

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A046
Title: Support Starting New Bi-Cultural and Multi-Cultural Ministries
Proposer: Advisory Group on Congregational Revitalization
Topic: Diversity, Ethnic Ministries

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D094 Reaffirm the Role of Multicultural Ministries
2018-A057 Strengthen Grassroots Social Justice Advocacy and Multicultural Ministries
2012-A073 Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones
2003-A076 Develop Transformation Resources
1997-A068 Request a Domestic Missionary Strategy for Diverse Ethnic Groups
1991-A063 Develop a Comprehensive Strategy for New Congregational Development

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

2022-A095 Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
2022-D004 Continue Funding the Work of Beloved Community
2018-A005 Support Network of Planting Congregations
2018-A032 Create a Task Force on Congregational Redevelopment and Mission
2015-A086 Create a Network of Latino/Hispanic Partners for Congregational Development
2015-D005 Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches
2012-D093 Affirm Ministry Office Assisting Black Congregations
2006-A042 Establish a Church\nPlanting Initiative
1994-B029 Urge Use of Surplus Diocesan Funds for Local Ethnic Ministry
1994-C008 Direct Dioceses to Ensure Participation of Hispanics in Leadership

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](#).

A046 - Support Starting New Bi-Cultural and Multi-Cultural 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 lb: No

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

That the 81st General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrates and actively supports the work of our missionaries for Ethnic Ministries and the vital work they are doing to support bi-cultural and multicultural ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That in support of these new ministries taking place in existing congregations with partnership and support from that congregation where possible, the Church continues to follow the best practices identified by the Ethnic Ministry offices even as we continue to learn based on our experience and the work of our ecumenical partners; 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:

- \$350,000 for bi-cultural and multi-cultural ministry grants for that will include ministries in existing congregations with partnership and support from that congregation where possible, to be administered by the Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization in consultation with the Churchwide Office Staff Officer for church planting. .
- \$100,000 to provide in support of churchwide gatherings for lay and ordained leaders doing this bi-cultural and multi-cultural ministry in their dioceses, and

- \$50,000 to provide mentorship/coaching/training for lay and ordained leaders engaged in bi-cultural and multi-cultural ministry.

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 for the implementation of this resolution.



Resolution Number: 2022-D094
Title: Reaffirm the Role of Multicultural Ministries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirms the role of our multicultural ministries in the life of the Church and resolves to strengthen them and affirm evangelistic work among diverse ethnic groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention reaffirms all prior resolutions concerning ethnic ministries and resolves that the principles inherent in prior resolutions concerning particular ethnic groups apply to all ethnic and underrepresented groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirms the Church's work and commitment to minority and ethnic ministry and its work to underrepresented and vulnerable groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirms all church-wide and diocesan bodies for ethnic congregational development and continues to support empowerment programs for ethnic and racial minorities and underrepresented groups; and be it further

Resolved, That all previous General Convention resolutions supporting ethnic and minority ministries shall be considered part of the Church's anti-racism and evangelistic work; and be it further

Resolved, That the work necessary to include people of color, ethnic minorities, and the underrepresented in the life and leadership of the Church at all levels – church-wide and diocesan – is inalienable from the Baptismal Covenant's call to respect the dignity of every human being.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 878.



Resolution Number: 2018-A057
Title: Strengthen Grassroots Social Justice Advocacy and Multicultural Ministries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention support the continued and additional strengthening of Church wide staff resources and collaboration in accordance with the Blue Book report of the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church to support the grassroots work of The Episcopal Church in the areas of social justice advocacy and ethnic and multicultural ministry across The Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 413.



Resolution Number: 2012-A073
Title: Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention establish the Mission Enterprise Fund, to be administered by a grants committee for that purpose established by the Executive Council, with \$1 million for the 2013–2015 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That Diocesan Standing Committees and Bishops partner to create "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 a Diocese may apply for a matching grant of up to \$20,000 from the Mission Enterprise Fund, to facilitate the development of the Mission Enterprise Zone; and be it further

Resolved, That congregational leaders in Mission Enterprise Zones participate in trainings around anti-racism, cross-cultural community development, and ministry development and evangelism, in order to gain the skills to effectively build relationships with groups currently under-represented in The Episcopal Church but growing throughout our domestic mission field; and be it further

Resolved, That each Mission Enterprise Zone feature a strategic plan to start or redevelop a congregation that is intentionally multi-cultural, incorporating the presence and leadership of under-represented generations, socio-economic groups, races, ethnicities and/or languages; and be it further

Resolved, That for the period between the 77th and 78th General Conventions, these enterprise zones be created and be granted greater freedom as authorized by the Bishop in consultation with diocesan leadership regarding the designation of "congregation" status, traditional formation for and use of ordained leadership, and the use of authorized texts for principle worship gatherings; and be it further

Resolved, That diocesan leaders report to the Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church the results of their efforts, including a description of the Mission Enterprise Zone and the process for creating the zone, the number and nature of new faith communities created, the number and demographic profiles of people associated with these communities, and the ministries established within the zone; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church compile and reflect on these accounts and use them to fulfill the request of the Executive Council to help the Church "create a canonical process to incorporate new faith community models into our existing structures" by the 78th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$1,000,000 to implement this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 113-114.



Resolution Number: 2003-A076
Title: Develop Transformation Resources
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Episcopal Church Center staff and specifically the ethnic ministries desks, be charged to:

- continue to develop strategic resources for transformation, such as: Transformation and Renewal (vitalization in Black congregations) and Start Up, Start Over (theory and best practices for congregational renewal)
- continue to hold up paradigmatic examples of transformation and resurrection, including those in multicultural congregations, via *Episcopal Life*, the national church website, etc.
- continue to develop and offer multicultural and multilingual resources for transforming congregations and leadership training
- develop a national consultancy gathering for leaders in multicultural congregations, for the purpose of networking, learning, and resource sharing
- continue to develop educational resources for transformation, such as Bible studies and small group resources for hospitality, mission, evangelism, and how to tell our own stories; resources that make liturgy more accessible, (e.g., the Rite series); resources for learning about culture and change
- continue to maintain awareness of opportunities for learning and transformation in congregational life (Congregational Development office).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 334f.



Resolution Number: 1997-A068
Title: Request a Domestic Missionary Strategy for Diverse Ethnic Groups
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention give thanks for the creative and effective ministries in our Church which reach out across racial and cultural lines; and be it further Resolved, That each diocese and province be requested to create and implement a domestic missionary strategy to reach out and embrace peoples diverse in ethnicity and not included in large numbers in the Episcopal Church; and be it further Resolved, That the Evangelism Office at the Church Center be requested to support the diocesan and provincial planning efforts.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 618.



Resolution Number: 1991-A063
Title: Develop a Comprehensive Strategy for New Congregational Development
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That through the action of its 70th General Convention the Episcopal Church commit itself to develop and promote a more comprehensive mission strategy for new congregation development which will include both ethnic specific models as well as multi-cultural models; both of these types of new congregations should be pursued at a variety of socio-economic levels; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese be encouraged to continue developing and implementing its own strategies for new congregations, including ethnic specific and multi-cultural models at a variety of socio-economic levels; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations, dioceses and the National Church be encouraged to publicize the results of such strategies.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 398.