

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A135
TITLE: Examine Cultural Homogeneity of the Canons
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Diversity

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A150 Develop Title IV Training Materials
2012-A029 Amend Canon I.15.10 [Of Congregations in Foreign Lands]
2009-A127 Examine the Roles of Various Church Officers, Bodies and Agencies

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

None

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see pages 451-452.

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.

A135 Examine Cultural Homogeneity of the Canons

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Diversity
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 charges the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons to examine the cultural homogeneity of the Canons, especially concerning the propriety and applicability of the Title IV in non-domestic jurisdictions where Canon Law is not consistent with Civil and Criminal Law, and make recommendations to a future meeting of the General Convention concerning the same.

EXPLANATION

In order to assist the process of reconciliation and full implementation of Title IV across the church, the Commission needs to do additional research and work to examine the diversity of civil jurisdictions in which Title IV is applicable, including the reasons behind the difficulty in implementing Title IV. The goal of the work is to develop solutions.



Resolution Number: 2015-A150
Title: Develop Title IV Training Materials
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize the Standing Commission of Constitution and Canons to develop and implement Title IV training materials for use throughout the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$339,220 for the implementation of this resolution, such amount to be used for the development of such materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$224,820 for the implementation of this resolution, such amount to be used for the translation of the Title IV training materials into Spanish and Creole.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 668.



Resolution Number: 2012-A029
Title: Amend Canon I.15.10 [Of Congregations in Foreign Lands]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.15.10 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10. In case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church, it shall be the duty of the Bishop in charge of such Congregations to summon the Council of Advice, and cause an inquiry to be instituted as to the truth of such accusation; and should there be reasonable grounds for believing the same to be true, the said Bishop and the Council of Advice shall appoint a Commission, consisting of three Clergy and two Lay Persons, whose duty it shall be to meet in the place where the accused resides, and to obtain all the evidence in the case from the parties interested; they shall give to the accused all rights under the Canons of this Church which can be exercised in a foreign land. The judgment of the said Commission, solemnly made, shall then be sent to the Bishop in charge, and to the Presiding Bishop, and, if approved by them, shall be carried into effect; Provided, that no such Commission shall recommend any other discipline than admonition or removal of the Member of the Clergy from charge of said Congregation.

Should the result of the inquiry of the aforesaid Commission reveal evidence tending, in their judgment, to show that said Member of the Clergy deserves a more severe discipline, all the documents in the case shall be placed in the hands of the Presiding Bishop, who may proceed against the Member of the Clergy, as far as possible, according to the Canons of the General Convention:

In the case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation or otherwise authorized to serve the Church in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church:

(a) With the permission of the Presiding Bishop, the Bishop in Charge and the Council of Advice may (i) engage a Diocese of this Church to provide the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church, or (ii) establish among the Congregations of the Convocation the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church. In either case, the Provincial Court of Review shall either be that of the Diocese providing the needed Disciplinary Structures or that of the Province of the Convocation; and, for the purposes of implementing the provisions for Ecclesiastical Discipline (Title IV) of a member of the Clergy, the Bishop in Charge shall serve the function reserved for the Bishop Diocesan, except that the Presiding Bishop must approve any Accord, any Agreement for Discipline and the terms of any Order, and pronounce the Sentence.

(b) If no other provision has been made to organize or provide the Disciplinary Structures in fulfillment of the Canons on Ecclesiastical Discipline for a Congregation in a foreign land, it shall be the duty of the Bishop in charge of such Congregations to summon the Council of Advice, and cause an inquiry to be instituted as to the truth of such accusation; and should there be reasonable grounds for believing the same to be true, the said Bishop and the Council of Advice shall appoint a Commission, consisting of three Clergy and two Lay Persons, whose duty it shall be to meet in the place where the accused resides, and to

obtain all the evidence in the case from the parties interested; they shall give to the accused all rights under the Canons of this Church which can be exercised in a foreign land. The judgment of the said Commission, solemnly made, shall then be sent to the Bishop in charge, and to the Presiding Bishop, and, if approved by them, shall be carried into effect; Provided, that no such Commission shall recommend any other discipline than admonition or removal of the Member of the Clergy from charge of said Congregation. Should the result of the inquiry of the aforesaid Commission reveal evidence tending, in their judgment, to show that said Member of the Clergy deserves a more severe discipline, all the documents in the case shall be placed in the hands of the Presiding Bishop, who may proceed against the Member of the Clergy, as far as possible, according to the Canons of the General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 527-528.



Resolution Number: 2009-A127
Title: Examine the Roles of Various Church Officers, Bodies and Agencies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to consider the relationship of agencies to the structure of The Episcopal Church and make recommendations to the 77th General Convention concerning the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to consider the role and term of the Presiding Bishop and report its considerations to a future meeting of the General Convention concerning the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to examine the role of Chancellors in the structure of The Episcopal Church and make recommendations to the 77th General Convention concerning the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to examine the role of Parliamentarians in the structure of The Episcopal Church and make recommendations to the 77th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to examine the cultural homogeneity of the Canons, and the propriety of the Canons being applied within the diversity of the Church, and make recommendations to a future meeting of the General Convention concerning the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to examine the Provincial Leadership Conference and the Church's provincial structure, and make recommendations to a future meeting of the General Convention concerning the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to undertake a study and report to the 77th General Convention on the current diocesan configuration and suggest whether adjustments thereto would be appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons to examine appropriate means and changes to the Rules of Order to prioritize and consolidate the work of legislation at General Convention, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, President of the House of Deputies, Council of Advice, Presiding Bishop and the House of Bishops for future action and to report to the next General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 391-392.