

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A023  
**TITLE:** Assist Vocation Discernment Groups  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on Clergy Leadership in Small Congregations  
**TOPIC:** Ministry

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A045 Authorize a Task Force on Ministry Formation in Small Congregations  
2015-A086 Create a Network of Latino/Hispanic Partners for Congregational Development  
2012-D066 Establish Episcopal Network of Volunteer Executives and Professionals  
2003-A121 Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals  
1997-D034 Request Dioceses to Establish Minimum Continuing Education Standards

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

2015-A061 Endorse the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations  
2015-A075 Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources  
2012-D037 Fund Lifelong Christian Formation and Vocation  
1982-D097 Request the Seminaries to Train for Small Church Ministries

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on Clergy Leadership Formation in Small Congregations](#), see page 654

*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.*

# A023 Assist Vocation Discernment Groups

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<b>Proposer</b>	Task Force on Clergy Leadership in Small Congregations
<b>Topic</b>	Ministry
<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>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention, if a Formation Networking Team is created, direct the Team to collect, evaluate and encourage the sharing of excellent resources for the training of commissions on ministry and discernment committees for clergy and lay vocations and to publicize to The Episcopal Church, its dioceses and congregations the availability of these resources; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That, if a Formation Networking Team is not created, the 79th General Convention direct that an appropriate body or office in The Episcopal Church collect, evaluate and encourage the sharing of excellent resources for the training of commissions on ministry and discernment committees for clergy and lay vocations and publicize to The Episcopal Church, its dioceses and congregations the availability of these resources; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That, if a Formation Networking Team is not created or is not funded, the 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

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## EXPLANATION

While many dioceses provide some training for commissions on ministry, the data shows that the need for small-congregation-specific training is perceived to be great, especially in relation to flexible approaches to vocational discernment. Some excellent resources exist in individual dioceses, but guidelines and best practices are not generally shared among the dioceses of TEC. Small dioceses with limited resources would particularly benefit from the coordination and dissemination of resources and best practices.

Dissemination of best practices will also encourage commissions on ministry to address lay vocations as called for in Title III. Commissions on ministry need training in discerning and supporting lay vocations. Networking among dioceses will encourage sharing of best practices in this area.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A045  
**Title:** Authorize a Task Force on Ministry Formation in Small Congregations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize a task force with membership appointed by the Presiding Officers consisting of no fewer than 10 nor more than 20 representatives including, but not limited to, representatives from local diocesan programs, representatives from seminaries, ecumenical representation, or representatives who are engaged in advanced theological education; and that the task force be made up of bishops, priests, deacons, and laity to explore quality programs for formation, for expanding education opportunities for clergy and laity, for collaboration between local diocesan school programs and seminaries, for ecumenical collaboration, and to explore a wide range of delivery methods. The task force shall report back to the 79th General Convention with a plan to provide quality formation for clergy in small congregations that is affordable, theologically reflective, and innovative; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 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), p. 416.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A086  
**Title:** Create a Network of Latino/Hispanic Partners for Congregational Development  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the work that the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries has done to identify congregations located in areas with high Latino/Hispanic populations and to provide them with detailed demographic reports, leadership training, training in cross-cultural awareness and marketing and advertising resources to help these congregations and other resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies, with the advice of the Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries, create a churchwide Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development to provide coaches and mentors who will work with congregations, lay leaders, clergy, and diocesan staff to implement the provisions of this resolution; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, in collaboration with the Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development, to continue creating formation and leadership development resources and programs to meet the needs of clergy and lay leaders currently serving in Latino/Hispanic ministries, including the programs with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other ecumenical partners focused on the continuing education and leadership development of clergy and lay leaders; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, in collaboration with the Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development, create mechanisms for mentoring and coaching of clergy currently working in Latino/Hispanic ministries; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, in collaboration with the Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development, create resources for congregational development and redevelopment intended for diocesan staff, clergy, and lay leaders who are exploring establishing Latino/Hispanic bilingual, multiethnic, and multicultural worship ministries in their communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, in collaboration with the Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development, create an intensive cultural-competency training program for diocesan staff members, seminarians, clergy, and lay leaders to gain language and cultural skills for ministry in bilingual, multiethnic, and multicultural Latino/Hispanic communities, including collaborations with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other ecumenical partners; and provide educational and media resources that will be easily accessible; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Network of Partners on Latino/Hispanic Congregational Ministry Development conduct an annual evaluation of programs and review of the use of resources based on a survey of those being served; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$1,500,000 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. 330-331.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-D066  
**Title:** Establish Episcopal Network of Volunteer Executives and Professionals  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church establish the Episcopal Network of Volunteer Executives and Professionals (the “Network”) to provide management and administrative counsel, support and training to clergy, vestry members, administrators and other persons in congregations, dioceses and provinces; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Chief Operating Officer of The Episcopal Church appoint an unpaid Coordinator of the Network to solicit volunteers for the Network, provide materials and best practices to volunteers, match volunteers with persons and organizations requesting assistance and training from the Network, and publicize the availability of the Network to congregations, dioceses and provinces; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$15,000 for the implementation of this resolution to provide for a website for the Network and incidental travel expenses of the Coordinator.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 315-316.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A121  
**Title:** Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage each diocese to develop a plan and make provisions for the continuing education of all clergy and lay professionals in its jurisdiction, such plan and its progress to be reported annually to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses that do not have continuing education policies or programs be urged to participate in a pilot program for the development of a diocesan continuing education policy and program sponsored by the Office for Ministry Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$46,000 for implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 489.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-D034  
**Title:** Request Dioceses to Establish Minimum Continuing Education Standards  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That each diocese, through the cooperative efforts of the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry or other designated body, shall be responsible for:*

**Establishing minimum standards for continuing education, including what constitutes an acceptable program and the number of days or hours required per year;**

**Providing the ways and/or means, in collaboration with the leadership in the diocese, parish, and/or other institution, for continuing education to be made available to all clergy and lay professionals;**

**Developing standards and methods of accountability for assurance of compliance with their plan.**

**The plan devised by each diocese shall be submitted to the Board for Theological Education and the Board shall present reports on continuing education provisions in the diocese to each General Convention.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 272.