

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A045
Title: Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Worshiping Communities
Proposer: Advisory Group on Congregational Revitalization
Topic: Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A095 Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
2022-A096 Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries
2022-C060 Establish an Evangelism Endowment Fund
2018-A005 Support Network of Planting Congregations
2018-A032 Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
2018-A095 Amend Canon IV.4.1 [Standards of Conduct -- Clergy]
2015-A012 Continue Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones
2015-D005 Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
2006-A042 Establish a Church Planting Initiative

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

2018-A030 Establish Small Grant Program for Local Evangelism
2012-D023 Affirm Episcopalians as Evangelists to Grow the Church
2009-A067 Develop a Strategy with Covenant Partners for Starting New Congregations
2003-A073 Develop Practices for Church Planting
1997-D044 Request Dioceses to Adopt an Annual Goal for New Church Starts
1994-D054 Request Report From Evangelism Commission on Church Planting
1994-D110 Authorize the Establishment of the Plant-A-Church Fund for Evangelism
1991-D106 Establish 1000 New Congregations by the Year 2000

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](#).

A045 - Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Worshiping Communities

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Advisory Group on Congregational Revitalization

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$1.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

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

That the 81st General Convention and the Episcopal Church continues churchwide support for the planting of new worshiping communities, the training and recruiting of church planters, and the fostering of a church-wide network of support for new missional development that was originally funded by GC2018-A005, GC2018-A032, and GC2018-A095; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continues to prioritize establishing New Episcopal Worshiping Communities that are especially committed 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 sustaining this new ministry development will be \$1,692,000.00 for 2025-2027 to be allocated as follows:

- \$92,000.00 to identify and support existing programs to train clergy and lay leaders in planting congregations,

- \$200,000.00 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for planters of congregations,
- \$100,000.00 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,
- \$1,300,000.00 for grants to new and existing church plants, to be administered by the Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization in consultation with the Churchwide Office Staff Officer for church planting;

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 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 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 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 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 Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council consider a budget allocation of \$1,692,000 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: 2022-C060
Title: Establish an Evangelism Endowment Fund
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention reaffirm our commitment to improve the health and future of our congregations and our church by faithfully living out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church celebrates and supports the planting of new congregations and ministries, the training and recruiting of church planters, church revitalizers and mission developers, and the fostering of a church-wide network of support for the work of the Great Commission 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 given the importance of evangelism, revitalization and church planting for the future of The Episcopal Church, that an Endowment Fund for The Episcopal Church be authorized by the 80th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this Endowment Fund be funded by any manner considered appropriate by Executive Council and solicited from the General Convention budget, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, dioceses, and congregations through their respective legislative bodies, special offerings and other appropriate means; and be it further

Resolved, That this authorization be implemented by action of the Executive Council.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 858.



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: 2018-A095
Title: Amend Canon IV.4.1 [Standards of Conduct -- Clergy]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon IV.4.1(h) is hereby amended to read as follows:
(h) refrain from:

- (1) any act of Sexual Misconduct;**
- (2) holding and teaching publicly or privately, and advisedly, any Doctrine contrary to that held by the Church;**
- (3) engaging in any secular employment, calling or business without the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Member of the Clergy is canonically resident;**
- (4) being absent from the Diocese in which the Member of the Clergy is canonically resident, except as provided in Canon III.9.3(e) for more than two years without the consent of the Bishop Diocesan;**
- (5) any criminal act that reflects adversely on the Member of the Clergy's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a minister of the Church;**
- (6) conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; ~~or~~**
- (7) habitual neglect of the exercise of the ministerial office without *good cause*;**
~~or~~
- (8) habitual neglect of public worship, and of the Holy Communion, according to the order and use of the Church; *or and***
- ~~(8)~~ (9) any Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Clergy.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 288.



Resolution Number: 2015-A012
Title: Continue Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Church celebrate and continue the good work initiated by GC2012-A073 to Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones, defined as a geographic area, as a group of congregations or as an entire diocese committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, 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 are building partnerships, expanding the language of ministry, creating new ways to engage the people of God, harvesting and sharing learnings, and lending courage to those leading new ministries and lowering the cost of failure; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention continue to fund the start-up of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts from the 2012-2015 triennium with a significantly increased budget allocation over the initial grant funding; and be it further

Resolved, That in the coming triennium, dioceses are encouraged to apply for one of more Mission Enterprise Zone matching grants to facilitate and support the development of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts with exceptions to the requirement for diocesan matching funds in cases of diocesan financial limitations; and be it further

Resolved, That applications for partnership and funding from these new ministries will be discerned, supported and called by the existing Mission Enterprise Zone leadership (established in A073, GC2012) and grant discernment process in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church continue to develop the Mission-Centered Episcopalians web-based sharing platform and to bring together mission developers for a face-to-face gathering where they can share best practices, upholding ministry leader wellness, mutual guidance and support, and sharing of stories, resources, and prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That Bishops and other diocesan leaders be encouraged to share what they are learning from the Mission Enterprise Zones in their Dioceses, specifically in the disciplines of: a.) financing and sustaining these experiments, b.) adapting liturgical practices for increased missional impact, c.) exploring new processes for mentoring and training emerging leaders in situ, and d.) blessing our diocesan families by more readily incorporating these non-traditional faith communities with seat and voice as discerned by the leadership of that Mission Enterprise Zone or New Church Start; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance allocate not less than the three million dollars designated in the EC draft budget for 2016-18 to continue funding the start-up of Mission Enterprise Zones including New Church Starts to implement this resolution during the 2016-2018 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 329-330.



Resolution Number: 2015-D005
Title: Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention create a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters; and establishing new congregations each triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget for creating this congregational network will be \$5,000,000 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 for Latino/Hispanic ministries

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

\$2,700,000 for grants to support up to 30 congregations with the size and grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention encourages the Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$5 million per triennium to plant new congregations, with the hope 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 a minimum of 20% of the costs of any new plants; and be it further

Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint an advisory group of not more than twelve people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, and academics working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including developing criteria for receiving grants, providing a reporting process, making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and developing a network of coaches and internship sites; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of plants of new congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means, and through developing a website that provides detailed information about the various planting initiatives happening throughout the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,000,000 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), pp. 314-315.



Resolution Number: 2006-A042
Title: Establish a Church Planting Initiative
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention establish a Church Planting Initiative to raise funds for new congregations in the dioceses of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention call every diocese of this Church to identify and document with projected costs and demographics including racial, ethnic, generational, and socioeconomic makeup of the targeted areas, prime opportunities for the development of new congregations including new college campus missions, and communicate this list of opportunities to the Office of Congregational Development by June 30, 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development be directed to assemble these reports by December 30, 2007, and convey to Executive Council, in its regular report a comprehensive list of opportunities for new church and campus ministry development and projected costs, and to communicate this list through electronic and print media to the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That upon receipt of the comprehensive report for New Church Development the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council implement a major gifts campaign to fund the Church Planting Initiative; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development in cooperation with the Ethnic Ministries offices, especially the Hispanic Ministries Office, lead and support the Church Planting Initiative by: keeping the church abreast of best practices for church, campus mission and ministry planting; raising awareness of opportunities for starting new congregations, campus mission and ministries throughout the church; assisting individual dioceses in planning and developing a vision and a plan for this Initiative; developing tools for assessing candidates for new church development; and recommending matching grants for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church be a financial partner with dioceses by providing matching grants to dioceses for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider the Church Planting Initiative budget for development staff to identify and nurture new sources of revenue in the grants, gifts, endowments and/or capital fund drives be increased from \$75,000 to \$475,000 during each year of the 2007–2009 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 655-656.