

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A132
Title: Establishing an Online Hub for Continuing Formation and Ministry Resources
Proposer: Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development
Topic: Christian Formation, Ministry, Technology

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A037 Establish a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development
2022-A085 Develop a Plan for a Digital Hub for Formation Resources
2018-A022 Create a Theological Education Network Task Force
2018-A055 Share Gifts and Resources of Multicultural Ministries
2018-A082 Urge Completion of Curriculum on Social Media for Evangelism
2018-C005 Create a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized
2015-A075 Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources
2015-B009 Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative
2012-A070 Develop a Multimedia Evangelism Guide
2009-A065 Identify and Support Church Evangelists

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

2009-A066 Create a Toolkit for Culturally Sensitive Evangelism
2003-A077 Develop Strategies for Ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults
1994-A083 On the Topic of Racially and Culturally Diverse Ministry (Rejected)

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](#).

A132 - Establishing an Online Hub for Continuing Formation and Ministry Resources

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

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, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention reiterates its commitment to the establishment of an Online Hub for Continuing Formation and Ministry Resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention acknowledges the lack of funding from previous conventions, hindering the progress of critical work identified by the Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized; and be it further

Resolved, That this Online Hub will serve as a central repository of vetted resources, ensuring that leaders have access to adaptable materials for their specific contexts, fostering ongoing formation, and addressing the current void left by the absence of sustained denominational-level work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Online Hub, curated by subject-area experts, will connect leaders with proven formation processes, materials, and networks to facilitate vocational development, thereby alleviating the need for leaders to develop tools independently; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution emphasizes the urgency of providing leaders with a starting point for spiritual discernment, leadership development, and ordination preparation, recognizing the diverse situational needs within The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urges the allocation of funds to support the establishment and maintenance of the Online Hub for Continuing Formation and Ministry Resources in the upcoming triennium.

Explanation

The Standing Commission on Formation, the Task for on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized, and the Task Force on Theological Networking have served as short-term solutions for ongoing denominational-level work within The Episcopal Church; and despite the passing of legislation in previous General Conventions, funding has not been allocated for the implementation of these crucial tasks, hindering progress and development; and there is a pressing need for a sustainable and accessible platform that provides vetted resources for leaders to adapt within their unique contexts, fostering ongoing formation and ministry development. An online hub curated by subject-area experts would uplift diverse voices from across The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, offering leaders a centralized starting point for their spiritual discernment, leadership development, and ordination preparation; and would network the resources currently available but often siloed in such entities and individuals as the Department of Faith Formation, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Association of Episcopal Deacons, Young Adult Campus Ministers, Young Adult Service Corps, Episcopal Service Corps, FORMA, Schools for Ministry, Education for Ministry, and Seminaries.



Resolution Number: 2022-A037
Title: Establish a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.n by adding a new subsection 4 thereto, to read as follows:

I.1.2.n

4. A Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development. The Commission shall coordinate and encourage the development of all orders of ministry, encouraging and engaging all the baptized in the work of building up the church and developing best practices to ensure all churches benefit from the diversity of leadership gifts God has given us.

It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

- i. Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the affirmation, development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons (lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons).*
- ii. Support Diocesan Commissions on Ministry in their support of the ministry of all the baptized, as set forth in Title III Canons 1 & 2.*
- iii. Encourage the recognition of daily life ministries by Diocesan Commissions on Ministry, congregations, and dioceses, so that those ministries are celebrated as expressions of the ministry of all the baptized, worthy of equal respect with ordained vocations.*
- iv. In collaboration with the churchwide office overseeing formation, develop and recommend to the General Convention comprehensive and coordinated policies for people across all ages and stages of life for lifelong formation as seekers and followers of Jesus.*
- v. Recommend strategies to General Convention for the development and support of networks of individuals, diocesan committees and commissions, agencies and institutions engaged in recruitment, gifts of discernment, education and training for ministry, leadership development, hiring, and appointments.*
- vi. Study the needs and trends of discernment and vocational opportunities for ordained leaders and lay professionals within the Church and the appropriate formation required to live into those opportunities.*
- vii. Collaborate with those developing lay pathways grid and the Association of Episcopal Deacons to raise awareness of the competencies promulgated by those groups as guidelines for formation for those orders of ministry.*
- viii. Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention to ensure the fair hiring and compensation of lay and ordained employees in all ministry settings, with special attention to parity across those lines which have historically divided us, including but not limited to race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, order of ministry, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons; and be it further*

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to allocate \$50,000 to fund the work of the Standing Commission for the 2022-2024 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 887-888.



Resolution Number: 2022-A085
Title: Develop a Plan for a Digital Hub for Formation Resources
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention instruct Executive Council to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized and the Task Force on Theological Networking to develop a plan for a sustainable digital hub for Episcopalians to access formation resources for lay and ordained vocations; and be it further
Resolved, That Executive Council present a report with the plan (to include recommended structure, content, staffing, timeline, and budget) to the 81st General Convention; and be it further
Resolved, That \$30,000 be budgeted for the work of developing this plan over the next triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 850.



Resolution Number: 2018-A022
Title: Create a Theological Education Network Task Force
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize a Theological Education Networking Task Force with membership appointed by Presiding Officers consisting of four lay persons, one priest, one deacon, and one bishop who represent the cultural and theological diversity in the Church, be established to serve as a networking and informational referral hub for the discernment, development, and dissemination of theological education and formation resources for lay and clergy leaders in small congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Theological Education Networking Task Force collect, assemble, evaluate, and publicize to dioceses and congregations the resources currently offered across The Episcopal Church for the training of commissions on ministry and discernment committees to focus on the education, training, and formation of leaders who serve in small congregations with a special emphasis on alternative theological education pathways; and be it further

Resolved, That the Theological Education Networking Task Force work with the House of Bishops, through agencies such as the College for Bishops, and with the Presiding Bishop's office and dioceses in collecting, disseminating, and encouraging the use of resources and best practices for identifying, educating, and forming clergy and lay leaders of small congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Theological Education Networking Task Force submit to the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Local Ministry and Mission a quarterly written report of its activities and complete its work by the 80th General Convention; 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 \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1106-1107.



Resolution Number: 2018-A055
Title: Share Gifts and Resources of Multicultural Ministries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention invite the multicultural ministers of the Church center to further develop channels and pathways for sharing the gifts of ministry that exist in abundance in our Black, Latino/Hispanic, Asian American and Native communities with the wider Church, such as: an expanded New Communities gathering; regional or provincial trainings for ministry development officers, to share best practices for multicultural leadership development; and new channels for sharing the gifts of lay-led multicultural ministry that are already well-developed in the dioceses of Province IX and in outlying communities throughout the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the multicultural ministers of the Church center to collect, evaluate, disseminate, and encourage the development of excellent resources and best practices for the discernment, theological education, and formation of culturally diverse clergy; to work with other groups to publicize the availability of these resources to The Episcopal Church, its dioceses, congregations and to persons involved in culturally diverse ministries and Christian formation; and to seek feedback regarding resources needed (and used) by the widest possible variety of groups within the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$250,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 857.



Resolution Number: 2018-A082
Title: Urge Completion of Curriculum on Social Media for Evangelism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention convey to the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation the desire that the curriculum started by the General Convention Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism be brought to its completion in this coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That said curriculum be utilized as part of The Episcopal Church's ongoing work of training evangelists, both face-to-face and digital evangelists, in preparation for Revivals and most especially in those places where a Revival may not be possible due to size, logistics, and other considerations so that digital evangelists are trained to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with traditionally underserved populations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation explore the mutual benefit of developing relationships with para-Church organizations such as Forma, the Episcopal Evangelism Society, and Episcopal Communicators to provide such training to other trainers whose reach might allow for the expansion of Episcopal Evangelists throughout the Church, with the goal of having at least one licensed evangelist trained in digital techniques in every Diocese by the end of the Triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1054-1055.



Resolution Number: 2018-C005
Title: Create a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church to appoint a Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized including members experienced in Christian formation and education, and consisting of a minimum of two bishops, five (5) priests and/or deacons and five (5) lay persons, who represent the diversity of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force identify or develop curricula, practices, and strategies that can be used by dioceses and congregations to encourage and engage all the baptized in the work of building up the church by identifying their gifts for ministry, employing their gifts for ministry, and focusing on full engagement of their ministries in daily life, work, and leisure; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force report to the 80th General Convention with recommended strategies for the affirmation, development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons in the areas of gifts discernment, education and training for ministry, and leadership development; 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 \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1135.



Resolution Number: 2015-A075
Title: Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center establish a prominent tab or link on the website of The Episcopal Church to give persons seeking Christian Formation resources access to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize to dioceses, congregations, and Christian Formation leaders the availability of these websites that provide helpful Christian Formation resources; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations with websites consider including links to websites that provide suitable Christian Formation resources; and be it further

Resolved, That Christian Formation leaders throughout The Episcopal Church be encouraged to share with these websites suitable formation resources that they themselves have developed.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 916.



Resolution Number: 2015-B009
Title: Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to develop and conduct a digital evangelism initiative consisting of several campaigns, with equitable representation among the domestic provinces, with at least one campaign per year in a language other than English, for the benefit of the entire church, and for the purpose of meeting the demand online for the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of The Episcopal Church; to build and maintain a database of prospects; to cultivate those prospects via email, social media, blogs, and other means as shall prove effective; and to partner with dioceses to refer qualified prospects to local congregations, church plants, or other appropriate ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget allocated for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be assumed to include funding for creating this digital evangelism initiative of \$3,000,000; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church Development Office is directed to prioritize raising funds for this digital evangelism initiative, with the expectation that \$1.5 million will be raised this triennium to support this initiative from dioceses that stand to benefit as well as other interested networks, persons, and entities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society report back to this Convention in three years' time with the results of this initiative, and with a recommendation for or against the creation of a permanent digital missionary presence online of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$3,000,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 331.



Resolution Number: 2012-A070
Title: Develop a Multimedia Evangelism Guide
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the appropriate Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society staff office to design and develop a multimedia Evangelism Guide to assist dioceses and local congregations as they participate in evangelism particularly with groups who are under-represented in the domestic church; and be it further
Resolved, That evangelism resources that have already been developed be collected for possible inclusion into the multi-media guide; and be it further
Resolved, That the guide include details about, but not be limited to: asset-based congregational development, tools for building relationships and an evangelism-focused church culture, the traditions and uses of storytelling, community organizing tools for connecting with the local community, and the history of the ethnic ministries in this Church; and be it further
Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the implementation of this Resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium, including creation and distribution of the guide.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 139-140.



Resolution Number: 2009-A065
Title: Identify and Support Church Evangelists
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention affirm the Church's teaching that all Christians are called to bear witness to Christ wherever they may be and to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, and that this Convention equally affirm with Saint Paul that Christ has given to the Church evangelists to build up the Body of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to gather the voices and wisdom of evangelists, and encourage the sharing of information and deepening of relationships among them through all available ways, such as social networking sites, conference calls and meetings at conferences; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses are urged, through their Commissions on Ministry or other appropriate bodies, to identify and call forth evangelists, and to ensure that there are adequate training programs and materials available for evangelism, including web-based resources, appropriate to the demographic, cultural and theological diversities of their geographic area; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to support dioceses in the training of evangelists by developing training materials and programs; by creating and making widely available resources in different languages, for example Spanish, French, etc., to identify and develop the gifts and skills of effective evangelists; and by establishing mechanisms for sharing locally developed best practices, experiences and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life solicit from Commissions on Ministry or other appropriate diocesan bodies information on local programs utilized for the identification and development of evangelists, so that such resources can be widely shared among dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report on the gatherings, diocesan programs, training materials and resources and on their effectiveness in developing skills of evangelism to the 77th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 280.