

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A057
TITLE: Strengthen Staff Resources for Networking
PROPOSER: House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
TOPIC: Justice

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A096 Affirm Relationships in Approaches to Social Justice Ministry
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2012-A086 Address Community Development Opportunities in Native Communities
2012-D050 Encourage Clergy Response to Poverty and Justice
2009-A104 Request Dioceses to Fund Multicultural Leadership Development
1991-A065 Affirm the Ministry of Evangelism Among Ethnic Groups
1985-A107 Develop Models of Advocacy for Justice for the Poor

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

2015-A011 Urge Advocacy for Policy Changes to End Mass Incarceration Practices
2015-A183 Encourage Study of the Issue of Mass Incarceration
2015-B005 Endorse Church-School Partnerships to Support Public Education
2015-D068 Support Ministries Against the School-to-Prison Pipeline
2015-D077 Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families
2015-D077 Urge Partnerships to Support Immigrant Families
2015-D079 Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
2012-B024 Promote Alternative to the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church](#), see page 569.

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.

A057 Strengthen Staff Resources for Networking

Proposer House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

Topic Justice

Endorsed by

Sponsored by

Page numbers Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HiA / Leg. Cttee HB / 08 - Social Justice and United States Policy

Current Status Resolution Filed

Version Original (as filed)

Review Status Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention support the continued and additional strengthening of Church wide staff resources and collaboration to support the grassroots work of The Episcopal Church in the areas of social justice advocacy and ethnic and multicultural ministry across The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A096
Title: Affirm Relationships in Approaches to Social Justice Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the many justice ministries of service and advocacy throughout The Episcopal Church, ministries that are grounded in the Baptismal Covenant and that were initiated by General Conventions, dioceses, congregations, and other Episcopal organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the use of various methods to discern, develop, and sustain justice ministries, such as Asset-Based Community Development, needs surveys, and community organizing; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm and encourage the formation of partnerships between congregations and well-established community organizing groups in their local contexts in order to be trained in the practice of community organizing and sustained by those partnerships that they may do justice ministry more effectively and efficiently; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention acknowledge that one of the greatest challenges of our time and culture is the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the sin of economic injustice that pervades our society; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention challenge all Episcopalians to hear in a bold way the call of both Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi to befriend and be with the poor, and that we come to know that the future vitality of The Episcopal Church is grounded in our mutually affirming relationships with our brothers and sisters who are poor; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage all Episcopal congregations to establish relationship-based, social-justice ministries through which relationships are developed between those who serve and those who are served, resulting in shared and transformational experiences and in a greater commitment to work for justice on all sides of the socio-economic divide; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention encourage churches and dioceses to discover and partner with local experts such as Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), Direct Action and Research Training (DART), Gamaliel Foundation, Asset Based Community Development, People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO), and other local formulations of interfaith or cross cultural organizations that use relationships to structure their transformative work; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention ask Episcopal groups that are participating in relationship-based social justice to share their experiences with the broader Church through social media, the internet, and official communication channels, so that other groups can learn from their successes, challenges, and insights.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 368-369.



Resolution Number: 2015-A182
Title: Address Systemic Racial Injustice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st century systemic racial injustices that still occur in multiple contexts including but not limited to education; employment; housing; health care; banking; voting rights; immigration; policing, courts, and prisons, etc.; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirms that the Gospel, our Baptismal Covenant, and our Marks of Mission call individuals, churches, dioceses, provinces, and the wider Church to find more effective and productive ways to respond to racial injustice as we love our neighbors as ourselves, respect the dignity of every human being, and transform unjust structures of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare that “not knowing” and “not having the eyes to see and ears to hear” are serious obstacles to transforming unjust structures and therefore direct the Church at every level for this triennium to commit to increase the use of study, education, research, anti-racism training, liturgies, and Christian formation instruction that specifically address systemic racial injustice; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Church at every level to increase the number of dialogues about systemic racial injustice it has with local, state and national bodies within the public and private spheres and that these dialogues be used to identify, examine, and offer correctives to policies and practices within and among these bodies that result in systemic racial disparities and injustices; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to create vehicles for listening to diverse neighbors and developing reconciling relationships; such options might include (a) listening campaigns in local communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of a different race or culture (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) neighborhood prayer walks, (d) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth-telling, healing and action, (e) and others with which leaders throughout the Church are familiar; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with other church offices and organizations as appropriate to host, resource, and moderate an ongoing online forum for Episcopalians dedicated to the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation, with spaces dedicated to sharing about local and diocesan efforts and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with Youth Ministries to commission a gospel-centered, Internet-integrated, action-oriented, anti-racism youth ministry curriculum for congregations throughout The Episcopal Church, including those not in the United States, to be provided in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music produce and post online a set of prayers for racial reconciliation and justice, suitable for inclusion in the Prayers of the People; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Executive Council to conduct its own internal audit to assess to what extent, if at all, racial disparities and systemic racial injustices exist within the Church (including but not limited to clergy salaries and deployment); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Executive Council report back to the 79th General Convention on the results of the internal audit; what concrete steps it and the wider Church took to address systemic racial injustice in the wider culture; and how effective those steps were.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 438-439.



Resolution Number: 2012-A086
Title: Address Community Development Opportunities in Native Communities
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognized at the 76th General Convention the pressing challenges to those living in poverty and the working poor throughout this nation and called for new and innovative strategies to address issues related to nutrition, employment, childcare, education, health care, environment and housing, as well as equal protection under law and cultural affirmations; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commends the community development initiative in Native People's communities in the past triennium, recognizing that Native People live in some of the poorest counties in the United States experiencing increasing disparities in income, economic security, health and health care, and quality of life; and be it further

Resolved, That this development initiative emerging from the visions and voices of the local Native People's communities, address community development opportunities using Asset-Based Community Development models, identify key federal, state, and local advocacy issues and access the abundant human and financial resources of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend the work begun by the Office of Social and Economic Justice and the Office of Lifelong Christian Formation and the Office of Native and Indigenous Ministries in sponsoring Asset-Based Community Development training held regionally throughout The Episcopal Church hearing the voices of people living in poverty and the working poor who are members of our Episcopal congregations and institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$300,000 per annum in the 2013–2015 triennium for the implementation of this Resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 223.



Resolution Number: 2012-D050
Title: Encourage Clergy Response to Poverty and Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention requests all Diocesan Bishops to distribute to their clergy “A Prophetic Clergy Call to Action” encouraging them to sign the Call to Action and to commit to teaching, preaching and organizing to unify people of faith around reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 697.



Resolution Number: 2009-A104
Title: Request Dioceses to Fund Multicultural Leadership Development
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize the importance of cultural diversity in the dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention affirm the importance of cultural diversity and multicultural leadership development; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request that dioceses of The Episcopal Church consider a specific yearly budget allocation for the implementation of multicultural leadership development to support a diocesan strategic plan designed for the creation and sustaining of multicultural ministry, utilizing "Meeting on New Ground;" and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reconvene the Task Force that created "Meeting on New Ground" to study the dioceses involved in such ministry, gather resources for developing and sustaining multicultural ministry and to report on the progress to the 77th General Convention; 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 \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 718.



Resolution Number: 1991-A065
Title: Affirm the Ministry of Evangelism Among Ethnic Groups
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention strongly affirm the continuing development of evangelism ministries among Asiamerican, Black, Hispanic and Native American peoples and other ethnic groups.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 397.



Resolution Number: 1985-A107
Title: Develop Models of Advocacy for Justice for the Poor
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Jubilee Ministry lift up and integrate advocacy for justice and servant ministries of compassion, recognizing that both approaches to the poor and oppressed are vital and interrelated; and be it further

Resolved, That the 68th General Convention direct the Executive Council to search out, foster, and develop models of advocacy for justice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Jubilee Ministry staff shall initiate a series of projects designed to enable Jubilee Centers, congregations, and individuals to become advocates for justice.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 169.