

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D063
Title: On Mandatory Diocesan Assessment
Proposer: Bailey, Ms. Catherine
Topic: Budget, Dioceses

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A048 Amend Canons and Rules of Order to Implement Task Force on Budget Process Recommendations
2022-A228 Adopt the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget
2015-D013 Amend Canon 1.1.8 [General Convention Expense Budget]
Canon I.1.11 [General Convention Budget]
Canon I.1.13(b) [General Convention Executive Office]
Canon I.2.6 [Presiding Bishop's Stipend]
Canon I.4.6 [Budget for the Episcopal Church]
Joint Rules 10(c) [Jt. Standing Committee on Program, Budget, Finance]
2000-D041 On the Topic of the Canon on the Budget of the Episcopal Church (Rejected)

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](#).

D063 - On Mandatory Diocesan Assessment

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Bailey, Ms. Catherine

Endorsed by: Kopren, The Rev. Kristin, Maulden, The Rev. Kristina

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: 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:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the Executive Council, in its pivotal role, must lead the development of an equitable, transparent, and unbiased process for evaluating waiver requests and Diocesan assessments. This crucial step, led by the Executive Council, will address the perceived arbitrariness of decisions and inequitable distribution of funds and alleviate the process's demeaning nature. The Executive Council, as the key driver of this change, will significantly contribute to fostering healthy relationships between dioceses, provinces, and the wider church by establishing such a process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council must also develop a new and previously unseen strategy to ensure that the Episcopal Church continues to exist throughout our current territory. This means not sitting back and waiting for dioceses to combine with other dioceses, be absorbed by larger dioceses, or perish. Instead, the General Convention and Executive Council need to use the significant accumulated wealth of the Episcopal Church to ensure that the weak dioceses among us survive and thrive, bringing a new era of hope and health to the whole body. This strategy holds the promise of a brighter future for all; and be it further

Resolved, That we, as a church, acknowledge that many dioceses across the Episcopal Church have a proportion of their parishes in decline, that these dioceses will have incredible difficulty paying their fair share, and that more of these dioceses may request waivers in the future; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council will approach the waiver and fair share assessment process with an unwavering commitment to a “holy spirit of abundant generosity,” trust, and love. (Mark 4:20) This approach is not just a suggestion but a beacon of hope for fostering healthy relationships between the separate dioceses, provinces, and the wider church. This approach, which includes assisting struggling dioceses with advice, coaching, and financial support for evangelism, congregational vitality, and stewardship, underscores our deep commitment to the well-being of all dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, That the very monies and grants being withheld from dioceses who cannot pay assessments are punitive and antithetical to building the “beloved community” and ignore the gifts of all our people, especially those suffering temporary hardships brought about by brutal economic realities. “In ministering to each other, each from the riches that each possesses, we work together for the full coming of God’s kingdom.” Henri Nouwen, *The Spirituality of Fundraising*

Explanation

Whereas Canon I.4.6 Sec. 6 section f. The Executive Council “has the power to grant waivers from the full annual assessments of dioceses within the limit established by the General Convention. Any diocese may appeal to the Executive Council for a waiver of the assessment, in full or in part, based on financial hardship, a stated plan for working toward full payment, or other reasons as agreed with the Executive Council. Effective January 1, 2019, failure to make full payment or to receive a waiver shall render the diocese ineligible to receive grants or loans from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society unless approved by the Executive Council.”

The Executive Council process for granting diocesan waivers for fair share assessments has been perceived as discriminatory, arbitrary, and disconnected from dioceses' economic realities. The mandatory Assessment refers to the proportionate amount each diocese is expected to contribute to the wider church based on its financial capacity.

We must acknowledge that not all dioceses are equally resourced and that while some have endowed funds that pay for the bishop and diocesan staff, offer grants to small congregations, pay clergy health care, or provide other services, others do not. Paying the churchwide assessment means cutting services and the diocesan staff in dioceses with fewer resources. In these dioceses, paying the churchwide assessment can accelerate the Episcopal Church's decline, reducing the Diocese's capacity to support struggling Episcopal Churches and fund essential and canonically required diocesan functions.

It is also essential to recognize the difference between dioceses willing to pay their fair share but unable to do so due to financial constraints and those refusing to pay their fair share as a means of protest. There is a significant distinction between a diocese that has the means but chooses not to pay and one that wants to contribute but can only do so by

compromising essential ministries. Often, dioceses genuinely trying to pay their fair share and facing hardships are unfairly treated like dioceses who won't pay.



Resolution Number: 2022-A048
Title: Amend Canons and Rules of Order to Implement Task Force on Budget Process Recommendations
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

That Canons I.1.2.m, I.1.2.o, I.1.8, I.1.9, I.1.11, I.1.13, I.2.6, I.2.8, I.4.3, I.4.5, I.4.6.a, I.4.6.c, I.4.6.i, I.5.5, I.9.10; House of Bishops Rule of Order V.D.d and VIII.I; House of Deputies Rule of Order VI.C.3.v.a and IX.A.1.ii.a.1; and Joint Rules of Order II.10, IV.14, and VII.21, be amended as follows:

Canon I.1.2.m

~~m. Every Commission whose Report requests expenditure out of the *budget funds of the The Episcopal Church budget General Convention* (except for the printing of the Report) shall include that request in its report to the General Convention and in accordance with Canon I.4.6 present to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance its written request, on or before the first business day of the session. Resolutions requiring additional expenditures shall be immediately referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance. No resolution involving such expenditures shall be considered unless so presented and until after report of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance.~~

Canon I.1.2.o

~~o. Following the adjournment of a General Convention, and subject to budgeted funds available for the purpose, the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, having reviewed the resolutions adopted by the General Convention that provide for any study or further action, shall thereupon recommend to the Executive Council, the creation of such study committees and task forces as may be necessary to complete that work. Any Executive Council resolution creating a task force or study committee shall specify the size and composition, the clear and express duties assigned, the time for completion of the work assigned, to whom the body's report is to be made, and the amount and source of the funding for the body. The members of each such body shall be jointly appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, and the composition of such committees and task forces shall reflect the diverse voices of the Church and a balance of the Church's orders consistent with the historic polity of the Church. Those committees and task forces so appointed shall expire at the beginning of the next General Convention following, unless reappointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies and reauthorized by the Executive Council.~~

Canon I.1.8

Sec. 8. The General Convention shall adopt, at each regular meeting, a budget for *The Episcopal Church, including to provide* for the contingent expenses of the General Convention, the stipend of the Presiding Bishop together with the necessary expenses of that office, the necessary expenses of the President of the House of Deputies including the staff and Advisory Council required to assist in the performance of the duties and matters related to the President's office, and the applicable Church Pension Fund assessments. To defray the expense of this budget, an assessment shall be levied upon the Dioceses of the Church in accordance with a formula which the *General Convention* shall adopt as part of ~~this *The Episcopal Church budget Expense Budget*~~. It shall be the duty of each Diocesan Convention

~~to pay its assessment forward~~ to the Treasurer of the General Convention *according to the schedule established by the Executive Council annually, on the first Monday of January, the amount of the assessment levied upon that Diocese.*

Canon I.1.9

Sec. 9. The Treasurer of the General Convention shall have authority to borrow, in behalf and in the name of the ~~Executive Council~~ *General Convention*, such a sum as may be judged by the Treasurer to be necessary to help ~~paydefray~~ the expenses of ~~the Episcopal Church budget adopted under Canon I.1.8~~ *General Convention*, with the approval of the ~~Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council.~~

Canon I.1.11

~~The Treasurer shall submit to the General Convention at each regular meeting thereof a detailed budget in which the Treasurer proposes to request appropriations for the ensuing budgetary period and shall have power to expend all sums of money covered by this budget, subject to such provisions of the Canons as shall be applicable.~~

Canon I.1.13

Sec. 13.

a. There shall be an Executive Office of the General Convention, to be headed by a General Convention Executive Officer to be appointed jointly by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies with the advice and consent of the Executive Council. The Executive Officer shall report to and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Council.

b. The Executive Office of the General Convention shall include the functions of the Secretary of the General Convention and the Treasurer of the General Convention and those of the Manager of the General Convention and, if the several positions are filled by different persons, such officers shall serve under the general supervision of the General Convention Executive Officer, who shall also coordinate the work of the Committees, Commissions, Boards and Agencies funded by ~~the~~ *The Episcopal Church* ~~General Convention Expense Budget budget.~~

Canon I.2.6

Sec. 6. The stipends of the Presiding Bishop and such personal assistants as may be necessary during the Presiding Bishop's term of office for the effective performance of the duties, and the necessary expenses of that office, shall be fixed by the General Convention and shall be provided for in the budget to be submitted by the ~~Treasurer~~ *Executive Council*, as provided in the Canon I.4.6, entitled, ~~"Of the General Convention."~~

Canon I.2.8

Sec. 8. Upon the acceptance of the Presiding Bishop's resignation for reasons of disability prior to the expiration of the term of office, the Presiding Bishop may be granted, in addition to whatever allowance may be received from The Church Pension Fund, a disability allowance to be paid by the Treasurer of the General Convention in an amount to be fixed by the ~~Executive Council~~ *Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance*, and ratified at the next regular meeting of the General Convention.

Canon I.4.3

Sec. 3. Upon joint nomination of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Executive Council shall elect an Audit Committee of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. The Committee shall be composed of six members: one from the Executive Council committee with primary responsibility for financial matters; ~~one from the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance;~~ and the remaining ~~four~~ *five* from members of the Church-at-large having experience in general business and financial practices. The members shall serve for a term of three years beginning on January 1 following a regular meeting of the General Convention or immediately following their appointment, whichever comes later,

and continue until a successor is appointed, and may serve two consecutive terms, after which a full triennium must elapse before being eligible for re-election. Annually the Audit Committee shall elect a Chair of the Committee from among its members. The Audit Committee shall regularly review the financial statements relating to all funds under the management or control of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and shall report thereon at least annually to the Council.

Upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Executive Council shall employ on behalf of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society an independent Certified Public Accountant firm to audit annually all accounts under the management or control of the Council and Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. After receipt of the annual audit, the Audit Committee shall recommend to the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society what action to take as to any matters identified in the annual audit and accompanying management letter. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee shall be set out in an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee shall review, at least annually, the Committee's Charter and recommend any changes to the Executive Council for approval.

Canon I.4.4

~~Sec. 4. The Executive Council may establish by its By-laws Committees and *ad hoc* working groups or task forces, which may include or consist of non-members, to be nominated jointly by the Chair and Vice-Chair and appointed by the Council, as may be necessary to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to the Church. All Committees and *ad hoc* working groups and task forces of Executive Council will cease to exist at the close of the next General Convention following their creation unless extended by Executive Council. Executive Council may revoke, rescind, or modify the mandate or charter of all Executive Council Committees, *ad hoc* working groups and task forces not otherwise created by Canon.~~

Following the adjournment of a General Convention, and subject to budgeted funds available for the purpose, the Chair and the Vice-Chair, having reviewed the resolutions adopted by the General Convention that provide for any study or further action, shall thereupon recommend to the Executive Council, the creation of such study committees and task forces as may be necessary to complete that work. Any Executive Council resolution creating a task force or study committee shall specify the size and composition, the clear and express duties assigned, the time for completion of the work assigned, to whom the body's report is to be made, and the amount and source of the funding for the body. The members of each such body shall be jointly appointed by the Chair and Vice-Chair, and the composition of such study committees and task forces shall reflect the diverse voices of the Church and a balance of the Church's orders consistent with the historic polity of the Church. Those study committees and task forces so appointed shall expire at the beginning of the next General Convention following, unless reappointed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and reauthorized by the Executive Council.

Canon I.4.6

Sec. 6

~~a. Following open and accessible budget hearings, At least four months prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention, the Executive Council shall submit to the Secretary of the General Convention a proposed Episcopal Church budget for the ensuing budgetary period (as used in this Section 6, the "budget"). The ensuing budgetary period shall comprise the calendar years starting with the January 1st following the adjournment of the most recent regular meeting of the General Convention and ending with the December 31st following the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the General Convention. The Executive Council shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance the proposed Budget for The Episcopal Church for the ensuing budgetary period, which budgetary period shall be equal to the interval between regular meetings of the General Convention. The~~

~~proposed Budget shall be submitted not less than four months before the ensuing General Convention is convened.~~

~~b. Revenue to support the bBudget for The Episcopal Church shall be generated primarily by a single assessment of the Dioceses of the Church based on a formula which the General Convention shall adopt as part of its Budget process. If in any year the total anticipated income for bBudget support is less than the amount required to support the bBudget approved by the General Convention, the canonical portion of the bBudget for The Episcopal Church shall have funding priority over any other budget areas subject to any decreases necessary to maintain a balanced bBudget.~~

~~c. After the preparation of the Budget, the Treasurer shall, at least four months before the sessions of the General Convention, transmit to the Bishop of each Diocese and to the President of each Province a statement of the existing and the proposed assessments necessary to support the proposed Budget for The Episcopal Church. The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance shall also submit to the General Convention, with the Budget, a plan for the assessments of the respective Dioceses of the sum needed to execute the Budget.~~

~~d. c. Following open and accessible legislative hearings on the budget held within 90 days of the General Convention and also at General Convention, there shall be joint sessions of the two Houses for the presentation of the bBudget for The Episcopal Church; and thereafter consideration shall be given and appropriate action taken thereon by the General Convention.~~

~~e. d. Upon the adoption by the General Convention of a bBudget for The Episcopal Church and the planned assessments for the budgetary period, the Council shall formally advise each Diocese of its share of the total assessments to support the bBudget for The Episcopal Church.~~

~~f. e. Full payment of the diocesan assessment shall be required of all Dioceses, effective January 1, 2019.~~

~~g. f. Effective January 1, 2016 Council shall have the power to grant waivers from the full annual assessments of Dioceses within the limit established by the General Convention. Any diocese may appeal to Executive Council for a waiver of the assessment, in full or in part, on the basis of financial hardship, a stated plan for working toward full payment, or other reasons as agreed with the Executive Council. Effective January 1, 2019, failure to make full payment or to receive a waiver shall render the diocese ineligible to receive grants or loans from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society unless approved by Executive Council.~~

~~h. g. The Council shall have the power to expend all sums of money covered by the bBudget and estimated bBudgets approved by the General Convention, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the General Convention, including but not limited to the priority declaration set forth in Section 6.b of this Canon. It shall also have power to undertake such other work provided for in the bBudget approved by the General Convention, or other work under the jurisdiction of the Council, the need for which may have arisen after the action of the General Convention, as in the judgment of the Council its income will warrant.~~

~~i. h. In respect of the bBudget for The Episcopal Church the Executive Council shall have the power to consider and vote to make such adjustments therein, or additions thereto, as it shall deem to be necessary or expedient, and which, in its judgment, available funds and anticipated income will warrant subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the General Convention. It shall also have power to approve other initiatives proposed by the Chair or otherwise considered by Council, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, between meetings of the General Convention, as in the judgment of the Council are prudent and which the Church revenues will be adequate to support.~~

~~j. i.~~ Each Diocese shall annually report to the Executive Council such financial and other information pertaining to the state of the Church in the Diocese as may be required in a form authorized by Executive Council.

~~k. j.~~ Each Diocese shall report annually to the Executive Council the name and address of each new congregation, and of each congregation closed or removed by reason of any of the following:

1. dissolution of the congregation;
2. removal of the congregation to another Diocese due to cession or retrocession of geographic territory in which the congregation is located, pursuant to Articles V.6 or VI.2 of the Constitution;
3. removal of the congregation to a new physical location or address, identifying both the location or address from which the congregation has removed, and the successor location or address; and
4. merger of the congregation into one or more other congregations, in which case, the Diocese shall include in its report the names of all congregations involved in the merger, and the physical location and address at which the merged congregations shall be located.

Canon I.5.5

~~Sec. 5. The expenses of the Archives of The Episcopal Church shall be shared by~~ *included in the General Convention budget for The Episcopal Church* ~~and the Executive Council.~~

Canon I.9.10

~~Sec. 10. The Synod of a Province may take over from the Executive Council, with its consent, and during its pleasure, the administration of any given work within the Province. If the Province shall provide the funds for such work, the constituent Dioceses then members of, and supporting, such Province shall receive proportional credit therefor upon the quotas assigned to them for the support of the Program of the Church, provided that the total amount of such credits shall not exceed the sum appropriated in the budget of the Executive Council for the maintenance of the work so taken over.~~

RULES OF ORDER

House of Bishops Rules of Order

Note: Under House of Bishops Rule of Order V.O.2, those Rules of Order may only be amended by the House of Bishops – not by the General Convention. The Task Force, and the Bishops serving on it, recommend that the House of Bishops amend its Rule of Order V.D.d as follows.

House of Bishops Rule of Order V.D.d

~~d. Before final consideration by the House, the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance (PB&F) shall have been informed by the Committee considering any proposed action which, if adopted by General Convention, would require an appropriation of funds and PB&F shall have acknowledged receipt of such information by endorsement on the committee report or by other appropriate means. Implementation of any such resolution is subject to funding in the budget.~~

House of Bishops Rule VIII.I

I. Whenever the House shall make a determination under Article I.2 of the Constitution that a resigned Bishop shall or shall not retain a seat and vote in the House, the following understanding of the intent of the pertinent terms of that provision of the Constitution shall apply:

1. “advanced age” shall mean at least 62 years of age;
2. “bodily infirmity” shall mean either a condition for which one is eligible for disability retirement benefits from the Church Pension Fund or Social Security Administration, or

a physical or mental impairment that a physician or psychiatrist (approved by the Presiding Bishop) certifies would likely result in eligibility for such disability retirement benefits should the Bishop continue in active episcopal ministry;

3. “office created by the General Convention” shall mean a ministry funded by the General Convention Budget *The Episcopal Church budget* and approved by the Presiding Bishop; and

4. “mission strategy” shall mean a strategy that would allow the election of an indigenous member of the clergy of a non-domestic diocese as Bishop, or that would allow a diocese to implement a new mission strategy as determined by the Presiding Bishop, or that would allow a transition in episcopal leadership after a Diocesan Bishop or Bishop Suffragan has served 10 or more years in either or both of those offices.

House of Deputies Rules of Order

Note: Under House of Deputies XIX.A, those Rules of Order may only be amended by the House of Deputies – not by the General Convention. The Task Force, and the Deputies serving on it, recommend that the House of Deputies amend its Rules of Order VI.C.3.v.a and IX.A.1.ii.a.1, as follows.

House of Deputies Rule of Order VI.C.3.v.a

3. Placing items on the Consent Calendar. Every Committee Reports on Resolutions or other matters will be placed on the Consent Calendar automatically unless:

- i. the committee votes to exclude it from the Consent Calendar;
- ii. it is removed in accordance with these Rules;
- iii. the Rules of Order, the Joint Rules of Order, the Canons, or the Constitution require a different procedure for considering the item;
- iv. the item has been set by a Special Order of Business; or
- v. the item is one of the following:
 - ~~a. a report from the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance;~~
 - ~~b.a.~~ an election;
 - ~~c.b.~~ a Resolution of privilege or courtesy;
 - ~~d.c.~~ the confirmation of the election of the Presiding Bishop.

House of Deputies Rule of Order IX.A.1.ii.a.1

A. General Rules on Other Committees

1. Appointment and Creation

- i. The President may designate other Committees for the work of the House of Deputies at General Convention no later than 90 days before the first legislative day of General Convention except that Conference Committees will be appointed during General Convention as needed.
- ii. The Committees may include the following and any others that the President designates:

a. Resolution Review

1. The Resolution Review Committee will review all Resolutions submitted prior to General Convention to review that they are consistent with the polity of this Church, and that they are in the form required by the Canons, ~~and to assess whether they have funding implications.~~

Joint Rules of Order

Pursuant to Joint Rule of Order X.25, the Task Force Recommends that the Joint Rules of Order be amended as follows.

Joint Rule of Order II.10

II: Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance

10.

~~a. There shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance, consisting of 27 persons being members of the General Convention (one Bishop, and two members of the House of Deputies, either Lay or Clerical, from each Province), who shall be appointed not later than the fifteenth day of December following each regular Meeting of the General Convention, the Bishops to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop, the Deputies by the President of the House of Deputies.~~

~~The Secretary of the General Convention and the Treasurer of the General Convention and the Chief Financial Officer of the Executive Council shall be members ex officio, without vote.~~

~~The Joint Standing Committee may appoint advisers, from time to time, as its funds warrant, to assist the Joint Standing Committee with its work.~~

~~b. Organization. The Joint Standing Committee shall elect its Chair from its membership, and such other officers as needed.~~

~~The Joint Standing Committee shall be organized in Sections, which shall conform to the major subdivisions of the Budget, as well as Sections on Funding and Presentation, the size and composition of the several Sections to be determined by the Joint Standing Committee. The Chairs of each Section shall be elected by the Joint Standing Committee; the several Sections shall elect their own Secretaries from among their own membership.~~

~~The Joint Standing Committee may refer to a Section any of the duties imposed upon it by this rule; *provided, however,* that final action on Budget shall be taken only by the full Committee, either in meeting assembled or by a vote by mail.~~

~~c. During the interim between regular Meetings of the General Convention, the Joint Standing Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the officers of the General Convention and to the Executive Council, holding such meetings as may be deemed necessary for the purpose. Meetings of the Joint Standing Committee shall be called by the Chair, or upon the request of any five members thereof.~~

~~In respect of the Budget for The Episcopal Church, the Joint Standing Committee shall have the power to consider, and either by a vote by mail, or in meeting assembled, to make such adjustments therein, or additions thereto, as it shall deem to be necessary or expedient, and which, in its judgment, available funds and anticipated income will warrant; and it shall likewise have the power to adjust the annual askings of Dioceses within the limit established by the General Convention.~~

~~With regard to the General Church Program, the Joint Standing Committee shall:~~

~~i. Meet and consult with the Executive Council, or its Administration and Finance Committee, on adjustments to the program priorities, and on alternate income generating resources;~~

~~ii. Receive from the Executive Council, not less than four months prior to the meeting of General Convention, the proposed General Church Program for the upcoming triennium, including a proposed detailed Budget for the year next following that of such Convention;~~

~~iii. Meet in such places as it shall determine, sufficiently in advance of the next General Convention to expedite its work;~~

~~iv. Conduct hearings upon such proposed Program and Budget; and~~

~~v. Consider such proposed Program and Budget and report thereon to the next succeeding General Convention.~~

~~d. Not later than the third day prior to the adjournment of each regular meeting of the General Convention, the Joint Standing Committee shall report to a Joint Session, pursuant to Canon, a proposed Budget for The Episcopal Church for the ensuing Convention period, subject to the approval of the said Budgets subject also to increase, reduction, or elimination~~

~~of items, based on open hearings held during the General Convention and by subsequent concurrent action by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.~~

~~Joint Rule of Order IV.14~~

~~IV: Supplemental Money Bills~~

~~14. After the adoption of the Budget for The Episcopal Church, any resolution calling for the expenditure of any moneys (or containing implied funding) shall be unfunded.~~

~~Subsequent sections V - X should be renumbered.~~

~~Joint Rule of Order VII.21~~

~~VII.21.~~

~~a. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, through the Office of the Secretary of General Convention, will secure background checks on its and any other nominees for Secretary of the General Convention, Treasurer of the General Convention, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Deputies, Executive Council, and Trustee of The Church Pension Fund. These background checks will cover criminal records checks and sexual offender registry checks in any state where a proposed nominee has resided during the prior seven (7) years, any appropriate professional licensing bodies with jurisdiction over a nominee's professional status and any violations of state or federal securities or banking laws. The records checks of proposed nominees from outside the United States will cover the same information from comparable authorities in the place of principal residence of the proposed nominee.~~

~~b. The required background check will be done prior to accepting a proposed nomination.~~

~~c. Background check results will be reviewed by the Office of the Secretary of General Convention. If that Office, after consultation with the Chief Legal Officer, determines that the results should preclude a person from holding the office sought, the Office shall share the determination with the proposed nominee and remit that determination, but not the background check results, to the nominating authority. Background check information shall not be shared beyond the Office of the Secretary of General Convention, the Chief Legal Officer, and proposed nominees who request their own information. The cost of background checks under this rule shall be covered by the General ConventionThe Episcopal Church budget.~~

Citation:



Resolution Number: 2022-A228
Title: Adopt the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention adopt the 2023-2024 budget for The Episcopal Church, as presented by the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, at total income of \$100,493,452 and total expenditures of \$100,493,452; and be it further
Resolved, That the assessment formula (Canon I.4.6(b)) for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 is adopted based on a single assessment of each diocese. In each year, 2023 and 2024, the diocesan total adjusted operating income, as reported in the annual diocesan financial report (Canon I.4.6(j) and Canon I.6.4) for the year two years prior to the year to which the assessment is applied [e.g., 2023 assessments are to be based on 2021 actual income figures], shall be reduced by a \$200,000 exemption. A single assessment shall be applied to the remaining amount (balance) at a flat rate of 15%; and be it further
Resolved, That the 2023-2024 Episcopal Church budget shall be adjusted and managed as set forth in the Canons, Rules of Order, and Executive Council policies and procedures.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 911.



Resolution Number: 2015-D013
Title: Amend Canon 1.1.8 [General Convention Expense Budget]Canon 1.1.11 [General Convention Budget]Canon 1.1.13(b) [General Convention Executive Office]Canon 1.2.6 [Presiding Bishop's Stipend]Canon I.4.6 [Budget for the Episcopal Church]Joint Rules 10(c) [Jt. Standing Committee on Program, Budget, Finance]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recognize the continuing evolution of the roles of the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that the life and work of The Episcopal Church is in a time of substantial transition and that the structures of the Church continue to evolve; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize there are increased demands on the time and energy of the President of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that the President of the House of Deputies, among other current responsibilities, serves as the Vice-President of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, as the Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, and makes and participates in numerous appointments to positions in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that at the present time, the House of Deputies is of the view that only persons who are retired or who have substantial economic resources are financially able to serve as President of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that the House of Deputies considers it important that the House of Deputies be able to choose a President without regard to the financial circumstances of the candidates for the President of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that the House of Deputies has affirmed that the desirability of compensation for the President of the House of Deputies is a fairness issue; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention determine that it is important for The Episcopal Church to explore fully and openly the issues of leadership, including compensation for the President of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize that the House of Bishops understands and appreciates the cogency of, and fairness issues inherent in, the position of the House of Deputies; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention direct that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies jointly appoint a task force to consider these issues of leadership and compensation and that this task force report its recommendations to the 79th General Convention, including such canonical or other steps needed to implement the recommendations of the task force.

Resolved, That Title I, Canon 4, Sections 6-8, be stricken in their entirety and replaced to read as follows:

Sec. 6. (a) The Executive Council shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance the proposed Budget for The Episcopal Church for the ensuing

budgetary period, which budgetary period shall be equal to the interval between regular meetings of the General Convention. The proposed Budget shall be submitted not less than four months before the ensuing General Convention is convened.

(b) Revenue to support the Budget for The Episcopal Church shall be generated primarily by a single assessment of the Dioceses of the Church based on a formula which the General Convention shall adopt as part of its Budget process. If in any year the total anticipated income for Budget support is less than the amount required to support the Budget approved by the General Convention, the canonical portion of the Budget for The Episcopal Church shall have funding priority over any other budget areas subject to any decreases necessary to maintain a balanced Budget.

(c) After the preparation of the Budget, the Treasurer shall, at least four months before the sessions of the General Convention, transmit to the Bishop of each Diocese and to the President of each Province a statement of the existing and the proposed assessment necessary to support the Budget for The Episcopal Church. The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance shall also submit to the General Convention, with the Budget, a plan for the assessments of the respective Dioceses of the sum needed to execute the Budget.

(d) There shall be joint sessions of the two Houses for the presentation of the Budget for The Episcopal Church; and thereafter consideration shall be given and appropriate action taken thereon by the General Convention.

(e) Upon the adoption by the General Convention of a Budget for The Episcopal Church and the planned assessments for the budgetary period, the Council shall formally advise each Diocese of its share of the total assessments to support the Budget for The Episcopal Church.

(f) Full payment of the diocesan assessment shall be required of all Dioceses, effective January 1, 2019.

(g) Effective January 1, 2016 Council shall have the power to grant waivers from the full annual assessments of Dioceses within the limit established by the General Convention. Any diocese may appeal to Executive Council for a waiver of the assessment, in full or in part, on the basis of financial hardship, a stated plan for working toward full payment, or other reasons as agreed with the Executive Council. Effective January 1, 2019, failure to make full payment or to receive a waiver shall render the diocese ineligible to receive grants or loans from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society unless approved by Executive Council.

(h) The Council shall have the power to expend all sums of money covered by the Budget and estimated Budgets approved by the General Convention, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the General Convention, including but not limited to the priority declaration set forth in Section 6(c) of this Canon. It shall also have power to undertake such other work provided for in the Budget approved by the General Convention, or other work under the jurisdiction of the Council, the need for which may have arisen after the action of the General Convention, as in the judgment of the Council its income will warrant.

(i) In respect of the Budget for The Episcopal Church, the Executive Council shall have the power to consider and vote to make such adjustments therein, or additions thereto, as it shall deem to be necessary or expedient, and which, in its judgment, available funds and anticipated income will warrant subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the General Convention. It shall also have power to approve other initiatives proposed by the Chair or otherwise considered by Council, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, between meetings of the General Convention, as in the judgment of the Council are prudent and which the Church revenues will be adequate to support.

(j) Each Diocese shall annually report to the Executive Council such financial and other information pertaining to the state of the Church in the Diocese as may be required in a form authorized by Executive Council.

(k) Each Diocese shall report annually to the Executive Council the name and address of each new congregation, and of each congregation closed or removed by reason of any of the following: dissolution of the congregation;

1. removal of the congregation to another Diocese due to cession or retrocession of geographic territory in which the congregation is located, pursuant to Articles V.6 or VI.2 of the Constitution;

2. removal of the congregation to a new physical location or address, identifying both the location or address from which the congregation has removed, and the successor location or address; and

3. merger of the congregation into one or more other congregations, in which case, the Diocese shall include in its report the names of all congregations involved in the merger, and the physical location and address at which the merged congregations shall be located.

Sec. 7 (a) Every Missionary Bishop or, in case of a vacancy, the Bishop in charge of the jurisdiction, receiving aid from the General Convention Budget, shall report at the close of each fiscal year to the Council, giving account of work performed, of money received from all sources and disbursed for all purposes, and of the state of the Church in the jurisdiction at the date of such report, all in such form as the Council may prescribe.

(b) The Ecclesiastical Authority of every Diocese receiving aid from the General Convention Budget shall report at the close of each fiscal year to the Council, giving account of the work in the diocese supported in whole or in part by that aid.

Sec. 8. The Council, as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, shall cause to be prepared and publish a full report of the work of the Executive Council, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and the General Convention Office to the Church. Such report shall contain an itemized statement of all receipts and disbursements and a statement of all trust funds and other property of The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and of all other trust funds and property in its possession or under its oversight responsibility. The report shall include a detailed schedule of the salaries paid to all officers and principal employees of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and the Executive Council.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 463-466.



Resolution Number: 2000-D041
Title: On the Topic of the Canon on the Budget of the Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, The House of Bishops concurring, That Canon I.1.8 [page 23] be hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. The General Convention shall adopt, at each regular meeting, a budget to provide for ~~the~~ contingent expenses of the General Convention, the stipend of the Presiding Bishop together with the necessary expenses of that office, the necessary expenses of the President of the House of Deputies including the staff and Advisory Council required to assist in the performance of the duties and matters related to the President's office, and the applicable Church Pension Fund assessments. ~~the~~ Canonical, Corporate (administrative support), and Program (mission) expenses. To defray the expense of this budget, ~~an assessment shall be levied upon~~ *there shall be a single asking* of the dioceses of the Church ~~in accordance with~~ based on a formula, which the General Convention shall adopt as part of this Expense Budget ~~when it adopts the budget~~. It shall be the duty of each ~~Diocesan~~ Convention to forward to the Treasurer of the General Convention annually, on the first Monday of January, the amount of the assessment levied upon that ~~Diocese~~ *diocese to make make twelve equal monthly payments of the asking*.