

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C008
Title: Review Diocesan Assessments
Proposer: Arkansas
Topic: Program, Budget and Finance

Directly Related: (Attached)

2000-C005 On the Topic of Funding the National Church Through a Diocesan Tithe (Rejected)

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

2022-A228 Adopt the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

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](#).

C008 - Review Diocesan Assessments

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Arkansas

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: Yes

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 of The Episcopal Church direct the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church to lower diocesan assessments to 10% by 2030.

Explanation

This resolution was submitted by the Diocese of Arkansas after having been adopted at its 151st Diocesan Convention in February 2023. The resolution directs the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church to do the difficult and discerning work of planning for our future as a denomination, just as dioceses and congregations have had to engage the difficult and discerning work of identifying ministry priorities with finite resources. With over \$400 million in endowments, The Episcopal Church presently has an annualized budget of \$50 million, \$28 million of which is made up by diocesan commitments. We recognize that a shift of this magnitude would have significant ministerial and managerial implications for the larger church, which is why we ask for it to be phased in over the next several years. We believe keeping more resources at the diocesan and congregational level better enables us to share the Good News of God's love for all.

The current assessment rate for dioceses in The Episcopal Church is 15% on income from two years prior. In 2023, the Diocese of Arkansas's assessment based on that rate was \$203,069.40. By contrast, a 10% assessment of the same period would be \$135,379.60.

The difference, \$67,689.80, would make a significant and measurable impact on diocesan and congregational ministries in our diocese. The same would be true for dioceses across the church.



Resolution Number: 2000-C005
Title: On the Topic of Funding the National Church Through a Diocesan Tithe
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 73rd General Convention initiate the process by which the Church at the National level is funded by apportioning a tithe upon the income of the several dioceses thereof; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention direct the appropriate standing commission to develop the process and procedures by which this action can be accomplished; and be it further

Resolved, That realizing such a substantive change will require a period of time for conversation, we recommend that the process be presented to the General Convention of 2003, and the implementation be completed by the General Convention of 2009.