

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A136
TITLE: Establish a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A067 Convene Consultations on Ministry Education
2009-A191 Authorize a Task Force to Revise Formation Guidelines for Ordained Ministry
2009-C080 Direct Assistance for Dioceses to Develop Programs in Baptized Ministry
1997-A174 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Add Standing Commission on Ministry Development]

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

2015-A078 Reaffirm the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation
2015-A080 Request Study and Website on Confirmation as Christian Formation
2003-D060 Develop Resources on Ordained and Licensed Ministries

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see page 457.

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.

A136 Establish a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Structure
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,
 - 2 That a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development shall be established, which shall coordinate and encourage the development of all orders of ministry, encouraging and engaging all the baptized in the work of building up the church and developing best practices to ensure all churches benefit from the diversity of leadership gifts God has given us.
 - 3 It shall be the duty of the Commission to:
 - 4 (i) Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the affirmation, development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons (lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons).
 - 5 (ii) Support Diocesan Commissions on Ministry in their support of the ministry of all the baptized, Title III Canons 1 & 2
 - 6 (iii) Develop and recommend to the General Convention comprehensive and coordinated policies for people across all ages and stages of life for lifelong formation as Christians and citizens.
 - 7 (iv) Recommend strategies to General Convention for the development and support of networks of individuals, diocesan committees and commissions, agencies and institutions engaged in recruitment, gifts of discernment, education and training for ministry, leadership development, hiring, and deployment.
 - 8 (v) Study the needs and trends of vocational opportunities for ordained leaders within and outside the Church and the appropriate formation required to live into those opportunities.
 - 9 (vi) Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention to ensure the fair hiring and compensation of lay and ordained employees in all ministry settings, with special attention to parity across those lines which have historically divided us, including but not limited to race,
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color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons.

EXPLANATION

During this triennium it has become clear that there is significant work needed in this area. Many of the tasks that have come to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons have exceeded our Standing Commission's mandate. Restoring a single Standing Commission to focus on ministry and formation would allow much more significant work in support of the ministry and formation of all the baptized.

In particular regards to (v), it has been made clear in the 2015 Clergy Compensation Report available on Church Pension Group's website that a significant gender pay gap continues in The Episcopal Church. This is just one clear data point that affirms the fact that sexism and discrimination are still realities for so many in leadership across the church. Given the fact that equality for women has long been a priority of both the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church, this issue also deserves the attention of a Standing Commission.



Resolution Number: 2012-A067
Title: Convene Consultations on Ministry Education
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention affirm that baptism is the source of all ministry and that education for ordained ministry takes place within the context of preparing all for ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention directs the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to convene ministry education and formation providers, including the deans, faculty, alumni/ae, and students of the eleven Episcopal seminaries and of the divinity schools of colleges and universities that have significant numbers of Episcopal students and/or Anglican studies programs; representatives of the Association of Theological Schools; leaders and students of diocesan ministry schools, especially those that provide total and team ministry training programs; representatives of the Association of Episcopal Deacons; FORMA; Living Stones Partnership; provincial and diocesan Commissions on Ministry; the House of Bishops Theological Education Committee; the General Board of Examining Chaplains; those knowledgeable about the emergent church movement; representatives of Episcopal camp and conference centers; Episcopal chaplains; diocesan transition ministers; staff from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's Diversity Social and Environmental Ministries; and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, in a series of regional consultations to generate a shared vision of theological education and formation for ordained ministry and to explore and develop exemplary models for forming candidates and assessing their proficiency and competency for ordination; and be it further

Resolved, That the participants in each regional consultation shall include laity, deacons, priests and bishops as well as at least two persons for whom English is not their first language; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission report to the 78th General Convention its findings and recommendations; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$210,000 for the hiring of a project manager, research and office expenses, and funding for regional gatherings necessary for the implementation of this Resolution in this triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 541-542.



Resolution Number: 2009-A191
Title: Authorize a Task Force to Revise Formation Guidelines for Ordained Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to convene a task force to revise and develop guidelines and identify best practices for the formation, education and evaluation of ordained ministers; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report their recommendations to the House of Bishops in the second year of the triennium, gain their input and recommend to the 77th General Convention guidelines and canonical changes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development consider for inclusion on the task force members of the Commission, the Council of Seminary Deans, deans of other seminaries, the House of Bishops Theological Education Committee, the General Board of Examining Chaplains and representatives of other formation programs; and be it further

Resolved, That a staff member from the Episcopal Church Center whose responsibility is the oversight of theological education be appointed to and serve as a resource to the task force; 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 \$45,000 to implement this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 712-713.



Resolution Number: 2009-C080
Title: Direct Assistance for Dioceses to Develop Programs in Baptized Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention call upon the Executive Council, provinces, dioceses and congregations to promote and develop the discernment that all of daily life and work is ministry, calling for the intentional exercise of the Baptismal Covenant promises in all sectors of public as well as private life; and be it further

Resolved, That, as mandated in Canons III.1 and 2, Executive Council urge and assist diocesan Commissions on Ministry to promote and develop programs that will engage baptized persons in ministry discernment, and support congregations in providing processes for such discernment in community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Lay Leadership and Ministry Development and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development be directed to assist provinces and dioceses in concrete ways that support the full realization of the ministries of the baptized, both on Sunday and beyond, so that parishes may serve as ministry development “base camps” for all who seek to live their faith in every part of daily life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 713.



Resolution Number: 1997-A174
Title: Amend Canon I.1.2 [Add Standing Commission on Ministry Development]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That Canon I.1.2(n) is hereby amended by the addition of the following:
(6) A Standing Commission on Ministry Development consisting of 24 members. Nine members shall be appointed on the nomination of the nine Provincial Presidents, one nomination from each Province. The remaining 15 shall include 3 bishops, 4 priests and/or deacons, provided that two shall be deacons, and 8 lay persons.*

It shall be the duty of the Commission:

(a) to recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the development, affirmation and exercise of the ministry of all the baptized;

(b) to encourage and facilitate networks of individuals, institutions and agencies engaged in education, training, deployment and formation for ministry by all four orders;

(c) to study the needs and trends of theological education for all four orders with this Church, including issues of recruitment, training, deployment, evaluation and continuing education; to make recommendation to the several seminaries, the Executive Council and the General Convention; and to aid the General Board of Examining Chaplains in the exercise of its function;

(d) To discharge such other duties as may [sic] be assigned by the General Convention.

This Resolution shall be effective from the date of adoption.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 244.