

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A089
TITLE: Amend Articles VI and VIII regarding Full Communion
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Constitution

Directly Related: (Attached)

2009-A051 Amend Constitution Article VIII [Ordination -- Second Reading]

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

2000-A042 Amend Constitution Article VIII [Requests for Ordination -- Second Reading]

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see pages 378-379.

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.

A089 Amend Articles VI and VIII regarding Full Communion

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Constitution
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 6-8
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 amend Articles VI and VIII to read as follows:

 - 2 ARTICLE VI

 - 3 Sec. 1. The House of Bishops may establish a Mission in any area not included within the boundaries of any Diocese of this Church or of any Church in *full* communion with this Church, and elect or appoint a Bishop therefor.

 - 4 ARTICLE VIII

 - 5 No person shall be ordered Priest or Deacon to minister in this Church until the person shall have been examined by the Bishop and two (2) Priests and shall have exhibited such testimonials and other requisites as the Canons in that case provided may direct. No person shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop, or ordered Priest or Deacon to minister in this Church, unless at the time, in the presence of the ordaining Bishop or Bishops, the person shall subscribe and make the following declaration:

 - 6 I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Episcopal Church.

 - 7 Provided, however, that any person consecrated a Bishop to minister in any Diocese of an autonomous Church or Province of a Church in *full* communion with this Church may, instead of the foregoing declaration, make the promises of Conformity required by the Church in which the Bishop is to minister.

 - 8 If any Bishop ordains a Priest or Deacon to minister elsewhere than in this Church, or confers ordination as Priest or Deacon upon a Christian minister who has not received Episcopal Ordination, the Bishop shall do so only in accordance with such provisions as shall be set forth in
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the Canons of this Church.

- 9 No person ordained by a foreign Bishop, or by a Bishop not in *full* communion with this Church, shall be permitted to officiate as a Minister of this Church until the person shall have complied with the Canon or Canons in that case provided and also shall have subscribed the aforesaid declaration.
- 10 A Bishop may permit an ordained minister in good standing in a church with which this Church is in *full* communion as specified by the Canons who has made the foregoing declaration, or a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required by that Church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis as an ordained minister of this church. No minister of such a Church ordained by other than a Bishop, apart from any such ministers designated as part of the Covenant or Instrument by which full communion was established, shall be eligible to officiate under this Article.

EXPLANATION

These changes are proposed to reflect being in full communion rather than communion to remain consistent throughout our Constitution and Canons.



Resolution Number: 2009-A051
Title: Amend Constitution Article VIII [Ordination -- Second Reading]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the last paragraph of Article VIII of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

A bishop may permit an ordained minister in good standing in a church with which this church is in full communion as specified by the Canons who has made the foregoing declaration, or a minister ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its predecessor bodies who has made the promise of conformity required by that church in place of the foregoing declaration to officiate on a temporary basis as an ordained minister of this church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 810.