

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A146  
**TITLE:** Revisions to The Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership - A Manual for Dioceses in Transition  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**TOPIC:** Bishops

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-C028 Utilize Available Background Resources in a Search Process  
2015-D004 Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy  
2003-D007 On the Topic of Episcopal Election Reform (Rejected)

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

None

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 727-728.

*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.*

# A146 Revisions to The Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership - A Manual for Dioceses in Transition

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<b>Proposer</b>	Task Force on the Episcopacy
<b>Topic</b>	Bishops
<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 the 79th General Convention urges that the *The Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership - A Manual for Dioceses in Transition* (the “Manual”) be revised and updated to reflect the following:
  - 2 \* Best practices for transition process from announcement of transition to incorporation of newly elected bishop into diocesan system
  - 3 \* Resources that provide flexibility for use by both large and small dioceses
  - 4 \* Alternatives to minimize costs of transition process
  - 5 \* Ways to establish a transparent transition process with accountability
  - 6 \* Training for elected diocesan leaders/committee members involved in the transition process
  - 7 \* Suggestions for use of technology including secure internal communications among diocesan committees, secure communications with potential nominees, and secure sharing of reference and background check information
  - 8 \* Means for electronic and other background checks
  - 9 \* Suggestions for use of social media and websites for communicating search profile, status update, and election information
  - 10 \* Expanded reference check resources
  - 11 \* Most current medical and psychological testing
  - 12 \* Expanded background check resources including legal, financial, criminal, vehicular and civil information
  - 13 \* Interviews with current and former bishops with oversight of potential nominees
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- 14 \* Interviews with current and former diocesan Transition Ministers in ministry with potential nominees
  - 15 \* Encourage election procedures that allow time for adequate screening (e.g., discourage nominations from the floor)
  - 16 \* Transition Consultant services
  - 17 \* Discussion of election options/alternatives available to dioceses per canons
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**EXPLANATION**

Pursuant to its mandate the Task Force on the Episcopacy analyzed the current Manual and determined that the matters set forth in this Resolution would help improve the processes for electing bishops.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C028  
**Title:** Utilize Available Background Recourses in a Search Process  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention recommends that all discernment, search, and nominating committees for bishops and rectors in the Episcopal Church use resources available to them including knowledge of unrestricted criminal convictions in evaluation of candidates in thoughtful ways and make certain that all members of such committees be made aware of any issues which may impact the character and competence of candidates; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this General Convention commends to all such discernment, search, and nominating committees a policy that more than two members of such committee review all reports prepared for or provided to such committees on the character or competence of candidates.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 450-451.



**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.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-D007  
**Title:** On the Topic of Episcopal Election Reform  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected [Died with Adjournment]  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That ~~an appropriate existing committee, commission, agency or board (CCAB)~~ the *Standing Commission on Ministry Development* be charged with the task of *gathering data and* reviewing all aspects of nominating, electing, and consecrating a bishop, and *present a* report to the 75th General Convention recommending ways for these processes to model ministry for *this present time millennium with the bishop seen less as prince and more as servant*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the *Standing Commission on Ministry Development* ~~group~~ identify some of the ~~conflicting and impossible~~ expectations of nominees and of the one elected, and offer guidance regarding ways dioceses can be as clear and reasonable as possible in nominating, electing, *and* consecrating, ~~and holding those elected accountable~~; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the ~~group~~ imagine and identify ways local and diocesan communities can identify clergy who potentially have the gifts for episcopal ministry and assist them in discerning whether or not they are being called to it; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the report include data on the costs of all episcopal elections over the two most recent triennia, ~~reported within the context of the diocesan budgets to encourage good stewardship~~; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the report provide examples of ways that some have used these processes to ~~model servanthood~~ *facilitate understanding of the ministry of all the baptized, model simplicity, and* celebrate diversity.