

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A082
TITLE: Training for [Digital] Evangelists
PROPOSER: Task Force on Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism
TOPIC: Evangelism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A087 On the Topic of Creating a Task Force on Evangelism (Rejected)
2015-A172 Create a Task Force for Social Media Evangelism
2015-B009 Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative
2012-A070 Develop a Multimedia Evangelism Guide
2012-A074 On the Topic of Identifying and Deploying Lay Evangelists (Rejected)
2012-D069 Engage in Social Media
2009-A065 Identify and Support Church Evangelists
1985-A143 Develop a Strategy for Evangelism to Under-represented Groups

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

2015-A012 Continue Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones
2015-A173 Promote Evangelism Resources and an Action Plan
2015-D009 Create a Congregational Revitalization Network
2012-D023 Affirm Episcopalians as Evangelists to Grow the Church
2009-A066 Create a Toolkit for Culturally Sensitive Evangelism
1997-D050 Prepare Resources for Evangelical Preaching Missions in Each Diocese
1985-D138 Stimulate Dioceses and Congregations to a Strategy for Evangelism

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism](#), see page 663.

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.

A082 Training for [Digital] Evangelists

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Proposer | Task Force on Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism |
| Topic | Evangelism |
| 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 79th General Convention convey to the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation the desire that the curriculum started by the General Convention Task Force for Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism be brought to its completion in this coming triennium; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That said curriculum be utilized as part of The Episcopal Church's ongoing work of training evangelists, both face-to-face and digital evangelists, in preparation for Revivals and most especially in those places where a Revival may not be possible due to size, logistics, and other considerations so that [digital] evangelists are trained to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with traditionally underserved populations; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation explore the mutual benefit of developing relationships with para-Church organizations such as Forma, the Episcopal Evangelism Society, and Episcopal Communicators to provide such training to other trainers whose reach might allow for the expansion of Episcopal Evangelists throughout the Church, with the goal of having a trained, licensed [digital] evangelist in every Diocese by the end of the Triennium; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A087
Title: On the Topic of Creating a Task Force on Evangelism
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 78th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to create a Task Force on Evangelism to design and develop an Evangelism Resource to support dioceses, local congregations, Mission Enterprise Zone initiatives, and wider church needs as they participate in evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That evangelism resources that have already been developed be collected by the Task Force for Evangelism for possible inclusion in the resource; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses be encouraged to utilize the Evangelism Resource to identify, train, equip, and license lay evangelists in accordance with Canon III.4.9; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force for Evangelism develop a survey instrument to evaluate each diocese's efforts and results annually during the triennium; 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 \$100,000 for the implementation of this resolution.



Resolution Number: 2015-A172
Title: Create a Task Force for Social Media Evangelism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention create a Task Force of three bishops, three presbyters or deacons and six lay persons to develop two curricula – one for clergy and one for lay people – for the purpose of leveraging social media for evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force develop the curricula in consultation with seminary deans, marketing professionals, and others with knowledge of evangelism and social media; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force develop these curricula by the second year of the upcoming triennium and make them available by the third year, and that the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society regularly evaluate the curricula to ensure they are current; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force work with the Development Office of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to seek funds for this project, including the necessary staff or consultants to oversee this work.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 369-370.



Resolution Number: 2015-B009
Title: Develop a Digital Evangelism Initiative
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention directs the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to develop and conduct a digital evangelism initiative consisting of several campaigns, with equitable representation among the domestic provinces, with at least one campaign per year in a language other than English, for the benefit of the entire church, and for the purpose of meeting the demand online for the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of The Episcopal Church; to build and maintain a database of prospects; to cultivate those prospects via email, social media, blogs, and other means as shall prove effective; and to partner with dioceses to refer qualified prospects to local congregations, church plants, or other appropriate ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the budget allocated for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be assumed to include funding for creating this digital evangelism initiative of \$3,000,000; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church Development Office is directed to prioritize raising funds for this digital evangelism initiative, with the expectation that \$1.5 million will be raised this triennium to support this initiative from dioceses that stand to benefit as well as other interested networks, persons, and entities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society report back to this Convention in three years' time with the results of this initiative, and with a recommendation for or against the creation of a permanent digital missionary presence online of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$3,000,000 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), p. 331.



Resolution Number: 2012-A070
Title: Develop a Multimedia Evangelism Guide
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the appropriate Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society staff office to design and develop a multimedia Evangelism Guide to assist dioceses and local congregations as they participate in evangelism particularly with groups who are under-represented in the domestic church; and be it further

Resolved, That evangelism resources that have already been developed be collected for possible inclusion into the multi-media guide; and be it further

Resolved, That the guide include details about, but not be limited to: asset-based congregational development, tools for building relationships and an evangelism-focused church culture, the traditions and uses of storytelling, community organizing tools for connecting with the local community, and the history of the ethnic ministries in this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the implementation of this Resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium, including creation and distribution of the guide.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 139-140.



Resolution Number: 2012-A074
Title: On the Topic of Identifying and Deploying Lay Evangelists
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, that the 77th General Convention ~~challenge~~*encourage* each diocese, in accordance with Canon III.3.1(a) and Canon III.4.9, to develop a plan to identify, train and use the gifts of lay Evangelists in local settings; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention ~~challenge~~*encourage* each diocese to license the number of Evangelists equal to one quarter of the number of congregations in the diocese by 2015 *and report these numbers annually to the Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church*; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention ~~challenge~~*encourage* each diocese to develop local evangelism training resources that match the cultural settings within which members will share the good news in word and deed.



Resolution Number: 2012-D069
Title: Engage in Social Media
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church challenge every diocese and congregation in The Episcopal Church to actively engage social media in its current and future manifestations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 304.



Resolution Number: 2009-A065
Title: Identify and Support Church Evangelists
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention affirm the Church's teaching that all Christians are called to bear witness to Christ wherever they may be and to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, and that this Convention equally affirm with Saint Paul that Christ has given to the Church evangelists to build up the Body of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to gather the voices and wisdom of evangelists, and encourage the sharing of information and deepening of relationships among them through all available ways, such as social networking sites, conference calls and meetings at conferences; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses are urged, through their Commissions on Ministry or other appropriate bodies, to identify and call forth evangelists, and to ensure that there are adequate training programs and materials available for evangelism, including web-based resources, appropriate to the demographic, cultural and theological diversities of their geographic area; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to support dioceses in the training of evangelists by developing training materials and programs; by creating and making widely available resources in different languages, for example Spanish, French, etc., to identify and develop the gifts and skills of effective evangelists; and by establishing mechanisms for sharing locally developed best practices, experiences and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life solicit from Commissions on Ministry or other appropriate diocesan bodies information on local programs utilized for the identification and development of evangelists, so that such resources can be widely shared among dioceses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report on the gatherings, diocesan programs, training materials and resources and on their effectiveness in developing skills of evangelism to the 77th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 280.



Resolution Number: 1985-A143
Title: Develop a Strategy for Evangelism to Under-represented Groups
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 68th General Convention direct the Joint Commission on Evangelism and Renewal to develop a strategy of evangelism that broadens the evangelistic outreach of the Church to bring into its fellowship groups which, by the evidence of the 1982 "Profile of Episcopalians," are under-represented in the life of the Church, specifically with respect to age, race, education, and income.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 187.