

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

Resolution No.: 2024-A111

Title: Develop Resources and Models for Online/in Person Hybrid Worship

Proposer: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

Topic: Liturgy, Technology

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](#).

A111 - Develop resources and models for online/in person hybrid worship

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$50,000.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: Yes

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 of the Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop resources and models for online/in person hybrid worship that reflect best practices, the variety of settings in which Episcopal churches are located and the technology, budgets and bandwidth available to them; 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 \$50,000 during the triennium for the work outlined above.

Explanation

An unanticipated opportunity of the COVID-19 pandemic was the almost immediate adoption of online/in person worship in a large percentage of Episcopal churches. In early 2020, because of government mandated lockdowns, churches chose Facebook, YouTube, Zoom and other modalities of online streaming as a way of continuing to worship. Many continue these practices today.

While the initial benefit may have been to gather the community that would have otherwise been physically present together, online, along with those members who because of geographical relocation had been unable to physically attend services, it was soon discovered

that there was an additional benefit of making the worshipping community available to those in elder care locations, those with mental illness and those with mobility challenges and/or disabilities. The church found a new way to be the church, yet not all churches had ways to provide these streaming/online options.

As we gain some distance on the early days of the pandemic it is appropriate to ask ourselves if we are making the most of the resources we have, who has been left behind and what we might do better as we continue to share the love of God and build the Beloved Community.

This resolution would direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to identify models of hybrid online/in person worship that could be shared throughout the wider church. These resources would be reflective of budgetary limitations, bandwidth variations and overall user abilities. A task force would make these resources available on the episcopalcommonprayer.org