

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A071
TITLE: Provincial Vitality
PROPOSER: Task Force to Study Provinces
TOPIC: Provinces

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-D011 Study the Effects of Eliminating Provinces
2003-A146 Appropriate Funds for the Continuation of Provincial Coordinators
2000-B005 Reaffirm System of Geographic Provinces
1988-D097 On the Topic of Church Structure (Rejected)

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

2009-A127 Examine the Roles of Various Church Officers, Bodies and Agencies
2000-B011 Appropriate Funds for Provincial Program Coordinators

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Task Force to Study Provinces](#), see pages 935-936.

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.

A071 Provincial Vitality

Proposer	Task Force to Study Provinces
Topic	Provinces
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Provincial Leadership Conference articulate characteristics that would indicate a vital, fruitful provincial system contributing to strengthening the mission of The Episcopal Church and the wider Church. The indicators must take into account the diversity inherent in the provinces and those dioceses they serve, and they must be applicable across The Episcopal Church; and be it further;
- 2 *Resolved*, That the Provincial Leadership Conference report annually to the Executive Council on the progress of this work; and be it further;
- 3 *Resolved*, That each province determine its ways of moving toward vitality based on the articulated indicators, reflecting regularly on the outcomes of any changes/shifts and reporting outcomes to the annual Provincial Leadership Conference gathering.

EXPLANATION

The goal of this resolution is for each province to become the best it can be. The Provincial Leadership Conference is constituted to do the oversight of this work each province must undertake. It also holds the space for accountability of each province.



Resolution Number: 2015-D011
Title: Study the Effects of Eliminating Provinces
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That a Task Force consisting of three bishops, three clergy persons, and six lay persons representing the geographic diversity of the Church, including persons who have been involved in the creation of churchwide networks through social media and other electronic communications, be appointed by the presiding officers to study the potential effects of eliminating provincial structures in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force study issues and potential effects of eliminating Provinces, including consideration of what structures might replace Provinces to facilitate or create networks to support mission and ministry; how such networks might be formed, function, funded, connected to other networks, and be constituted; how geographic diversity in elections, appointments, and other churchwide roles might be accomplished; and what effect the elimination of Provinces would have on overall costs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force shall collaborate with the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons in order to create recommendations to the 79th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 449-450.



Resolution Number: 2003-A146

Title: Appropriate Funds for the Continuation of Provincial Coordinators

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention continue to appropriate sufficient funds to ensure the continuation of Provincial Coordinators.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 215.



Resolution Number: 2000-B005
Title: Reaffirm System of Geographic Provinces
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention reaffirm the current system of organizing the dioceses of our church into geographical provinces for more effective mission and ministry, in recognition of the momentum, positive experiences, and energy within the provinces during this triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the provinces utilize and broaden existing networks and resources to strengthen and expand their capacity to facilitate, coordinate, and support their mission and ministry initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That provinces continue to fulfill their canonical responsibilities and those that may be assigned to them by General Convention or Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That provinces demonstrate accountability by reporting regularly to dioceses, Provinces, and Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church be directed to work with the Executive Council and the provincial leadership to study and make recommendations to the 74th General Convention in the following areas:

- The role and responsibilities of provinces regarding the sharing of national and regional program resources;
- The future of Province IX, working with the Standing Commission on World Mission and the individual dioceses.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 516.



Resolution Number: 1988-D097
Title: On the Topic of Church Structure
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 69th General Convention request the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church go beyond its normal review of the General Convention and study in depth:

1. The polity and theology of church structure of the General Convention as it has evolved over the last 20 years and to report information and provide education to the 70th General Convention, for all deputies, particularly addressing the way in which policies and programs are initiated and developed; and
2. A review of how mission imperatives are being and can be implemented through the provinces of the Church and to report its findings to the 70th General Convention.