

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A115
TITLE: Adopt and Implement Charter for Safety
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Security

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A050 Refer a Resolution on the ACC Charter for Safety (Rejected)
2012-C049 Revise Title IV Canons on Ecclesiastical Discipline
2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse

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

2003-B008 Protect Children and Youth from Abuse
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 pages 427-428.

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.

A115 Adopt and Implement Charter for Safety

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Security
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 join the 2012 Anglican Consultative Council in adopting the following "Charter for Safety of People Within the Churches of the Anglican Communion" as a summary of The Episcopal Church's policy regarding maintaining the safety of all who come to or work for our churches:
 - 2 "1. Pastoral support where there is abuse — We will provide pastoral support for the abused, their families, and affected parishes and church organizations by listening with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns; offering spiritual assistance and other forms of pastoral care.
 - 3 2. Effective responses to abuse — We will have and implement policies and procedures to respond properly to allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel that include: making known within churches the procedure for making complaints; arranging pastoral care for any person making a complaint of abuse; the impartial determination of allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel, and assessment of their suitability for future ministry; providing support for affected parishes and church organizations.
 - 4 3. Practice of pastoral ministry — We will adopt and promote, through education and training, standards for the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and other church personnel.
 - 5 4. Suitability for ministry — We will have and implement policies and procedures to assess the suitability of persons for ordination as clergy or appointment to positions of responsibility in the church, including checking their background.
 - 6 5. Culture of safety — We will promote a culture of safety in parishes and church organizations by education and training to help clergy, other church personnel, and participants prevent the occurrence of abuse;" and be it further
 - 7 *Resolved*, That the Executive Council collect current data from all member dioceses regarding their "safe church" policies and practices, including identification of reasons for not implementing the recommended policies and practices; and publish that information to The Episcopal Church through its most widely accessible media; and be it further
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- 8 *Resolved*, That the Office of Global Relations collaborate with Province IX to develop and disseminate culturally appropriate materials for use in the Spanish-speaking dioceses of The Episcopal Church that are consistent with the principles of the Anglican Consultative Council "Charter of Safety" and the standards previously set out by General Convention, including a process for training of local trainers; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to propose a budget allocation of \$ 40,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

Given our commitment as constituent member of the Anglican Communion, it is important that we join our sisters and brothers to protect all people and provide for their safety. Additionally, we need to begin to develop appropriate materials for our whole Church, in collaboration with Episcopalians from all our cultures. Province IX is a cohesive place to begin this effort. The necessary collaboration and preparation of Province IX trainers will make the process costly. Not to do both pieces properly will be even more costly.



Resolution Number: 2015-A050
Title: Refer a Resolution on the ACC Charter for Safety
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention join the 2012 Anglican Consultative Council in adopting the following "Charter for Safety of People Within the Churches of the Anglican Communion" as a summary of The Episcopal Church's policy regarding maintaining the safety of all who come to or work for our churches:

"1. Pastoral support where there is abuse — We will provide pastoral support for the abused, their families, and affected parishes and church organizations by listening with patience and compassion to their experiences and concerns; offering spiritual assistance and other forms of pastoral care.

2. Effective responses to abuse — We will have and implement policies and procedures to respond properly to allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel that include: making known within churches the procedure for making complaints; arranging pastoral care for any person making a complaint of abuse; the impartial determination of allegations of abuse against clergy and other church personnel, and assessment of their suitability for future ministry; providing support for affected parishes and church organizations.

3. Practice of pastoral ministry — We will adopt and promote, through education and training, standards for the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and other church personnel.

4. Suitability for ministry — We will have and implement policies and procedures to assess the suitability of persons for ordination as clergy or appointment to positions of responsibility in the church, including checking their background.

5. Culture of safety — We will promote a culture of safety in parishes and church organizations by education and training to help clergy, other church personnel, and participants prevent the occurrence of abuse;" and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council collect current data from all member dioceses regarding their "safe church" policies and practices, including identification of reasons for not implementing the recommended policies and practices; and publish that information to The Episcopal Church through its most widely accessible media; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Global Relations collaborate with Province IX to develop and disseminate culturally appropriate materials for use in the Spanish-speaking dioceses of TEC that are consistent with the principles of the ACC "Charter of Safety" and the standards previously set out by General Convention, including a process for training of local trainers; 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 \$ 40,000 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. 452-453.



Resolution Number: 2012-C049
Title: Revise Title IV Canons on Ecclesiastical Discipline
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of Title IV (Accountability and Ecclesiastical Discipline), seeking information from all dioceses of The Episcopal Church and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. The SCCC shall gather information for the purpose of determining the extent to which the elements of safety, truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation are being effected as intended by 2006-A153; and be it further

Resolved, That the SCCC shall pay particular attention to issues related to the timing and content of required notices; of confidentiality and the obligation of bishops and other clergy to report; the role of various orders on different types and levels of courts; alternative processes for cases where reconciliation is not possible; whether the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, is appropriate in some cases or at some stages of the proceedings; statutes of limitations and sanctions for failure to report suspected sexual abuse; voting by bishops when a bishop is deposed; and waiting periods for remission of renunciation or abandonment; and be it further

Resolved, That on the basis of such information, the SCCC shall make recommendations to the 78th General Convention about the need for additional training and/or further canonical changes required to implement the values, ecclesiology, and theology of the Church as it relates to Accountability and Ecclesiastical Discipline.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 298-299.



Resolution Number: 2006-A086
Title: Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to create and disseminate training materials to assist leaders in ministry to recognize and respond to evidence of abuse; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report on this initiative 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. 511.