

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

RESOLUTION NO.: A051
TITLE: Modify Parochial Report
PROPOSER: Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies
TOPIC: Parochial Reports

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A073 Update Model Policies for Protection of Children and Youth
2009-D062 Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2006-A156 Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct

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

2015-A074 Update the Safe Church Training Materials

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Executive Council](#), see pages 951-952.

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.

A051 Modify Parochial Report

Proposer	Task Force to Update Sexual Misconduct Policies
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 10 - Congregational and Diocesan Vitality
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 request the Committee on the State of the Church to consider adding the following with respect to parish and congregation *Safe Church Self-Audits* as required by the Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and the Model Policies for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults approved in 2017: (1) the total number of parish and congregation Safe Church Self-Audits expected to be submitted to the diocese, (2) the number of self-audits received by the diocese, (3) the number of outstanding self-audits, and (4) the date when outstanding self-audits are expected to be received.

EXPLANATION

Including the status of parish and congregation safe church self-audits on the diocesan parochial report is the basis for tracking accountably with the Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and Model Policies for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults as approved in 2017. Such accountability will serve to identify those dioceses and locations that would benefit from enhanced support to fully live into the Model Policies.



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: 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-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.