

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C009
Title: Petition of the Episcopal Church In Navajoland to become a Missionary Diocese
Proposer: Navajoland Area Mission
Topic: New Dioceses

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D080 Empower The Episcopal Church in Navajoland in the Selection of a Bishop

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

1988-B003 Support Proposal to Elect a Bishop for the Church in Navajoland

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](#).

C009 - Petition of the Episcopal Church In Navajoland to become a Missionary Diocese

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Navajoland Area Mission

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: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention grant the Petition of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland to become a Missionary Diocese.

Explanation

1. The 80th General Convention adopted Resolution D080 which in part read, “**80th General Convention affirms the efforts of The Episcopal Church on Navajoland to establish its own rules and procedures for a process of discernment for the calling of a bishop that reflects the values, teachings, and traditions of the Diné**” and “**That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to study and evaluate means by which The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, an Area Mission, could participate in the selection, election, or consent to a Bishop for The Episcopal Church in Navajoland....**”

2. The Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons established a Navajoland Subcommittee to work with the people of Navajoland on this issue. The Subcommittee held several in person and zoom listening sessions with the Area Mission of Navajoland people involving the needs, hopes, and dreams of this area mission's elders and people, and reflecting on the often painful history between this area mission and the wider church.
3. The Subcommittee recognized that the Area Mission was already operating very much like a Missionary Diocese and explained the canonical differences between the two entities, notably that a Missionary Diocese may elect its own bishop. On January 4, 2024, the Episcopal Church in Navajoland Standing Committee met and resolved to hold a Special Convocation to consider filing a petition with General Convention to become a Missionary Diocese. The Special Convocation met on January 20, 2024, and resolved to file the petition to become a Missionary Diocese. The Petition and Resolutions of the Area Mission are in the supporting documents.

Support Documents:

[Signed Petition Missionary Diocese 2024](#)

[Signed Resolution to Petition](#)

[Navajoland Petition for Status as a Missionary Diocese](#)

[Navajoland Budget 2024-2027 final 01.05.24](#)

[ECN 1.7.24 NarrativeBudget](#)

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact gc.support@episcopalchurch.org.



Resolution Number: 2022-D080
Title: Empower The Episcopal Church in Navajoland in the Selection of a Bishop
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention reaffirms its “readiness to affirm the election and consecration as Bishop someone so called and nominated by The Episcopal Church in Navajoland,” as outlined by the 69th General Convention in Resolution 1988-B003; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention affirms the efforts of The Episcopal Church on Navajoland to establish its own rules and procedures for a process of discernment for the calling of a bishop that reflects the values, teachings, and traditions of the Diné; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to study and evaluate means by which The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, an Area Mission, could participate in the selection, election, or consent to a Bishop for The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, within the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, including but not limited to a process by which the House of Bishops shall assign a bishop who is discerned and called by The Episcopal Church on Navajoland, subject to the rules and procedures it adopts; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission develop and present to the 81st General Convention any and all amendments to the Constitution and Canons that it deems necessary and appropriate to honor the voice of the people of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, to empower them in the selection of a Bishop for Navajoland, and to help them build partnerships across The Episcopal Church in their discernment and calling of episcopal leadership; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons collaborate with The Episcopal Church in Navajoland in all aspects of this work.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 553-554.