

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A112
TITLE: Establish a Task Force on Diocesan Vitality
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Dioceses

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A100 On the Topic of Assessing Diocesan Viability and Vitality (Rejected)
2015-C031 Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses
2012-A101 On the Topic of Re-aligning Dioceses (Rejected)

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

2006-A038 Develop Diocesan Level Leadership Programs
2003-A075 Charge Dioceses to Foster a Culture of Mission
1991-A072 Call Dioceses and Congregations to Discern Their Mission

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see page 424.

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.

A112 Establish a Task Force on Diocesan Vitality

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Dioceses
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 establish a Task Force consisting of three (3) bishops, three (3) clergy persons, and six (6) lay persons representing the geographic diversity of the Church, including persons who have been involved in the creation of diocesan and provincial networks, both incarnationally and virtually through social media and other electronic communications, to be appointed by the presiding officers to facilitate a continuing dialogue among bishops and diocesan and provincial leadership of The Episcopal Church to engage in frank discussion about diocesan collaboration, vitality, and shared ministry; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That Task Force is directed to compile input from the above conversations and to study opportunities and challenges of diocesan and provincial collaboration, vitality, shared ministry, and the number and size of dioceses, and to report back to the 80th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

It became clear over the course of the triennium that the conversation on questions of diocesan vitality could not be accomplished in one triennium. This resolution provides for the continuation of the conversation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A100
Title: On the Topic of Assessing Diocesan Viability and Vitality
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 78th General Convention encourages Bishops and Dioceses to prayerfully engage in a candid assessment of the viability and vitality of their Dioceses and to seek creative possibilities for enhancing the viability and vitality of their Dioceses, and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission of the Structure of the Church support these efforts by developing and making available tools and processes for such processes and by facilitating conversations and communications about processes for increasing the viability and vitality of Dioceses.



Resolution Number: 2015-C031
Title: Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention ask that the bishops and dioceses of The Episcopal Church create, nurture, and develop a culture of collaboration that results in new structures, partnerships, and practices on the interpersonal, group, and organizational levels; measurable outcomes of performance; standards of accountability, reporting and mutual ministry reviews at all levels (bishops, clergy, diocesan bodies); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages Dioceses to explore opportunities for collaboration, and possibly merging, with contiguous Dioceses, to better carry out their common mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the bishops and diocesan leadership of The Episcopal Church to engage in frank discussion about the number and size of our dioceses across the church, diocesan collaboration, vitality, and shared ministry, and what change is needed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Planning Committee of the House of Bishops is requested to set aside time this Triennium to discuss issues of diocesan vitality; and be it further

Resolved, That The Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church is directed to seek input from the above conversations and to study opportunities and challenges of diocesan collaboration, vitality, shared ministry, and the number and size of dioceses, and to report back 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. 462-463.



Resolution Number: 2012-A101
Title: On the Topic of Re-aligning Dioceses
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention request that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church convene a consultation on the effectiveness of dioceses, with a focus on the potential for re-aligning dioceses to maximize their effective witness and ministry; and be it further

Resolved, that the Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider including in the 2013–2015 budget \$25,000 to fund such consultation.