

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A147
TITLE: Pilot Board for Episcopal Transitions
PROPOSER: Task Force on the Episcopacy
TOPIC: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C028 Utilize Available Background Resources in a Search Process
2015-D004 Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy
2012-A144 Monitor Underrepresented Groups in Episcopal Elections
2009-D082 Urge Study of Pastoral and Organizational Issues During Episcopal Transitions
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 731-732.

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.

A147 Pilot Board for Episcopal Transitions

Proposer	Task Force on the Episcopacy
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, That a pilot Board for Episcopal Transitions be appointed for a period of six years commencing at the adjournment of the 79th General Convention; and be it further

 - 2 *Resolved*, That the pilot Board be composed of up to twelve persons appointed jointly by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies; at least two members will have served as a Transition Consultant in an episcopal search within the past three years; at least one member will have served on an episcopal search committee in an episcopal search process within the past three years; at least two members will be bishops, two will be priests or deacons and two will be lay persons; at least one member will be experienced in collecting and analyzing data; and at least one member shall be a current or former diocesan chancellor; and be it further

 - 3 *Resolved*, That the pilot Board working in collaboration with and helping resource the Office of Pastoral Development shall be responsible for:
 - revising existing resources and creating new resources to assist dioceses in the discernment, nomination, search, election, and transition processes for episcopal transitions;
 - establishing a process and developing resources by which individuals may seek support in discerning a possible call to the episcopate;
 - gathering and analyzing data regarding diversity in episcopal transitions, developing processes and resources to encourage diversity in the episcopate;
 - recruiting, training and evaluating Transition Consultants and missional review consultants;
 - encouraging electing dioceses to contract for the services of a Transition Consultant throughout the episcopal search and election process;
 - formalizing and expanding recruitment and training for Transition Consultants;
 - standardizing and monitoring the contracts used by Transition Consultants with electing dioceses;
 - establishing a process to review the performance of each Transition Consult, including the use of individual performance records for each Transition Consultant and to provide for their collection and analysis.
 - establishing a process for electing dioceses to provide individual performance evaluations based upon objective standards for the Transition Consultant(s) who served the electing diocese from which the work of each Transition Consultant can be evaluated.
 - providing ways in which one or more Transition Consultants can participate in the maintenance of the Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership - A Manual for Dioceses in Transition and evaluation of the
-

effectiveness of the episcopal election process.

- developing guidelines for reference, background, medical, and psychological screening of persons considered for nomination for episcopal elections and guidelines for the dissemination, evaluation, and record keeping of the screening information gathered; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the pilot Board report semi-annually to the Executive Council and triennially to the General Convention; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That if the General Convention chooses to not establish the pilot Board, the General Convention refer the above proposals of this Resolution to the Office of Pastoral Development for review and appropriate action; and be further

6 *Resolved*, That the amount of \$100,000 be appropriated for the organization and initial resources of the pilot Board, to include two meetings per year.

EXPLANATION

The Resolution establishes the pilot Board of Episcopal Transitions to collaborate with the Office of Pastoral Development. The Board comprises persons from all orders of the Church's ministry. Through that collaboration, the Board will be responsible for revising existing resources and creating new resources to assist dioceses in the discernment, nomination, search, election, and transition processes for episcopal transitions; establishing a process and developing resources by which individuals may seek support in discerning a possible call to the episcopate; gathering and analyzing data regarding diversity in episcopal transitions, developing processes and resources to encourage diversity in the episcopate; recruiting, training and evaluating Transition Consultants and missional review consultants; and developing guidelines for reference, background, medical, and psychological screening of persons considered for nomination for episcopal elections and guidelines for the dissemination, evaluation, and record keeping of the screening information gathered.



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: 2012-A144
Title: Monitor Underrepresented Groups in Episcopal Elections
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request the Office of Pastoral Development to work with other offices to monitor the ratio of female to male candidates, nominees, and electees to episcopal offices, as well as other underrepresented groups (such as racial and ethnic minorities), and to report annually to the Executive Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the Office of Pastoral Development to work with other offices in analyzing existing data on episcopal transition processes, Called to Serve survey findings, and other relevant research to determine and recommend steps to help improve the ratio of episcopal electees and nominees who are female or members of other underrepresented groups, and to report appropriate recommendations to the 78th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the Office of Pastoral Development to advise dioceses moving toward or in the midst of episcopal transitions about the extent to which the process is affected by gender, racial and other cultural bias that can perpetuate discrimination, and to work with these dioceses to develop steps that ensure the elimination of this bias.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 508.



Resolution Number: 2009-D082
Title: Urge Study of Pastoral and Organizational Issues During Episcopal Transitions
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention encourage the Pastoral Development Committee of the House of Bishops and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to study the short-term and long-term pastoral and organizational issues arising within a diocese in a time of extra-ordinary and/or problematic Episcopal transitions and report their findings along with any recommended actions to the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 804-805.



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.