

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A051  
**Title:** Amend Canons I.2.4.a Data Collection for the Church  
**Proposer:** House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church  
**Topic:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

None

**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](#).*

# A051 - Amend Canons I.2.4.a Data Collection for the Church

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

**Endorsed by:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution, and Canons

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$75,000.00

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** Yes

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** Yes

**Directs Dioceses:** Yes

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 02 - Constitution & Canons

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention amend Canon I.2.4.a to add item a.7 as follows:

**<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

7. Make provision for the analysis of appropriate data about this Church's mission, its opportunities, and challenges. An annual report, published freely to the Church, will include such data as to allow for data-informed decisions by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the General Convention, the Executive Council, dioceses, congregations, and local leaders.

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**<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

*7. Make provision for the analysis of appropriate data about this Church's mission, its opportunities, and challenges. An annual report, published freely to the Church, will include such data as to allow for data-informed decisions by the Domestic and Foreign*

*Missionary Society, the General Convention, the Executive Council, dioceses, congregations, and local leaders.*

And be it further

*Resolved*, That all dioceses, congregations, and other church institutions are urged to cooperate with all research endeavors sponsored by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society by responding to requests for data; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention will provide a budget allocation of \$75,000 to carry out this work in the first triennium.

## **Explanation**

This resolution was co-sponsored by the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church and the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons.

When is the best time to plant a tree?

Twenty years ago.

When is the second-best time to plant a tree?

Now.

The Episcopal Church is woefully behind our sister denominations in the collection, study, and use of data for decision making at every level of the Church, and in a perfect world, this resolution would be designed to create a high level staff position for such work. Given the realities of a new Presiding Bishop who will want to organize their own staff, this stop-gap measure is presented to a) require the next Presiding Bishop to offer a full data analysis and b) urge the Church-wide structure, dioceses, congregations, committees, commissions, agencies, and boards to make use of data in their decision making. Outsourcing this work in the first triennium will allow the Presiding Bishop, the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church, and the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitutions, and Canons to take an iterative approach in understanding what data is helpful, how it is best collected, and in what form the report should be produced.