

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A029
TITLE: Commend the Evangelism Charter for the Church to All Episcopalians
PROPOSER: Executive Council
TOPIC: Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-D023 Affirm Episcopalians as Evangelists to Grow the Church

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

2015-A173 Promote Evangelism Resources and an Action Plan
2015-A179 Commend a Memorial on Evangelism
2006-A037 Reaffirm Commitment to Congregational Health and Evangelism
1982-D107 Urge Members to Deepen Their Personal Spiritual Growth

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Executive Council](#), see pages 120-121.

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.

A029 Commend the Evangelism Charter for the Church to All Episcopalians

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

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the General Convention commends the Evangelism Charter for the Episcopal Church to dioceses, congregations, communities of faith, and all Episcopalians, urging them to read and study its principles and integrate them into their life of faith.

EXPLANATION

The Evangelism Charter for the church was developed by a group of committed Episcopal evangelists gathered by the Local Ministry & Mission Committee of Executive Council. We anticipate that video and curricula will be developed based on its principles that will help Episcopalians learn the practices of evangelism. The Charter reads as follows:

Evangelism Charter for The Episcopal Church

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Every baptized Episcopalian has vowed to proclaim with our words and our lives the loving, liberating, and life-giving good news of Jesus Christ. Through this Episcopal approach to evangelism, we seek, name and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people - then invite everyone to MORE. This commitment means engaging in:

Evangelism OF the Church

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment." - Matthew 22:37-38

With God's help, as followers of Jesus Christ, we will ...

- Recognize and live into our own belovedness as children of God
- Engage daily practices of prayer, scripture reading, worship, and service
- Recall times in our lives when the love of God has been real and present to us
- Articulate our own story of experiencing God's love for us

Evangelism BY the Church

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

With God’s help, as bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we will ...

- Invite and listen deeply to the stories of everyone you encounter
- Name and celebrate stories of the presence of God in Christ everywhere
- Share our stories of encounter, good news, and resurrection in Jesus
- Plant seeds of hope, and trust God to give the growth

Evangelism FOR the Church

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” - Ephesians 2:19-21

With God’s help, as members of the Body of Christ, we will ...

- Allow ourselves to be transformed by new relationships
- Discover a fresh approach to the gospel as we gain new perspectives
- Invite others to discover their own belovedness in Christ
- Grow more servants for The Jesus Movement to change the world

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”-Matthew 28:19-20



Resolution Number: 2012-D023
Title: Affirm Episcopalians as Evangelists to Grow the Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention see the decline in membership as a call to action; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention affirm that through the baptismal covenant, the five marks of mission, and membership in the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, all Episcopalians are called to be evangelists who help grow the church and the Kingdom of God; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention give thanks for the work of the Office of Congregational Vitality and the Office of Emergent Church and Church Planting and increase their budget allocations with the goal of growing membership.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 325.