

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A021
TITLE: Amend Canon 111.3.8.5(g)
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A090 Amend Canon III.8.5(g) [Of Ordination of Priests: Theological Education]
2006-A082 Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility

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

2015-A001 Reform Seminary Training and Develop Transformative Encounters

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation](#), see page 592.

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.

A021 Amend Canon 111.3.8.5(g)

Proposer	Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
Topic	Canons
Endorsed by	Johnson, The Rev. Stephanie
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 83
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 15 - Ministry
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention recognize the critical importance of ordained leadership in prophesying change in communities and nations, especially in ethical issues; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention proclaim that the degradation and destruction of God’s Creation by human beings is among the most pressing ethical issues of our time and a perversion of our original commandment to “have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1.28); and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention acknowledge the lack of training most clergy have in Christian Environmental Ethics and Stewardship of Creation; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That Canon III.3.8.5(g)(4) is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 5 Sec. 5 (g)(4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology - *including environmental ethics and theology*
- 6 And be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That Canon III.3.8.5 (g)(6) is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 8 Sec. 5 (g)(6) The Practice of Ministry in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, *environmental stewardship and care of creation*, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A090
Title: Amend Canon III.8.5(g) [Of Ordination of Priests: Theological Education]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church replace existing Canon III.8.5(g) with the following canon:

CANON III.8.5(g):

Subject areas for studying during this program of preparation shall include:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures.**
- (2) ~~Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement.~~*History of the Christian Church.***
- (3) Christian Theology, ~~including Missionary Theology and Missiology.~~**
- (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.**
- (5) ~~Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills. Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.~~**
- (6) (5) ~~Liturgies and Church Music;~~ Christian Worship and Music according to the contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer, and the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.**
- (7) (6) ~~Theory and The pPractice of mMinistry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship.in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.~~**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 419-420.



Resolution Number: 2006-A082
Title: Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

[Resolved, that Canons III.5 through III.23 be deleted and be replaced by the following proposed Canons III.5 through III.13:]

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

- (a) The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.**
- (b) If the Postulant or Candidate has not previously obtained a baccalaureate degree, the Commission, Bishop, and Postulant or Candidate shall design a program of such additional academic work as may be necessary to prepare the Postulant or Candidate to undertake a program of theological education.**
- (c) Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.**
- (d) Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for the Priesthood.**
- (e) Whenever possible, formation for the Priesthood shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Priesthood, or others preparing for ministry.**
- (f) Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation.**
- (g) Subject areas for study during this program of preparation shall include:**
 - (1) The Holy Scriptures.**
 - (2) Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement.**
 - (3) Christian Theology, including Missionary Theology and Missiology.**
 - (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.**
 - (5) Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills. Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.**
 - (6) Liturgics and Church Music; Christian Worship and Music according to the contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.**
 - (7) Theory and practice of ministry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship.**
- (h) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding**
 - (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.**
 - (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.**

- (3) the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.**
- (4) the Church's teaching on racism.**
- (i) Each Postulant or Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.**
- (j) The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic performance and personal qualifications of the Postulant or Candidate for ordination. These reports will be made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.**
- (k) Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, the following must be accomplished**
 - (1) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.**
 - (2) medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.**
- (l) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.**

Citation: Canon III.8.5 is excerpted from the Final Text of 2006-A082, which revised Canons III.5 through III.23. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 583-630.



Resolution Number: 2006-C018
Title: Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention affirm that our Christian response to global warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 1991–A195, adopted by the 70th General Convention, declaring that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 2000–D022 [sic] (MDGs and the ONE Episcopalian Campaign [sic]), adopted by the 73rd General Convention, encouraging all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation the work of Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious institutions and others work for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation (website of Interfaith Power and Light – www.theregenerationproject.org); and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Interfaith Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 484-485.