

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A053
Title: Amend Canons IV.2, IV.8.1, and IV.8.5 Regarding the Role of Intake officers
Proposer: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic: Canons, Discipline

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-D047 Amend Canon VI.8.1 [Of Pastoral Response] and Support Reporters of Misconduct

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

2018-D033 Refer a Resolution on a Church-wide Intake Officer (Referred)

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](#).

A053 - Amend Canons IV.2, IV.8.1, and IV.8.5 Regarding the Role of Intake officers

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: 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

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention amend Canons IV.2 to read 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.>

Canon IV.2

Intake Officer means one or more persons designated by the Bishop Diocesan after consultation with the Disciplinary Board, unless otherwise selected pursuant to diocesan canons, to whom information regarding Offenses is reported. The following individuals may not serve as an Intake Officer: (a) any Bishop; (b) any member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese where the matter is pending; or (c) any person that holds an office, is employed by, or maintains a compensation relationship with the Diocese where the matter is pending in which such employment, office, or other compensation relationship includes responsibility for the deployment of Clergy or pastoral care of members of the Clergy.

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

Canon IV.2

Intake Officer shall ~~mean~~ *means* one or more persons designated by the Bishop Diocesan after consultation with the Disciplinary Board, unless otherwise selected pursuant to diocesan canons, to whom information regarding Offenses is reported. *The following individuals may not serve as an Intake Officer: (a) any Bishop; (b) any member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese where the matter is pending; or (c) any person that holds an office, is employed by, or maintains a compensation relationship with the Diocese where the matter is pending in which such employment, office, or other compensation relationship includes responsibility for the deployment of Clergy or pastoral care of members of the Clergy.*

And be it further.

That the 81st General Convention amend Canon IV.8.1 to read 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.>**

Canon 8: Of Pastoral Response

Sec. 1. The Bishop Diocesan shall provide for appropriate pastoral response whenever any report is made to the Intake Officer. Such pastoral response shall embody respect, care, and concern for affected persons and Communities. The response shall be designed so as to promote healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. If the report involves an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, the Bishop Diocesan shall provide for a professional pastoral care assessment in order to provide an appropriate pastoral response. The pastoral response will include all affected persons and communities. The pastoral care response will be based on the professional pastoral care assessment.

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

Canon 8: Of Pastoral Response

Sec. 1. The Bishop Diocesan shall provide for appropriate pastoral response whenever any report is made to the Intake Officer. Such pastoral response shall embody respect, care, and concern for affected persons and Communities. The response shall be designed so as to promote healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. If the report involves an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, the Bishop Diocesan ~~shall is encouraged to~~ provide for a *professional pastoral care assessment in order to provide an appropriate pastoral response. The pastoral response will include all affected persons and communities. The pastoral care response will be based on the professional pastoral care assessment* ~~pastoral response that will include~~

~~the provision of assistance by a mental health professional with appropriate skills for meaningful response to affected persons.~~

And be it further.

Resolved, that the 81st General Convention amend Canon IV.8.5 to read 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.>**

Canon IV.8.5

Sec. 5. The Bishop Diocesan may designate one or more persons to be responsible for the implementation of the pastoral response. Such person must not be the Intake Officer. The duties of such person may include coordination of pastoral care and coordination of communications between the Bishop Diocesan and Advisors.

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

Canon IV.8.5

Sec. 5. The Bishop Diocesan may designate ~~a person~~ *one or more persons* to be responsible for the implementation of the pastoral response. Such person ~~may~~ *must not* be the Intake Officer. The duties of such person may include coordination of pastoral care and coordination of communications between the Bishop Diocesan and Advisors.

Explanation

Due to their potential roles later in Title IV proceedings, various persons should not serve as a Title IV Intake Officer. The role of pastoral care in Title IV is important, and pastoral care providers are one of the roles that should not serve as an Intake Officer. Additionally, bishops should ensure appropriate pastoral care to all affected persons and communities.



Resolution Number: 2018-D047
Title: Amend Canon VI.8.1 [Of Pastoral Response] and Support Reporters of Misconduct
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church calls upon all members of dioceses, congregations, institutions, and all affiliated organizations, individually and in community, to acknowledge that:

- reporting clergy misconduct is a courageous and sacrificial act, demonstrating love for and trust in the church;
- such reporting is an act of service to the church;
- a victim has a right to expect our faith communities to respond with the love and compassion of Christ.

Resolved, That persons who have been subjected to clergy misconduct often suffer significant psychological, spiritual and emotional injuries, as well as injuries to relationships of family and community. The Church's response to these persons should include a range of resources and assistance from highly qualified professional providers; and be it further

Resolved, That guided by current resources of The Episcopal Church and in consultation with local professional providers, each diocese is encouraged to assemble an array of service providers with appropriate skills for meaningful responses to the needs of the reporters of clergy misconduct and those affected by clergy misconduct, which resources shall include trauma-informed approaches; and be it further

Resolved, That Canon IV.8.1 be amended to read as follows:

CANON 8: Of Pastoral Response

Sec. 1. The Bishop Diocesan shall provide for appropriate pastoral response whenever any report is made to the Intake Officer. Such pastoral response shall embody respect, care, and concern for affected persons and Communities. The response shall be designed so as to promote healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all involved or affected. *If the report involves an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, the Bishop Diocesan is encouraged to provide for a pastoral response that will include the provision of assistance by a mental health professional with appropriate skills for meaningful response to affected persons.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1093.