

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A109
TITLE: Create Task Force on Sexual Harassment
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Sexual Misconduct

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A074 Update the Safe Church Training Materials
2009-D062 Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2006-A156 Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct
2003-A023 Establish a Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

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

2006-A158 Continue Task Force on Institutional Wellness and Sexual Misconduct Prevention
2003-D015 Make Sexual Exploitation Materials Available on the Web
2000-A098 Authorize Continuation of the Committee on Sexual Exploitation
1991-B052 Establish a Committee on Sexual Exploitation

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see page 415.

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.

A109 Create Task Force on Sexual Harassment

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Sexual Misconduct
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 of the Episcopal Church declares that sexual harassment of adults by clergy and church employees are abuses of trust, a violation of the Baptismal Covenant, contrary to Christian Character, and are therefore wrong; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church establish a Task Force on Sexual Harassment to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to prepare a Model Policy for Sexual Harassment of Adults for Dioceses, including parishes, missions, schools, camps, conference centers and other diocesan institutions. It shall be the duty of the Task Force to study, educate, develop curriculum, and propose policy and standards of conduct on different forms of harassment, and to advise the Church as resource persons. The membership of the Task Force is to be representative as to gender, race and ethnic diversity. The Committee will report to the 80th General Convention and include as part of its report a Model Policy for Sexual Harassment of Adults for Dioceses.

EXPLANATION

This Task Force is being created to examine the existing diocesan policies in existence throughout the Church and develop a Model Policy to promote consistency and efficiency. Such a Task Force would incorporate legal differences in various locales where the church is found, and provide guidance and best practices to address this issue within our church.



Resolution Number: 2015-A074
Title: Update the Safe Church Training Materials
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention direct that the Episcopal Church Center arrange for the updating or supplementing of written and web-based materials used in the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* programs to reflect the experience of the Church in using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials; and to cover topics such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, and the experiences of LGBTQ persons; and be it further*

*Resolved, That, in addition to developing printed and web-based versions of the updated or supplemented *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials, electronic links to the online versions of the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula be made available on The Episcopal Church website; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church Center publicize the availability of the revised or supplemented written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials to dioceses and congregations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses of The Episcopal Church be required annually to confirm, in writing or by email, to a designated office in the Episcopal Church Center that the diocese and (to the best of its knowledge after due inquiry) congregations in the diocese are training persons in positions of authority (including clergy, staff, vestry, children, and youth educators/leaders and other volunteers) by using the *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* materials or other appropriate materials for this training; and be it further*

*Resolved, That after the written and web-based *Safeguarding God's Children* and the *Safeguarding God's People* curricula are revised or supplemented, re-training of trainers be conducted so that the persons conducting training in congregations and dioceses are fully aware of the changes in the training materials and are able to teach them competently; and be it further*

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 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), pp. 418-419.



Resolution Number: 2009-D062
Title: Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to continue the work of developing clear and firm policies and procedures for the well-being of all, and commit this church to being and becoming a place where children, youth and adults are safe, especially from abuse, neglect and exploitation, particularly in dioceses that have been unable to implement the call to provide sexual misconduct prevention training; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$20,000 for the implementation of the resolution during the 2010-2012 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report to the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education before the 77th General Convention on the status of diocesan training and implementation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 286-287.



Resolution Number: 2006-A156
Title: Adopt Policies for Protection from Sexual Misconduct
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the work already occurring in many dioceses and at the same time recommit itself to the positions taken by previous General Conventions that sexual misconduct (encompassing both sexual harassment and sexual exploitation) of adults by clergy, church employees, and volunteer workers has been and continues to be of deep concern to this Church, is an abuse of trust, a violation of the Baptismal Covenant, contrary to Christian character and is, therefore, wrong; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese adopt policies for the protection from sexual misconduct of those served by diocesan programs, those who volunteer in the work of the diocese or are employed by the diocese, and that dioceses assist congregations in the development of such procedures and policies, including using the many resources that already exist, that address the following:

1. **the articulation of behavioral standards for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who work with adults or who provide pastoral counseling, pastoral care, spiritual direction, or the sacraments;**
2. **a screening process for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who provide pastoral counseling and care, spiritual direction, or the sacraments and who supervise clergy or lay volunteers;**
3. **education and training for all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers as listed above, with particular attention paid to what legally constitutes sexual harassment and to appropriate behavior and inappropriate sexual or sexualized behaviors towards adults, and with periodic refresher training encouraged;**
4. **guidelines for responding to concerns of sexual misconduct; and be it further**

Resolved, That each diocese shall report to the House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development prior to the Spring 2009 House of Bishops meeting with a copy of its adopted and implemented policy and an evaluation of the history of its use. A summary report shall be made to the House of Bishops Spring 2009 meeting and a full report made to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 667.



Resolution Number: 2003-A023
Title: Establish a Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention establish, pursuant to Joint Rule 23, a Task Force of not less than ten nor more than fifteen persons. These persons should be laity, bishops, priests, and deacons with experience and expertise in dealing with sexual misconduct in church settings. Membership should include, but not be limited to representatives from the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Council of Seminary Deans, the Nathan Network, the National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations, the Task Force on Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, and the National Network of Lay Professionals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force shall study and gather information concerning matters of institutional wellness for the prevention of sexual misconduct. Its study shall include such concerns as screening, selection and training of clergy, lay employees and volunteers; monitoring and supervision; behavior management; incident investigation; and the articulation of pastoral standards and codes of ethical behavior; and be it further

Resolved, That each body named shall recommend Task Force members from its own membership, and the appointments shall be overseen by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development. Additional members shall then be appointed by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development, and the entire Task Force shall include at least two bishops, two clergy, and two laity. The Task Force shall have the services of the Office of Pastoral Development and a Church Pension staff person; and be it further

Resolved, That a report be made to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, as well as to the 2006 General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider the allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 216f.