

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A061
TITLE: Create a Task Force on Theology of Money
PROPOSER: House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
TOPIC: Stewardship

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-B013	Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East
2012-A088	Set Expectations for Steward Leaders
2012-A135	Commit to Alleviating Poverty and Injustice
2000-B041	Direct Executive Council to Strengthen Evaluation of Vendor Contracts
2000-D102	Urge CPF to Develop Investment Policies in Keeping with the Jubilee Year
1994-A116	Promote a Theology of Stewardship As Giving Witness

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

2000-C039	Commend CPF on Union Dispute and Urge Socially Responsible Investments
1988-C030	Establish and Fund a Ministry of Community Investment and Economic Justice
1985-D059	Recommend That Church Institutions Deposit Funds in Minority Owned Banks
1985-D073	Mandate Divestment in Companies Doing Business in South Africa and Namibia
1982-A120	Reaffirm a Concept of Stewardship in Responsible Spending
1982-D124	Work on Eliminate Racism in the Social Responsibility Investment Committee

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church](#), see pages 571-572.

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.

A061 Create a Task Force on Theology of Money

Proposer	House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
Topic	Stewardship
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 18 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing
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 direct the Presiding Officers of The Episcopal Church to appoint a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money, consisting of four (4) bishops, five (5) presbyters or deacons, and six (6) lay persons, who represent the diversity of the Church; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the Task Force be directed to use scripture, approved liturgical resources, other theological texts, and previous actions of General Convention to summarize the ways in which The Episcopal Church values money and other resources of financial value; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Task Force be directed to study the investments and other assets of the Episcopal Church, including but not limited to the holdings of the Church Pension Fund, to discern ways in which those investments and assets reflect the Church's theology of money; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Task Force be directed to study the business practices used throughout the Church, including but not limited to the Office of the General Convention, the Executive Council, and the Church Pension Fund, and to discern the ways in which those practices reflect the Church's theology of money; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Task Force be directed to present its findings and recommendations to the 80th General Convention; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the 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.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-B013
Title: Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention reaffirm the vocation of the Church as an agent of reconciliation and restorative justice, and recognize that meaningful reconciliation can help to engender sustainable, long-lasting peace and that such reconciliation must incorporate both political action and locally driven grassroots efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention, lamenting the diplomatic and political stalemate following recent elections in Israel, reaffirm this Church's commitment to a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated settlement between the parties resulting in two states for two peoples: a secure and universally recognized Israel living alongside a secure and viable state for the Palestinian people; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commend the United States government for its efforts during the past triennium to broker negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, but express grave sorrow at the collapse of those negotiations in 2014 and the subsequent deterioration of political relations between the parties; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church, recognizing that simple calls for the parties to return to the negotiating table are no longer sufficient to address the urgency of the situation, challenge the United States government, in coordination with global partners, to develop and offer a new, comprehensive, and time-bound framework to the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the conclusive negotiation of a two-state peace agreement and the resolution of all final-status issues; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all national governments represented in The Episcopal Church to invest substantial diplomatic capital in support of such a framework; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the Presiding Bishop and the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to continue its exemplary work to enhance understanding, build political consensus, and organize grassroots support within The Episcopal Church for this political action; and be it further

Resolved, That Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society: (1) convene a collaborative group of experts and interfaith partners to collect a wide range of resources designed to inform and enliven a conversation among those holding differing convictions; (2) encourage early travel of the 27th Presiding Bishop to the Holy Land, in the spirit of interfaith fellowship, to establish and build relationships with leaders of the communities of the Children of Abraham working for peace, justice, and reconciliation; and (3) continue its commendable efforts to assist Episcopalians to learn about and understand the traumas, hurt, suffering, fears, pain, aspirations, and hopes that shape the daily lives of all living in Israel and the Palestinian Territories; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's investment of \$500,000 during the last triennium in the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy as a tangible step toward building a viable Palestinian state and strengthening the economic well-being of Palestinian communities; and to urge Domestic

and Foreign Missionary Society to expand this loan investment at least twofold in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage The Episcopal Church to (1) embrace the principles of restorative justice in its advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and (2) engage and support the voices of both Israelis and Palestinians — especially those who are themselves victims of violence and injustice—who seek peace with justice through nonviolent and restorative responses to the conflict; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention support existing efforts toward restorative justice by urging the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to identify and find creative ways to commend, support, and elevate the work of local peace-building and economic development initiatives, including those of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and grassroots organizations jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians; 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 \$675,000 for the implementation of this resolution to be used as follows: (1) a total of \$60,000 over the course of the triennium to each of five existing local, grassroots peace-building initiatives jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians to support and expand their work; (2) \$300,000 to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East to support and expand its sustainable peace-building efforts in Israel and the Palestinian Territories through its ministries of health care and education; and (3) \$75,000 to cover other costs associated with 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. 913-915.



Resolution Number: 2012-A088
Title: Set Expectations for Steward Leaders
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention adopt the following expectations for steward leaders in The Episcopal Church:

Proposed Expectations for Steward Leaders in the Episcopal Church

Trusting in God's Abundance, we will...

Proclaim a Theology of Abundance and Spirituality of Money

- Articulate and share clearly a personal stewardship story as it relates to money, resources, and relationships, and model this practice in community as an example to others;
- Foster a climate that invites others to explore the freedom to be faithful with their money, resources, and relationships;
- Articulate an eternal understanding of financial stewardship to include annual giving, major giving and planned giving;
- Live publicly the holy habits of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath time, and weekly corporate worship; and
- Practice the basic principles of personal and corporate financial management leading to a healthy relationship with money as integral to our faith in God.

Teach Biblical and Theological Principles of Stewardship

- Listen to and interpret scripture and tradition with an ear for stewardship themes;
- Speak and preach prophetically, boldly, and regularly about stewardship;
- Engage in individual and corporate study of scripture related the theology of stewardship;
- Raise awareness of the history of stewardship in the life of local congregations and the wider church, including the faithful gifts of those who have gone before; and
- Build up and empower others in these expectations of steward leaders.

Engage and Critique Culture

- Have an informed theological position about social, ecological and economic justice;
- Speak to the vision of a divine economy (oikonomia) and the ways it is in tension with our global economy;
- Articulate the tension between the current consumer culture and following Christ; and
- Gather and empower groups of people to inspire action around common missions and goals.

Embrace the Interconnected Relationships between all Persons and Creation

- Understand our central call to steward the well-being of the entire created order;
- Speak to the impact of our lifestyles on all of God's Creation;
- Discern and enable the unique gifts of people to build up the Kingdom of God; and
- Utilize diverse approaches to stewardship based on generational and cultural differences.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 475-476.



Resolution Number: 2012-A135
Title: Commit to Alleviating Poverty and Injustice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That a faithful response to the Gospel as well as the Five Marks of Mission in this time of growing economic inequality and political gridlock requires that we "respond to human need by loving service" and "seek to transform unjust structures of society"; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to a triennium of teaching, preaching, organizing, advocating, and building mutually transformative relationships with those who are poor to focus our hearts and the mission of our congregations and dioceses on reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice; and be it further

Resolved, That the church cultivate mindfulness about poverty in our communities and world, as well as the poverty into which Christ calls us, by including in our prayer and in every meeting agenda, time for prayer and reflection on how our work engages issues of poverty and economic and racial justice networks; and be it further

Resolved, That we identify and build strong partnerships within The Episcopal Church as well as with interfaith organizations and secular agencies and institutions to increase our learning and to maximize our investment of time and treasure; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourage congregations to join local faith-based organizing networks such as PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing), IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), Gamaliel Foundation, The DART Network (Direct Action and Research Training Center), and the Inter-Valley Project to build power and to increase our effectiveness in strengthening our communities; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and dioceses seek out training in and use the tools of Asset Based Community Development recognizing that God has blessed each of us with gifts for the good of the kingdom and that we strengthen our communities not by implementing programs from outside but by identifying and building from the assets already existing in the community; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church continue its strategic and prophetic investment in locally defined community development initiatives in Native People's communities through an annual commitment of \$100,000 during the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That through asset based community development grants, community organizing grants, and Jubilee Ministry grants that [sic] The Episcopal Church support local ministries and regional trainings that increase the church's capacity to reduce poverty and increase economic and racial justice through an annual commitment of \$300,000 during the 2013-2015 triennium using available social media networks of the Offices of Missions and Communication of the DFMS to communicate availability of funds and provide reports on program activity and grants made; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church's commitment to reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice be facilitated, encouraged, inspired, and supported by the Mission Program Office of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and by an Executive Council Advisory Committee on Domestic Poverty; 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 \$400,000 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), pp. 590-592.



Resolution Number: 2000-B041

Title: Direct Executive Council to Strengthen Evaluation of Vendor Contracts

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention direct the Executive Council to strengthen procedures for evaluating all vendors under consideration for contracts with this Church on their policies and practices addressing the sin of racism. This evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an audit of the vendor's business practices with regard to anti-racism and the vendor's statement of corporate responsibility.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 680.



Resolution Number: 2000-D102
Title: Urge CPF to Develop Investment Policies in Keeping with the Jubilee Year
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd Convention urge the Church Pension Fund Board to develop policies consonant with the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Justice:

- 1) Continue the development and implementation of a socially responsible screen to guide the development of an investment portfolio that conforms to the positions taken by the conventions of the Episcopal Church (e.g., tobacco, firearms, environmental concerns, and treatment of employees).
- 2) Explore dedicating a small percentage of the assets of the Pension Fund (e.g., 5%) to investments which achieve the economic development of lower income people in rural and urban neighborhoods both in this country and in developing nations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 583.



Resolution Number: 1994-A116

Title: Promote a Theology of Stewardship As Giving Witness

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognizes that individual giving of time, talent and treasure is a living witness of our appreciation for the blessings received from Our Lord; and be it further

Resolved, That we embrace the phrase "Stewardship is Giving Witness" ("Mayordomia es el vivo testimonio de dar") and agree to promote this theology throughout the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 236-37.