

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A005  
**TITLE:** Continue a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches  
**PROPOSER:** Advisory Group on Church Planting  
**TOPIC:** Budget

---

---

**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-D005 Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches  
2012-A073 Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones  
2009-A067 Develop a Strategy with Covenant Partners for Starting New Congregations  
2006-A042 Establish a Church Planting Initiative  
2003-A073 Develop Practices for Church Planting  
1991-A063 Develop a Comprehensive Strategy for New Congregational Development

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

2015-A012 Continue Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones  
1997-D044 Request Dioceses to Adopt an Annual Goal for New Church Starts  
1994-D110 Authorize the Establishment of the Plant-A-Church Fund for Evangelism  
1991-D106 Establish 1000 New Congregations by the Year 2000  
1985-A143 Develop a Strategy for Evangelism to Under-represented Groups

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Group for Church Planting](#), see pages 605-607.

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*

# A005 Continue a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches

---

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Proposer</b>         | Advisory Group on Church Planting                |
| <b>Topic</b>            | Budget   |
| <b>Endorsed by</b>      |  |
| <b>Sponsored by</b>     |  |
| <b>Page numbers</b>     | Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A |
| <b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b> | HD / 11 - Evangelism and Church Planting         |
| <b>Current Status</b>   | Resolution Filed                                 |
| <b>Version</b>          | Original (as filed)                              |
| <b>Review Status</b>    | Not yet reviewed                                 |

---

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention and the Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support emerging communities through the good work initiated by GC2015 – D005 and A012 to develop a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters and mission developers; and establishing new congregations or mission enterprise zones each triennium that are especially committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further
  - 2 *Resolved*, That the Church honors the holy experiments emerging throughout the Church – experiments that build partnerships, expand the language of ministry, create new ways to engage the people of God, harvest and share learnings, and lend courage to those leading new ministries and lower the cost of failure through a network supporting mission development; and be it further
  - 3 *Resolved*, That the budget for sustaining this congregational network will be \$6,800,000.00 for 2019-2021 to be allocated as follows:
    - 4 \$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders
    - 5 \$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations
    - 6 \$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders for various cultural contexts
    - 7 \$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network
    - 8 \$3,000,000 for grants to support up to 30 congregations with the size and grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further
-

- 9 \$1,500,000 for the establishing of a land bank for purchasing land for new churches. Monies borrowed for land purchase will be repaid by the borrowers; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, That the Convention urges The Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$6 million per triennium to plant new congregations, so that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute matching local funding to support the costs of any new plants, with the exception of cases of significant diocesan financial limitations; and be it further
- 12 *Resolved*, That the bishop or a diocesan advocate representing any diocese receiving funds shall take part in a cohort of church planting dioceses to share best practices and methods of supporting mission developers, as we all are learning how to nurture new ministries that challenge our assumptions about how to share the gospel with new cultures and generations, and that dioceses not receiving grant funds are also invited to participate in the diocesan cohort; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies continue the advisory group of not more than twelve (12) people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and continuing to develop a network of coaches, and working with staff on training church planters, and be it further
- 14 *Resolved*, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$6,800,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

---

#### EXPLANATION

As we have not in recent years had a culture of church planting or infrastructure in The Episcopal Church to plant new congregations, we believe it is necessary to be intentional about creating the environment to encourage new mission development and evangelism efforts across the church. The 78th General Convention established the Advisory Group for Church Planting and allocated \$5,000,000.00 for establishing new churches and mission enterprise zones. That Advisory Group has recommended grants to Executive Council for the funding of sixty-five (65) new works, continuing existing works and has begun developing resources for assessing and training church planters.

During this triennium, the Advisory Group has held three (3) training events for church planters and mission developers and has begun establishing a network of coaches. This group also has hosted community of practice gatherings both in person and online, offering training and support for planters, mission developers, and coaches.

The Advisory Group for Church Planting is committed to continuing engagement in this work and for seeking out and networking with others across the church who will join in supporting these endeavors

for the furthering of mission development in the Episcopal Church.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D005  
**Title:** Create a Church-wide Network for Planting Churches  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention create a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters; and establishing new congregations each triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the budget for creating this congregational network will be \$5,000,000 to be allocated as follows:*

**\$200,000 to identify and support existing programs to produce training in planting congregations for clergy and lay leaders**

**\$600,000 to provide resources for planters of congregations**

**\$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a program to train bilingual/bi-cultural lay and ordained leaders for Latino/Hispanic ministries**

**\$500,000 to support a staff person to oversee the planting network**

**\$2,700,000 for grants to support up to 30 congregations with the size and grant depending on the context and need of the congregation; and be it further**

*Resolved, That the convention encourages the Episcopal Church Development Office to prioritize raising \$5 million per triennium to plant new congregations, with the hope that a network of interested donors will be developed; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Dioceses receiving money for planting new congregations under this program will contribute a minimum of 20% of the costs of any new plants; and be it further*

*Resolved, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint an advisory group of not more than twelve people, consisting of those with experience in planting congregations, diocesan oversight of such work, and academics working with evangelism and mission, to carry out provisions of this resolution, including developing criteria for receiving grants, providing a reporting process, making recommendations to Executive Council about grants to be awarded, helping to identify potential planters, and developing a network of coaches and internship sites; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Communications Office be directed to make a priority of reporting on the stories of plants of new congregations on an ongoing basis through news media, video, and other means, and through developing a website that provides detailed information about the various planting initiatives happening throughout the church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$5,000,000 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), pp. 314-315.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A073  
**Title:** Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention establish the Mission Enterprise Fund, to be administered by a grants committee for that purpose established by the Executive Council, with \$1 million for the 2013–2015 triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Diocesan Standing Committees and Bishops partner to create "Mission Enterprise Zones," defined as a geographic area, as a group of congregations or as an entire diocese committed to mission and evangelism that engages under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, people of color, poor and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further*

*Resolved, That a Diocese may apply for a matching grant of up to \$20,000 from the Mission Enterprise Fund, to facilitate the development of the Mission Enterprise Zone; and be it further*

*Resolved, That congregational leaders in Mission Enterprise Zones participate in trainings around anti-racism, cross-cultural community development, and ministry development and evangelism, in order to gain the skills to effectively build relationships with groups currently under-represented in The Episcopal Church but growing throughout our domestic mission field; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each Mission Enterprise Zone feature a strategic plan to start or redevelop a congregation that is intentionally multi-cultural, incorporating the presence and leadership of under-represented generations, socio-economic groups, races, ethnicities and/or languages; and be it further*

*Resolved, That for the period between the 77th and 78th General Conventions, these enterprise zones be created and be granted greater freedom as authorized by the Bishop in consultation with diocesan leadership regarding the designation of "congregation" status, traditional formation for and use of ordained leadership, and the use of authorized texts for principle worship gatherings; and be it further*

*Resolved, That diocesan leaders report to the Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church the results of their efforts, including a description of the Mission Enterprise Zone and the process for creating the zone, the number and nature of new faith communities created, the number and demographic profiles of people associated with these communities, and the ministries established within the zone; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church compile and reflect on these accounts and use them to fulfill the request of the Executive Council to help the Church "create a canonical process to incorporate new faith community models into our existing structures" by the 78th General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$1,000,000 to implement this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 113-114.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A067  
**Title:** Develop a Strategy with Covenant Partners for Starting New Congregations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize that new church development is a high missional priority and an effective tool to present the Gospel, to incorporate the seeker and to welcome the lost home; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Program officer, Church Planting and Ministry Re-Development of The Episcopal Church's Evangelism and Congregational Life Center to collaborate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and others to develop resources for starting new congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That these resources include case studies, best practices, approaches to be avoided and effective action plans for starting and sustaining new faith communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this resource be published and presented to the Executive Council and to the House of Bishops at their first meeting in 2011.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 281.





**Resolution Number:** 2006-A042  
**Title:** Establish a Church Planting Initiative  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention establish a Church Planting Initiative to raise funds for new congregations in the dioceses of this Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention call every diocese of this Church to identify and document with projected costs and demographics including racial, ethnic, generational, and socioeconomic makeup of the targeted areas, prime opportunities for the development of new congregations including new college campus missions, and communicate this list of opportunities to the Office of Congregational Development by June 30, 2007; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development be directed to assemble these reports by December 30, 2007, and convey to Executive Council, in its regular report a comprehensive list of opportunities for new church and campus ministry development and projected costs, and to communicate this list through electronic and print media to the Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That upon receipt of the comprehensive report for New Church Development the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council implement a major gifts campaign to fund the Church Planting Initiative; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Development in cooperation with the Ethnic Ministries offices, especially the Hispanic Ministries Office, lead and support the Church Planting Initiative by: keeping the church abreast of best practices for church, campus mission and ministry planting; raising awareness of opportunities for starting new congregations, campus mission and ministries throughout the church; assisting individual dioceses in planning and developing a vision and a plan for this Initiative; developing tools for assessing candidates for new church development; and recommending matching grants for church planting; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church be a financial partner with dioceses by providing matching grants to dioceses for church planting; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider the Church Planting Initiative budget for development staff to identify and nurture new sources of revenue in the grants, gifts, endowments and/or capital fund drives be increased from \$75,000 to \$475,000 during each year of the 2007–2009 triennium.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 655-656.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A073  
**Title:** Develop Practices for Church Planting  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church Center to:*

- **develop a system for identifying persons with the skills and temperament to plant new churches and/or revitalize existing congregations;**
- **in cooperation with the Office on Ministry Development, develop and recommend practices for recruiting, training, deploying, and retaining such persons;**
- **develop and carry out events to include an annual national conference of church planters to share stories and resources;**
- **develop training and mentoring programs for laypersons and congregations involved in church planting;**
- **through the office of the Director of Research at the Episcopal Church Center, conduct and fund research into how other denominations plant and sustain new churches, with special emphasis on learning best practices for planting churches in less affluent areas or areas with negative population growth;**
- **and make an annual report to the Executive Council and The Episcopal Church at-large on the net increase in new church starts; and be it further**

*Resolved, That we commend the work already begun by the Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church Center.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 312f.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A063  
**Title:** Develop a Comprehensive Strategy for New Congregational Development  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That through the action of its 70th General Convention the Episcopal Church commit itself to develop and promote a more comprehensive mission strategy for new congregation development which will include both ethnic specific models as well as multi-cultural models; both of these types of new congregations should be pursued at a variety of socio-economic levels; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each diocese be encouraged to continue developing and implementing its own strategies for new congregations, including ethnic specific and multi-cultural models at a variety of socio-economic levels; and be it further*

*Resolved, That congregations, dioceses and the National Church be encouraged to publicize the results of such strategies.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 398.