

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A048
TITLE: Establish Committee to Oversee Creation of Training Materials
PROPOSER: Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies
TOPIC: Sexual Misconduct

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A050 Refer a Resolution on the ACC Charter for Safety (Referred)
2015-A073 Update Model Policies for Protection of Children and Youth
2015-A074 Update the Safe Church Training Materials
2009-D062 Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
2006-A156 Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct
2003-A023 Establish a Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct
2003-B008 Protect Children and Youth from Abuse
2003-D015 Make Sexual Exploitation Materials Available on the Web
1994-A063 Direct the Committee on Sexual Exploitation to Complete Their Work
1994-B022 Commend Use of Educational Materials by the Sexual Exploitation Committee
1991-B052 Establish a Committee on Sexual Exploitation
1985-B014 Direct Bishops to Establish Workshops for Clergy on Child Abuse

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

2006-A158 Continue Task Force on Institutional Wellness and Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2000-A098 Authorize Continuation of the Committee on Sexual Exploitation
2000-C025 Urge a Response to Issues of Sexual and Domestic Violence

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies](#), see page 950.

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.

A048 Establish Committee to Oversee Creation of Training Materials

Proposer	Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies
Topic	Sexual Misconduct
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 03 - Safeguarding and Title IV
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 79th General Convention direct the Executive Council to establish a committee of the Council to oversee the creation and implementation of new safe church training materials to be developed during the next triennium to reflect the approved 2017 Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and the approved 2017 Model Policies for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults, such committee to be comprised of not more than nine (9) people who reflect the diversity of The Episcopal Church, which should include youth ministers, those working with vulnerable adults, educators for adults, and those experienced in the prevention of sexual abuse; membership should also include at least three (3) persons from the Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies appointed in 2015; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That such safe church training materials for the prevention of sexual misconduct include written and web-based training materials that include responsive and multilingual online web-based resources, a modern content management system and a curated resource list, such training to provide Universal Training accessible to all congregants and ministry participants that fosters a culture of safety and inclusion for all people and Specialized Training consisting of discrete modules on topics directly related to ministry roles and functions; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That this 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

A strong training program is essential for the effective implementation of and compliance with the Model Policies. The establishment of a working group of members with related experience and expertise will ensure that the training materials fill this role.



Resolution Number: 2015-A050
Title: Refer a Resolution on the ACC Charter for Safety
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention join the 2012 Anglican Consultative Council in adopting the following "Charter for Safety of People Within the Churches of the Anglican Communion" as a summary of The Episcopal Church's policy regarding maintaining the safety of all who come to or work for our churches:

"1. Pastoral support where there is abuse — We will provide pastoral support for the abused, their families, and affected parishes and church organizations by listening with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns; offering spiritual assistance and other forms of pastoral care.

2. Effective responses to abuse — We will have and implement policies and procedures to respond properly to allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel that include: making known within churches the procedure for making complaints; arranging pastoral care for any person making a complaint of abuse; the impartial determination of allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel, and assessment of their suitability for future ministry; providing support for affected parishes and church organizations.

3. Practice of pastoral ministry — We will adopt and promote, through education and training, standards for the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and other church personnel.

4. Suitability for ministry — We will have and implement policies and procedures to assess the suitability of persons for ordination as clergy or appointment to positions of responsibility in the church, including checking their background.

5. Culture of safety — We will promote a culture of safety in parishes and church organizations by education and training to help clergy, other church personnel, and participants prevent the occurrence of abuse;" and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council collect current data from all member dioceses regarding their "safe church" policies and practices, including identification of reasons for not implementing the recommended policies and practices; and publish that information to The Episcopal Church through its most widely accessible media; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Global Relations collaborate with Province IX to develop and disseminate culturally appropriate materials for use in the Spanish-speaking dioceses of TEC that are consistent with the principles of the ACC "Charter of Safety" and the standards previously set out by General Convention, including a process for training of local trainers; 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 \$ 40,000 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. 452-453.



Resolution Number: 2015-A073
Title: Update Model Policies for Protection of Children and Youth
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the 2004 Model Policies developed by The Church Insurance Agency Corporation for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse (the “2004 Model Policies”) be updated and supplemented to reflect the experience of the Church in using the 2004 Model Policies and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, not later than September 30, 2015, jointly appoint a Special Task Group of five to seven persons with experience in the use and development of Model Policies for Preventing Sexual Misconduct to update, or to oversee the updating of, the 2004 Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That the updating and supplementing of the 2004 Model Policies be completed by March 31, 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That the Updated Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse to the Church (the “Updated Model Policies”) be promulgated after they are approved by the Special Task Group; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center appoint a knowledgeable person to serve as a point of contact for dioceses to obtain information about complying with the 2004 Model Policies and the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That not later than December 31, 2016, the Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Youth of each diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies with due regard to applicable local laws on the subject matters of the Updated Model Policies; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses annually confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center, that the Guidelines of the diocese conform to the Updated Model Policies.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 416-417.



Resolution Number: 2015-A074
Title: Update the Safe Church Training Materials
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the Episcopal Church Center arrange for the updating or supplementing of written and web-based materials used in the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* programs to reflect the experience of the Church in using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials; and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further*

*Resolved, That, in addition to developing printed and web-based versions of the updated or supplemented *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials, electronic links to the online versions of the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula be made available on The Episcopal Church website; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize the availability of the revised or supplemented written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials to dioceses and congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses of The Episcopal Church be required annually to confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center that the diocese and (to the best of its knowledge after due inquiry) congregations in the diocese are training persons in positions of authority (including clergy, staff, vestry, children, and youth educators/leaders and other volunteers) by using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials or other appropriate materials for this training; and be it further*

*Resolved, That after the written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula are revised or supplemented, re-training of trainers be conducted so that the persons conducting training in congregations and dioceses are fully aware of the changes in the training materials and are able to teach them competently; and be it further*

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 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. 418-419.



Resolution Number: 2009-D062
Title: Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to continue the work of developing clear and firm policies and procedures for the well-being of all, and commit this church to being and becoming a place where children, youth and adults are safe, especially from abuse, neglect and exploitation, particularly in dioceses that have been unable to implement the call to provide sexual misconduct prevention training; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$20,000 for the implementation of the resolution during the 2010-2012 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report to the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education before the 77th General Convention on the status of diocesan training and implementation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 286-287.



Resolution Number: 2006-A086
Title: Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to create and disseminate training materials to assist leaders in ministry to recognize and respond to evidence of abuse; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report on this initiative to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 511.



Resolution Number: 2006-A156
Title: Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the work already occurring in many dioceses and at the same time recommit itself to the positions taken by previous General Conventions that sexual misconduct (encompassing both sexual harassment and sexual exploitation) of adults by clergy, church employees, and volunteer workers has been and continues to be of deep concern to this Church, is an abuse of trust, a violation of the Baptismal Covenant, contrary to Christian character and is, therefore, wrong; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese adopt policies for the protection from sexual misconduct of those served by diocesan programs, those who volunteer in the work of the diocese or are employed by the diocese, and that dioceses assist congregations in the development of such procedures and policies, including using the many resources that already exist, that address the following:

1. **the articulation of behavioral standards for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who work with adults or who provide pastoral counseling, pastoral care, spiritual direction, or the sacraments;**
2. **a screening process for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who provide pastoral counseling and care, spiritual direction, or the sacraments and who supervise clergy or lay volunteers;**
3. **education and training for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers as listed above, with particular attention paid to what legally constitutes sexual harassment and to appropriate behavior and inappropriate sexual or sexualized behaviors towards adults, and with periodic refresher training encouraged;**
4. **guidelines for responding to concerns of sexual misconduct; and be it further**

Resolved, That each diocese shall report to the House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development prior to the Spring 2009 House of Bishops meeting with a copy of its adopted and implemented policy and an evaluation of the history of its use. A summary report shall be made to the House of Bishops Spring 2009 meeting and a full report made to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 667.



Resolution Number: 2003-A023
Title: Establish a Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention establish, pursuant to Joint Rule 23, a Task Force of not less than ten nor more than fifteen persons. These persons should be laity, bishops, priests, and deacons with experience and expertise in dealing with sexual misconduct in church settings. Membership should include, but not be limited to representatives from the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Council of Seminary Deans, the Nathan Network, the National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations, the Task Force on Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, and the National Network of Lay Professionals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force shall study and gather information concerning matters of institutional wellness for the prevention of sexual misconduct. Its study shall include such concerns as screening, selection and training of clergy, lay employees and volunteers; monitoring and supervision; behavior management; incident investigation; and the articulation of pastoral standards and codes of ethical behavior; and be it further

Resolved, That each body named shall recommend Task Force members from its own membership, and the appointments shall be overseen by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development. Additional members shall then be appointed by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development, and the entire Task Force shall include at least two bishops, two clergy, and two laity. The Task Force shall have the services of the Office of Pastoral Development and a Church Pension staff person; and be it further

Resolved, That a report be made to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, as well as to the 2006 General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider the allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 216f.



Resolution Number: 2003-B008
Title: Protect Children and Youth from Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recommit itself to the vision of the role of children in the church as articulated in *A Children's Charter for the Church* as adopted by the 72nd General Convention in 1997. The *Charter*, among other things, calls the church to:*

- Receive, nurture, and treasure each child as a gift from God;
- Love, shelter, protect, and defend children within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected, or in danger; and
- Advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, civic, and political structures; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church acknowledge that the times and circumstances demand that the church articulate a clear and firm commitment to the safety of all, especially children; that we support this commitment with clear and firm policies and procedures for the well-being of all; and that we commit this Church to being and becoming a place where children and youth are safe, especially from abuse and neglect; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese develop and adopt policies for the protection of children and youth from abuse that address the following:

- a. A screening and selection process for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who regularly work with children or youth. Dioceses are encouraged to consider:
 - . a A written application
 - . b A public records check
 - . c An interview
 - . d Reference checks
 - . e A general provision that volunteers not work with children or youth until they have been known to the clergy or congregation for at least six months
- b. The articulation of behavioral standards for clergy, lay employees, and volunteers working with children or youth. Dioceses are encouraged to consider:
 - . a Respect for the privacy and dignity of children and youth by not putting them in inappropriate unmonitored one-to-one situations
 - . b Age-appropriate arrangements for sleeping, bathing, dressing, or showering
 - . c The prohibition of dating, romantic involvements, or sexual contact with a child or youth
 - . d The prohibition of any sexually oriented materials (magazines, cards, videos, films, clothing, etc.) in the presence of children and youth except as expressly permitted as part of a pre-authorized educational program
 - . e Guidelines for physical contact and expressions of affection that define appropriate and inappropriate behaviors
 - . f The prohibition of discussing their own sexual activities and fantasies with children or youth

- . g **The prohibition of the non-sacramental use, possession, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or the misuse of legal drugs**
- c. **The monitoring of programs and interaction with children and youth. Dioceses are encouraged to consider:**
 - . a **The prohibition of the development or initiation of new activities for children or youth without prior approval from the appropriate decision-maker(s)**
 - . b **The recognition that the ordinary standard is the presence of two unrelated adults for any activities involving children or youth**
- d. **Education and training. Dioceses are encouraged to consider:**
 - . a **Child abuse prevention for clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who regularly work with children or youth**
 - . b **Specialized training for those who recruit, screen, or select persons to work with children or youth**
- e. **Guidelines for responding to concerns. Dioceses are encouraged to consider:**
 - . a **Inappropriate behavior with children or youth**
 - . b **Violation of policies for the protection of children or youth**
 - . c **Suspected abuse of children or youth; and be it further**

Resolved, **That each diocese shall report to the House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development prior to the Spring 2006 meeting of the House of Bishops with a copy of its adopted and implemented policy and an evaluation of the history of its use. A summary report shall be made to the House of Bishops Spring 2006 meeting and a full report made to the 75th General Convention.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), pp. 255-257.



Resolution Number: 2003-D015
Title: Make Sexual Exploitation Materials Available on the Web
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, recalling that the 71st General Convention, in Resolution B022a, commended the Manual and Training materials prepared by the Committee on Sexual Exploitation (entitled "Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being"), "... for use by the dioceses and institutions of this Church ... in setting policies and procedures and in educating and training clergy and laity;" direct the Executive Council, to make available to all dioceses electronic copies of this Manual and Training materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Executive Council, to also make available to all dioceses electronic copies of the updates to the Manual and Training materials distributed at the 72nd General Convention, along with electronic copies of the pamphlets, including, but not limited to, "For Persons with Complaints: Information of the Episcopal Church Discipline," "A Diocesan Guide to Understanding Title IV," "A Clergy Guide to Understanding Title IV," "What a Congregation (and Vestry) Should Know about the Revised Disciplinary Canons of the Episcopal Church" and "Guidelines for Bishops Meeting with Complaints in Accordance with Title IV" as revised, and "Guidelines for Bishops Meeting with A Respondent in Accordance with Title IV" and "Suggested Standards for the Restoration of Rehabilitated Sexual Exploitative Clerics" when available; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be requested to also make the electronic copies available on The Episcopal Church national website; and be it further

Resolved, That the Title IV Revision Task Force explore the financial and logistical feasibility of offering one or more Response Teams on a national level to any diocese requesting their services—when invited by either the diocesan Ecclesiastical Authority or the Diocesan Review Committee.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 262f.



Resolution Number: 1994-A063
Title: Direct the Committee on Sexual Exploitation to Complete Their Work
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church declares that sexual abuse, coercion, and harassment of adults and minors, known collectively as sexual misconduct, by clergy and Church employees remains a problem in this Church, despite much work done in the past triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Sexual Exploitation established by the 70th General Convention (in Resolution B052a) be continued for another triennium, and that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies be asked to maintain the same standards of membership established by the 70th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Sexual Exploitation be directed to complete their work presented to this Convention, to closely examine the issues related to sexual misconduct by lay employees and volunteers, and to provide themselves as a resource for the entire Church to draw from in dealing with these issues.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 250-51.



Resolution Number: 1994-B022
Title: Commend Use of Educational Materials by the Sexual Exploitation Committee
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church receive with gratitude the draft manual "Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being," and the draft educational materials produced by the Committee on Sexual Exploitation; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention commend these materials for use by the dioceses and institutions of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention grant permission to its dioceses, congregations, seminaries, and other associated institutions to reproduce these materials for their own use (and not for profit) in setting policies and procedures and in educating and training clergy and laity for the prevention of and response to sexual misconduct.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 355.



Resolution Number: 1991-B052
Title: Establish a Committee on Sexual Exploitation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church declares that sexual abuse, exploitation, coercion, and harassment of adults and minors by clergy and church employees are abuses of trust, a violation of the Baptismal Covenant, contrary to Christian Character, and are therefore wrong; and be it further

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church establish a Committee on Sexual Exploitation to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to work with the Office of Pastoral Development. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Sexual Exploitation to study, educate, develop curriculum, and propose policy and standards of conduct on sexual abuse, exploitation, coercion, and harassment, and to advise the Office of Pastoral Development as resource persons. The membership of the committee is to be representative as to sex, race and ethnic diversity. The Committee will report to the 71st General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 783.



Resolution Number: 1985-B014
Title: Direct Bishops to Establish Workshops for Clergy on Child Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That where legally and pastorally appropriate, each Bishop be requested to direct an appropriate body within his diocese to establish and conduct training workshops for clergy to enable better recognition of the indications of child abuse and child sexual abuse, and for the purpose of orienting the clergy to their own community's resources for dealing with this sensitive issue; and be it further

Resolved, That said workshops be repeated periodically in each diocese in order that new clergy be included.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 594.