

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

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A137  
**Title:** Create a Task Force for Youth Formation and World Mission  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development  
**Topic:** Structure, World Mission, Youth

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

2018-D054 Encourage Support for YASC and EVIM Youth Programs  
2018-D061 Develop an Episcopal Gap Year Pilot Program  
2015-A013 Support the Work of Global Missions Programs  
2015-A112 Support the Young Adult Service Corps and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission  
2015-A174 Develop Episcopal Gap Year Program for Students  
2003-A077 Develop Strategies for Ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults

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

2009-D066 Refer a Resolution Amending the Constitution on the Youth Vote (Referred)  
1982-D079 Support an International Youth Ministry Event

*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](#).*

# A137 - Create a Task Force for Youth Formation and World Mission

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development

**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,* 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:** 2018-D054  
**Title:** Encourage Support for YASC and EVIM Youth Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm the Anglican and ecumenical mission consensus that incarnational and personal presence is important in global mission alongside funding and program initiatives and that therefore the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society should continue to send missionaries to serve in companionship with others around the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage dioceses, seminaries, and congregations to recruit and support both Episcopal Volunteers in Mission (EVIMs) and Young Adult Service Corps members (YASCers); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention increase its commitment to EVIM and YASC programs by increasing the budget to meet the escalating costs of travel and insurance for missionaries and to strengthen the promotion of both programs across the church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance increase the Mission Personnel budget by \$250,000 from \$4,740,900 to \$4,990,900 for the 2019-21 triennium in order to implement this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 370.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-D061  
**Title:** Develop an Episcopal Gap Year Pilot Program  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, especially the Office of Global Partnership and the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries, to conduct a pilot development of an Episcopal Gap Year Program in international mission for young adults, ages 18-23, who are between high school and other educational or vocational pursuits; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the program be guided by innovative models of such programs, including but not limited to the Young Adult Service Corps, and that it ensure accessibility to racial and ethnic minorities, to persons from non-U.S.-domestic dioceses, and to persons of limited financial means; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage dioceses and congregations to recruit young adults to participate in the Gap Year Program and to support them with fund-raising assistance; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$90,000 for the 2019-2021 triennium in order to develop the Episcopal Gap Year Program.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 371.



**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:** 2015-A112  
**Title:** Support the Young Adult Service Corps and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage dioceses, seminaries, and parishes to recruit and support both Young Adult Service Corps members (YASCers) and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission members (EVIMs); and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the General Convention continue its commitment to increasing numbers of YASCers by 10 per year for the triennium 2016-2018, (30 in 2016, 40 in 2017, and 50 in 2018, for a total of 120 for the triennium); and increasing the number of EVIMs by 10 percent each year, for the triennium 2016-2018; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance increase the budget for the Young Adult Service Corps from \$1,100,000 to \$1,800,000, and a 10% increase for the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission, for the 2016-2018 triennium in order to implement this resolution.*

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



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A174  
**Title:** Develop Episcopal Gap Year Program for Students  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to continue development of an Episcopal Gap Year program for young adults between high school and college, modeled after the Young Adult Service Corps; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$90,000 for the 2016-2018 triennium in order to continue the development of the Episcopal Gap Year Program.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 901.





**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.