number: 2018-A032
Title: Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention requests that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies in consultation with the Church Center staff create a church-wide Community of Practice that works with congregations and their bishops to help them redevelop to better engage the cultural realities of their communities for the sake of launching new ministries and multi-cultural missional initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of redeveloped congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means and through developing online resources that provide detailed information about the redevelopment efforts happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the cost of this initiative will be equally shared by the church-wide budget, participating dioceses and redeveloping congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the presiding officers appoint a task force to coordinate this initiative in collaboration with Church Center staff. That task force may be combined with a task force on Church Planting and Missional Initiatives at the discretion of the presiding officers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$725,000 during the triennium 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. 542-543.



Resolution Number: 2015-D009
Title: Create a Congregational Revitalization Network
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention shall promote the revitalization of existing congregations within The Episcopal Church through the creation of a congregational revitalization network; and be it further

Resolved, That a churchwide staff position be created to facilitate the creation of this network, coordinate training opportunities for congregational leaders, and encourage collaboration between existing revitalization ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That regional coaches with practical revitalization experience be identified and trained in congregational revitalization, who shall be available to congregations in varying parts of the church to consult with them on revitalization efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the staff leader and the coaches shall provide training opportunities for congregational clergy and lay leaders in order to help them re-vision their purpose, use of space, outreach to their communities, evangelism efforts, and new ways of proclaiming the gospel of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That a Congregation Revitalization Venture Fund be created to fund grants to existing congregations, with special attention given to congregations reaching out to populations that are underrepresented in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That Congregation Revitalization Venture Fund grants shall be administered by a grants committee established for that purpose by Executive Council in consultation with the staff leader; and be it further

Resolved, That the Development Office be directed to make raising \$300,000 for the Congregation Revitalization Venture Fund one of its priorities in the 2016-18 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance be requested to consider an allocation of \$700,000 for the 2016-18 triennium 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), pp. 315-316.