

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A025  
**TITLE:** Bishops and Small-Congregation Clergy  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on Clergy Leadership in Small Congregation  
**TOPIC:** Christian Formation

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A046 Create a Resource List for Lay Leadership Formation Resources  
2012-A076 Recognize Mission and Work in Small Congregations  
2009-A113 Charge the Standing Commission on Small Congregations  
2006-D057 Develop Priorities for the Standing Commission on Small Congregations

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

2015-A045 Authorize a Task Force on Ministry Formation in Small Congregations  
2015-A075 Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources  
1991-D196 Recognize the Needs of Mission and Ministry in Small Communities  
1988-D149 Request a Format for Evaluating and Networking Small Congregations  
1982-A107 Urge More Church Contacts Among Small Congregations  
1979-A080 Establish a Committee and Program to Benefit the Church in Small Communities  
1976-D041 Commend the Proposal for a Resource Center for Small Churches

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on Clergy Leadership Formation in Small Congregations](#), see page 656.

*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.*

# A025 Bishops and Small-Congregation Clergy

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<b>Proposer</b>	Task Force on Clergy Leadership in Small Congregations
<b>Topic</b>	Christian Formation
<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 offer to work with the House of Bishops to assist bishops by providing excellent resources and best practices in their work of identifying and forming clergy and lay leaders for small congregations in their dioceses; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That, if a Formation Networking Team is not created, the 79th General Convention direct an appropriate body or office in The Episcopal Church to offer to work with the House of Bishops to assist bishops by providing excellent resources and best practices in their work of identifying and forming clergy and lay leaders for small congregations in their dioceses; 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 \$30,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

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## EXPLANATION

The bishop is always a key player in the identification and formation of clergy in the diocese and in shaping the attitudes in the diocese towards small congregations. Bishops indicated in their interviews and survey responses that resources to assist them in this task would be welcomed.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A046  
**Title:** Create a Resource List for Lay Leadership Formation Resources  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct the Executive Council to oversee the establishment of an online resource list and library of materials and programs for licensed lay leadership in small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That every diocese be interviewed to determine if there are any local internal resources that may be appropriate to be included in the resource list so that each diocese may provide leadership formation for all licensed lay ministries through a variety of methods appropriate to the need of the diocese; and be it further*

*Resolved, That a report by the Executive Council be made to The Episcopal Church by June 30, 2016 so that access to information may be distributed to the wider Church; 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 \$100,000 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:** 2012-A076  
**Title:** Recognize Mission and Work in Small Congregations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention recognize and affirm the work of the Office of Congregational Vitality undertaken in support of the church in small congregations in their many manifestations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Vitality be designated as The Episcopal Church staff office charged with supporting the ongoing mission of the church in small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Congregational Vitality develop means for church-wide conversation, networking, and dissemination of resources to further encourage and support small congregations in service to God's mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop be urged to continue to ensure representation from small congregations and small dioceses on interim bodies and General Convention committees at the 78th General Convention, including any special commissions or committees on structure; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each interim body and program of The Episcopal Church take into account the impact of its activities on small congregations and small dioceses and make a priority of facilitating the Five Marks of Mission in this area.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 693.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A113  
**Title:** Charge the Standing Commission on Small Congregations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations in partnership with the Office of Congregational Vitality publish information about effective ministry practices for small congregations currently evolving and being developed in small congregations and dioceses; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations collaborate with other CCABs, networks and organizations throughout the Church (such as Living Stones, Domestic Missionary Partnership, Ministry Developer's Collaborative, Native American and other ethnic specific ministries, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Rural Ministry Network, Center for Baptismal Living, Church Deployment Office) around issues and concerns related to the strengthening of small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations continue strategic discussions with the Church Pension Fund regarding compensation and benefit issues for participating ordained and non-ordained persons serving small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations be an active participant in current and future conversations throughout the Church related to seminary education and other vehicles of life-long Christian Formation for ordained and non-ordained leaders serving small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations plan with the General Convention Office to make the mission, ministry and vitality of small congregations a major emphasis of the 77th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 769-770.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-D057  
**Title:** Develop Priorities for the Standing Commission on Small Congregations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations work with Church Center staff to develop and offer opportunities for leadership training in Small Church Ministry; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations work with Church Center staff to facilitate sharing and cooperation among the various networks and organizations committed to collaboration, training, and education that enrich and equip small congregations for mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations continue conversation with the Church Pension Fund regarding compensation and benefit issues for clergy and lay participants in the Church Pension Fund serving small congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations plan with the General Convention Office opportunities to celebrate the life and ministry of small congregations at the 76th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 326.