

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A140  
**TITLE:** Diversity Guidelines for Episcopal Elections  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**TOPIC:** Diversity

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-D004     Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy

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

2009-A104     Request Dioceses to Fund Multicultural Leadership Development  
2003-A063     Encourage Diversity in Diocesan Leadership

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 719-720.

*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.*

# A140 Diversity Guidelines for Episcopal Elections

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<b>Proposer</b>	Task Force on the Episcopacy
<b>Topic</b>	Diversity
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Section III (Diversity) of the Blue Book Report of the Task Force on the Episcopacy be provided to dioceses at the beginning of their search process along with such other information with respect to diversity as the pilot Board for Episcopal Transitions may deem appropriate, all such information to be updated at least triennially by that Board.

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## EXPLANATION

The Church should develop and distribute to electing dioceses a set of policies for best practices in fostering diversity in a search. The diversity section from the Task Force's Blue Book report is a sensible place to start this ongoing effort. As a best practice that section would be updated at least triennially as the Church learns more about what does and does not work.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D004  
**Title:** Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That a Task Force on the Episcopacy be appointed by the Presiding Officers composed of three bishops, three presbyters or deacons, and six lay persons; and be it further Resolved, That at least one member of the Task Force will have been a finalist in an Episcopal search who did not receive enough votes for election in the last three years; at least one member of the Task Force will have served as a Transition Consultant in an Episcopal search over the past three years; and at least two members of the Task Force will have served on an Episcopal Search and/or Transition Committee in an Episcopal search process over the past three years; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will study the election, appointment, roles, and responsibilities of the Episcopate, including the use of Bishops Diocesan, Bishops Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Provisional Bishops, Missionary Bishops, and Assistant Bishops in this Church; looking specifically at the particular gifts, life experience, and expertise required for episcopal office; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will pay particular attention to the recent trend away from a diverse House of Bishops, and seek ways to encourage diversity in the Episcopate; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will propose to the 79th General Convention a new process for discernment, nomination, formation, search, election, and transition of bishops in The Episcopal Church including, but not limited to: the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Pastoral Development; the selection of, roles and responsibilities of Transition Consultants; how adjoining dioceses may aid and inform the discernment of a diocese in transition; and any required Constitutional and Canonical changes necessary; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will work with the Office of Pastoral Development to develop best practices and educational materials to be published electronically and made publicly available, and may use some of its budget to retain consultants who will help with this task; 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 \$150,000 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. 457-458.