

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

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A086  
**Title:** Create a Task Force for Youth Formation and World Mission  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on World Mission  
**Topic:** World Mission, Youth

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A013 Support the Work of Global Missions Programs  
2003-A032 On the Topic of a Survey on Young Adults (Rejected)  
2003-A065 Support Young Adult Leadership Programs  
2003-A077 Develop Strategies for Ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults  
2003-A128 Reaffirm Commitment to Educational Support of Young People  
1997-A147 Consider Young Adults for National Church Service  
1994-D112 Appropriate Funds to Evangelism Activities for Young People  
1991-A069 Develop Ministries of Evangelism With Youth  
1991-D116 Affirm the Importance of Young Adults in the Life of the Church  
1985-A142 Develop a Forceful Strategy for Evangelism to Reach Young Adults

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

2018-A033 Commend and Expand the Episcopal Youth Event  
2018-D054 Encourage Support for YASC and EVIM Youth Programs  
2009-D064 Request Youth Pilgrimage to European Sites  
2009-D092 Reaffirm Campus Ministry  
2006-A114 Develop Resources for the Young Adult Service Corps  
2000-D080 Affirm and Study Youth Ministry Programs at All Levels  
1997-D032 Acknowledge the Church's Unique Role in Ministering to Youth

*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](#).*

# A086 - Create a Task Force for Youth Formation and World Mission

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on World Mission

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$30,000.00

**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:** 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

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## Resolution Text

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

That the 81st General Convention establish a Task Force for collaborative research, relationship-building and program development for the purpose of identifying, sharing and developing global mission opportunities for youth (ages 13-21) in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force gather information on programs and resources currently in use across The Church, highlighting particularly the areas of intersection that exist between the formation of Christian identity and the expression of God's love through loving our neighbors near and far and especially in global and intercultural contexts, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force may be comprised of membership including, but not limited to, from Interim Bodies, relevant Episcopal Church entities, youth (ages 13-21), and representation from domestic and non-domestic dioceses with special consideration given to inclusion of persons from non-English speaking dioceses, jurisdictions, and mission areas; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

## Explanation

Acknowledging the myriad ways in which world mission and faith formation intersect with other disciplines and ministries in The Episcopal Church and beyond, and lifting up the increasing need for vocational discernment and formation opportunities for young people, the Standing Commission on World Mission and The Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development call for the creation of a Task Force to study, network and share resources regarding the formation and discernment of young people in global and intercultural contexts. The two Commissions seek to work in partnership with each other, the relevant TEC offices and stakeholders across the Church including, but not limited to, the Standing Commissions for World Mission and Formation and Ministry Development, and Office of Youth and Young Adult and Campus Ministries, the Office of Global Partnerships, the department of Faith Formation, the Young Adult Service Corps, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, seminaries and diocesan formation programs.

Meeting the emerging needs of youth in the context of a changing Church and world requires new ways of collaborating and imagining God's dream for our world. Currently, there are no ways for youth to access global mission travel, pilgrimage or learning opportunities unless they are able to access it privately or are resident in a diocese or parish that offers such programming. Such inequality must be resolved by sharing opportunities more broadly across the Church.

This Task Force would do the research of discovering what resources and programs are working well to highlight formation as growth experience, and global mission as an inherent expression of our Christian faith in the Episcopal tradition. Intercultural programming could be included in this body of work, as welcoming new Americans and immigrants through migration ministries is a facet of global work, conducted within our own communities. The work of the Task Force over the course of the upcoming triennium may include lifting up existing resources like the Toolkit for Pilgrimage, exploring opportunities for collaboration (even across dioceses) ensuring all young Episcopalians have access to intercultural and international programming, adapting the Guiding Principles and Global Mission Toolkit put out by SCWM for use specifically with persons aged 13-21, identifying opportunities for dioceses/parishes with global mission experience to become mentors to those interested in growth, exploring ways to incorporate/adapt anti-racism and anti-colonialism training for young people and coupling that learning with opportunities to engage that work as Episcopalians in the world, creating opportunities for vocational discernment for youth interested in international and advocacy work, making known the possibilities to work alongside our global partners within the structure of the church, and potential for collaboration with the new Global Mission Advocates Network through the Standing Commission on World Mission.

Acknowledging that world mission and migration ministries will only increase in volume and urgency as climate change redefines our human existence, and that the landscape for young peoples' formation and participation in church is changing rapidly, a Task Force for sharing, resourcing and innovating in these areas in the Church is essential.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A013  
**Title:** Support the Work of Global Missions Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the growing success of the work of Global Missions, especially the global networks, relationships, and spiritual developments seen in programs like the Young Adult Service Corps and the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention, in showing our continued support to be a mission-based church firmly grounded in the work of global mission, call upon Executive Council to work to increase the opportunities for global mission through such programs as Young Adult Service Corps and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, through budgetary means as available so that opportunities for global mission are increased, diversified, and prioritized by the 79th General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention call upon every diocese to explore the opportunities for global mission work and encourage as many people as possible to apply for, attend, and complete a mission assignment as made available by these programs.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 791-792.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A032  
**Title:** On the Topic of a Survey on Young Adults  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention direct the Committee on the Status of Women, in cooperation with the 20/20 Committee and using a modified version of the 21st Century Survey, to study the attitudes, participation, and worship preferences of Episcopalians ages 15–30; and be it further  
*Resolved*, That \$10,000 for the survey and \$1,500 for printing be allocated from the program budget for this work.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A065  
**Title:** Support Young Adult Leadership Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Ministries with Young People Cluster be directed to review and identify existing internships and leadership programs for 18–30 year-old members of our church, particularly seeking programs that focus on social justice, discipleship, simple living, intentional community, spiritual formation, theological reflection, and vocational discernment; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage dioceses, congregations, educational institutions, and other organizations of our church to explore and develop new internships and leadership development programs for 18–30 year-old members of our church, including programs that send young people into mission fields to do the work of the church; and to seek funding from additional sources to support this work; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Ministries with Young People Cluster be directed to support these efforts, and to hold these programs up to dioceses, congregations, institutions, and other organizations of our church, so that they may be shared and implemented throughout our church; 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 \$500,000 per year, for a total of \$1,500,000 during the next triennium, for implementation of this resolution, and that this allocation be used to support young adults' participation in these programs and the development efforts that are encouraged in this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 609f.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A077  
**Title:** Develop Strategies for Ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention adopt a vision as part of the 20/20 initiative that there shall be effective, well-organized ministries with children, youth, and young adults in every congregation where appropriate; and there shall be campus ministries in all colleges and universities where appropriate; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commend the work of the Ministries with Young People Cluster, which has three networks: (1) youth ministries, (2) Christian education ministries, and (3) higher education ministries; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Ministries with Young People Cluster to create an additional network for young adult ministries; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in order to accomplish these training goals by 2009 the Youth Ministries Cluster, in coordination with the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism, call upon their provincial networks to develop and implement in the dioceses, training strategies that include, but are not limited to:*

- education in leadership development;
- sharing of technology, training resources, curricula, theological, and multicultural resources;
- practical application for life-long Christian formation;
- the strengthening of the existing networks in dioceses and provinces; and be it further

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$250,000 per year for each of the four ministry networks (1) youth ministries, (2) Christian education ministries, (3) higher education ministries, and (4) young adult ministries for a budget allocation of \$3,000,000 for implementation of this resolution; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the office of the Treasurer of the Episcopal Church Center in cooperation with the various dioceses as facilitated by the Provincial Leadership Conference establish a fair share strategy for fund distribution to be reported to the 75th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 313f.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A128  
**Title:** Reaffirm Commitment to Educational Support of Young People  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm that all young people are created in the image of God and possess potential to love and serve God. Further, the Convention recognizes that many aspects of our culture work to obscure the image of God in young people and render all young people "Youth At Risk"; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Church reaffirm its commitment to support the development of caring, competent, faithful, and loving young people and provide sufficient human and financial resources in the Office of Youth Ministries to challenge, inspire, and support dioceses and parishes in their work with young people; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commend the following programs and educational possibilities for local implementation:*

- Literacy programs, including reading, cultural, social, spiritual, and computer literacy
- Mentoring programs
- Conflict resolution and anger management programs
- Religious education programs and curricula that recognize the socio-economic, ethnic, racial, linguistic, and cultural diversity of our church
- After school programs
- Creation and maintenance of Episcopal schools that provide access to all youth
- Development of Episcopal camps to provide access to all youth.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 321.





**Resolution Number:** 1997-A147

**Title:** Consider Young Adults for National Church Service

**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended

**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That young adults in the 19 to 30 age range be considered for appointment as members of Committees, Commissions, Boards and Agencies of this Church.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 236.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-D112  
**Title:** Appropriate Funds to Evangelism Activities for Young People  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 71st General Convention reaffirm its commitment to the Decade of Evangelism by enabling the work of the Standing Commission on Evangelism to expand its activities in the next triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention appropriate an additional \$50,000 for the Standing Commission on Evangelism and the Ministries with Young People Cluster to identify, gather and develop appropriate training materials to further the work of evangelism among high school and college age students, subject to funding in the budget.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 349-50.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A069  
**Title:** Develop Ministries of Evangelism With Youth  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 70th General Convention call upon all dioceses and their congregations to make every effort to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to young people and call them to decisions for Christ, so that they may be provided with an alternative to the life styles set before them in our culture; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention call upon all dioceses and their congregations to continue the development of ministries of evangelism with youth and to report their growth in that development to the next General Convention through the Youth Ministries Office; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention calls upon the church at all levels to offer training for youth and adult leaders in ministries of evangelism with youth.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 809.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-D116  
**Title:** Affirm the Importance of Young Adults in the Life of the Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize and affirm the importance of young adults, those aged 18-35, in the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit of the Church Center Staff be encouraged in its continuing work with young adult ministry; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention call upon all dioceses and their congregations to continue the development of ministries with young adults, and to cooperate with the Church Center Staff in its research of existing efforts; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Church Center Staff through the Executive Council report its findings and make specific recommendations for action to the next General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 840.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-A142  
**Title:** Develop a Forceful Strategy for Evangelism to Reach Young Adults  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That this 68th General Convention request that a forceful strategy for evangelism targeted to reach young adults, ages 18-35, be developed by the Joint Commission on Evangelism and Renewal in cooperation with the Education for Mission and Ministry division of the Executive Council.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 188.