

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A083
TITLE: Implementation of The Way Forward - Establishing an Effective and Efficient
21st Century Seminary
PROPOSER: Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
TOPIC: Seminaries

Directly Related: (Attached)

1994-A053 Amend Constitution of General Theological Seminary
1991-A143 Study the Requirement that GTS Trustees Be Elected by the General Convention

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

2015-D075 Evaluate the Relationship with General Theological Seminary
1985-A072 Reduce the Number of Convention-Elected Trustees of GTS
1976-B185 Approve Constitutional Amendment on Trustees of GTS

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

[*Constitution of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America*](#), 1994

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary](#), see pages 1059-1061.

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.

A083 Implementation of The Way Forward - Establishing an Effective and Efficient 21st Century Seminary

Proposer	Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
Topic	Seminaries
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 concur with the October 19, 2017 unanimous resolution of the Board of Trustees of The General Theological Seminary of The Episcopal Church that Article III of its Constitution be amended as follows:
- 2 ARTICLE III
- 3 The Board of Trustees shall be constituted as follows: The Presiding Bishop of the Church; the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Seminary is located; the Dean of the Seminary; the President of the Alumni Board; one (1) Bishop chosen by the House of Bishops; one (1) presbyter or deacon and one (1) lay person chosen by the House of Deputies; three (3) persons chosen by the Alumni of the Seminary; and the remaining Trustees shall be elected by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall fix by Resolution from time to time at its Annual Meeting the total number of Trustees, which number of Trustees shall be not less than nineteen (19) nor more than thirty (30) members. The Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Diocese, the Dean of the Seminary, and the President of the Alumni Board shall be members *ex-officio*. The Bishop elected by the House of Bishops and the persons elected by the House of Deputies of the General Convention shall be elected at each convention for a term of three (3) years. The three (3) Trustees elected by the Alumni (excluding the President of the Alumni Board who shall serve *ex-officio* while holding that office) shall be elected annually by the Alumni Board for staggered terms of three (3) years. The persons elected by the Board of Trustees shall be elected at the Annual Meeting or other duly called meetings of the Board of Trustees for staggered terms of three (3) years;
- 4 And be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That this shall be effective January 1, 2019, provided that it shall then have been ratified and approved by the Board of Trustees and provided further that all members of the Board of Trustees holding office on such effective date shall continue to hold office until the expiration of their respective present terms of office.

EXPLANATION

The effect of this Resolution is:

- Reduction in the board size from forty-two (42) to between nineteen (19) and thirty (30), depending on current need of the seminary and the Church, giving flexibility and speed to such annual decisions;
- Continuation of election of trustees in roughly equivalent proportions as currently provided: General Convention, alumni, the board, and the ex-officio electing bodies;
- Recognition of the significance of the alumni executive board by provision of its President/Chair as a new ex-officio member of the board; and
- Because of natural attrition, all current trustees are able to fulfill their current term and current term limits would be recognized. In other words, no current trustees would lose their place nor have to resign with implementation of this Resolution in January, 2019.

The proposed Resolution addresses the fifty (50) years of General Seminary's outside, independent accreditation body, ATS, urgings for flexibility and overhaul, one hundred and fifty (150) years of General Convention's own struggles with empowering General Seminary to be responsive to the Church's needs for the current time, and legions of Church leaders' direct and oblique comments about governance. It continues to recognize the multi-layered constituencies of The Episcopal Church's original seminary and gives it the flexibility and effectiveness needed for the rapidly evolving changes of the 21st century Church.

General Seminary needs the help of the 2018 General Convention to continue to move forward on this important trajectory. This is an opportunity for the Church to embrace a solution for an adaptive challenge rather than default to a technical fix.



Resolution Number: 1994-A053
Title: Amend Constitution of General Theological Seminary
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, That, pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, requiring a concurrent vote of the General Convention to the amendment of such Constitution, the Board of Trustees having duly voted to amend the same, this General Convention does concur that Articles III and VI thereof shall be amended to read as follows:

III. The Board of Trustees shall be constituted as follows: The Presiding Bishop of the Church; the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Seminary is located; the Dean of the Seminary; two Bishops chosen by the House of Bishops; two Presbyters or Deacons chosen by the House of Deputies of the General Convention; two lay persons chosen by the House of Deputies; twenty-four persons elected by the Board of Trustees; and nine persons chosen by the Alumni of the Seminary. The Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Dean of the Seminary shall be members *ex officio*. The Bishops, Presbyters or Deacons, and lay persons representing the General Convention shall be elected at each Convention for a term of three years; *of the twenty-four persons to be elected by the Board of Trustees eight persons shall be elected annually at the meeting of the Board next preceding the Annual Meeting of the Board following each General Convention shall be elected for a term of three years to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board following the expiration of their terms or until their successors are elected and qualify.* The nine persons representing the Alumni shall be so chosen that three shall be elected annually to serve for three years. The Alumni elections, in which all of the Alumni of the Seminary in good standing shall be the Electors, shall be in charge of the Alumni Association, whose Secretary shall report the results of the election to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. All vacancies in the Board of Trustees may be filled by the remaining members of the Board for the unexpired terms. These forty-two Trustees shall constitute the regular members of the Board, and hereinafter are described as the members of the Board. The Board shall elect its Chairman for such time and with such powers as it sees fit. Fifteen members shall be necessary for a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business, but a majority of the Board shall be necessary for the election of a Dean or a member of the Faculty. Every Bishop of this Church, not a member of the Board of Trustees, shall be entitled to a seat and voice, but without vote, at any meeting of the Board.

VI. This Constitution, as altered by the concurrent vote of the General Convention and of the Board of Trustees, shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the General Convention of 1994; and *of the first Trustees, other than those persons elected to six year terms in 1982 by the General Convention or the Board of Trustees, under the amended Constitution, shall be chosen by the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies respectively at the General Convention, of 1985; and a certificate of their election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. At twenty-four Trustees to be elected at the meeting of the Board of*

Trustees following the General Convention of ~~1995~~ 1994, ~~nine persons shall be elected by the Board;~~ *eight persons shall be elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1996 or until their successors are elected and qualify, eight persons shall be elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1997 or until their successors are elected and qualify, and eight persons shall be elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1998 or until their successors are elected and qualify*, but thereafter all elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article III.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 252-53.



Resolution Number: 1991-A143

Title: Study the Requirement that GTS Trustees Be Elected by the General Convention

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Standing Commission on Structure to study the requirement in the Constitution of the General Theological Seminary that a certain number of its Trustees be elected by the General Convention, and recommend to the 71st General Convention alternative ways of maintaining the link between the Seminary and the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 300.