

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A208  
**TITLE:** Establish a Standing Commission on World Mission  
**PROPOSER:** 05 - World Mission  
**TOPIC:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A006 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions of the General Convention]  
2012-B027 On the Topic of Amending Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions] (Rejected)

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

2015-A013 Support the Work of Global Missions Programs  
2015-A016 Reaffirm Relationships of the Covenant and Bilateral Committees  
1982-A128 Request Dioceses to Establish Committees on World Mission

*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.*

# A208 Establish a Standing Commission on World Mission

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<b>Proposer</b>	05 - World Mission
<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>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<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 recognize that mission engagement with the peoples and cultures of the world beyond the United States of America is inherent in the purpose of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society as it seeks to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention lament how inward concerns of the church and inter-Anglican conflict have reduced the Episcopal Church’s engagement with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world, yet rejoice in how many global relationships have continued or been renewed; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the General Convention recognize that dioceses, congregations and freestanding mission organizations carry out much of the church’s global mission work alongside the Global Partnerships Office, Episcopal Relief & Development, the United Thank Offering and other agencies of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and that the Global Episcopal Mission Network assists with networking and mission formation; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention recognize the important monitoring of DFMS’s global mission work that is carried out by the Executive Council’s Standing Committee on World Mission; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention amend Canon I.1.2(n) to establish a Standing Commission on World Mission; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the mandate of the Standing Commission on World Mission shall be to identify the global mission work carried out by the DFMS, dioceses, congregations and mission organizations throughout the church, to consult with them to envision future directions for the church’s global engagement, and to develop policy proposals for consideration by General Convention; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on World Mission shall include six laypersons, three

clergy and three bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to serve staggered six-year terms, with half of the membership initially appointed for three-year terms; and be it further

- 8 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to give consideration to the appropriation of \$90,000 to fund the work of the Standing Commission for the 2019-21 triennium.

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EXPLANATION

The 78th General Convention removed many standing commissions, including the Standing Commission on World Mission, from the interim bodies of General Convention. This action was taken in view of financial constraints and the streamlining recommendations of the Taskforce for Re-imagining the Episcopal Church (TREC). It also occurred at a time when inter-Anglican conflicts had eliminated or reduced many missional relationships around the Anglican Communion.

The legislative Committee on World Mission of the 79th General Convention believes strongly that the General Convention needs the in-depth understanding and creative visioning that is brought to world mission issues by a standing commission whose members are experienced in world mission and who are focused on the church's multi-faceted engagement in the global dimension of God's mission.

Such understanding and visioning is especially urgent as many missional relationships are being re-energized, many dioceses and congregations would like to expand their companionships around the world, and freestanding Episcopal mission organizations are multiplying in education, healthcare and sustainable development.

The legislative committee is grateful to Executive Council's internal Standing Committee on World Mission for its report in the Blue Book for the 79th General Convention. Yet we recognize that the many responsibilities of Executive Council mean that such an internal committee must focus on responsible monitoring and may be limited in its ability to undertake creative visioning.

The legislative committee also recognizes the contribution of the Global Episcopal Mission Network that brings together DFMS agencies, dioceses, congregations, freestanding mission organizations and seminaries for mutual learning and mission formation. Yet we recognize that, beyond generating resolutions, such a freestanding network has no direct avenue for offering in-depth reflection to General Convention.

The requested budget of \$90,000 will fund three in-person meetings of the commission during the 2019-21 triennium, including one in a diocese of The Episcopal Church outside the USA.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A006  
**Title:** Amend Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions of the General Convention]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

[*Resolved*, that Canon I.1.2(n) be stricken in its entirety and replaced to read as follows:]

*(n) There shall be the following Standing Commissions:*

*(1) A Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:*

*(i) Review such proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons as may be submitted to the Commission, placing each such proposed amendment in proper Constitutional or Canonical form, including all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change. The Commission shall express its views with respect to the substance of any such proposal only to the proponent thereof; provided, however, that no member of the Commission shall, by reason of membership, be deemed to be disabled from expressing, before a Legislative Committee or on the floor of the General Convention, personal views with respect to the substance of any such proposed amendment.*

*(ii) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons with respect to their internal consistency and clarity, and on the basis of such a review, propose to the General Convention such technical amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to achieve such consistency and clarity without altering the substance of any Constitutional and Canonical provisions; provided, however, that the Commission shall propose, for the consideration of the appropriate Legislative Committees of the General Convention, such amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are technically desirable but involve a substantive alteration of a Constitutional or Canonical provision.*

*(iii) On the basis of such review, suggest to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society such amendments to its By-laws as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.*

*(iv) Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the authorized "Annotated Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as The Episcopal Church" to reflect actions of General Convention which amend the Constitution and Canons and, in the discretion of the Commission, develop other materials which are appropriate to the purpose of the "Annotated Constitution and Canons," and facilitate the publication of this document and related materials. The Commission may provide or support forums to promote commentary, discussion, and understanding of the Constitution and Canons.*

*(v) Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the General Convention.*

*(vi) Study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the operation of the several*

*Committees, Commissions, and Boards to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and to bring about a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new Committee, Commission, Board or Agency, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred to this Standing Commission for its consideration and advice.*

**Citation:** Canon I.1.2(n) is excerpted from the Final Text of 2015-A006, which revised Canon I.1.2(n). See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 343-347.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-B027  
**Title:** On the Topic of Amending Canon I.1.2 [Standing Commissions]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That Canon I.1.2(n) be amended to read as follows:

(n) There shall be the following Standing Commissions:

~~(1) A Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns. It shall be the duty of the Commission to develop recommendations and strategies regarding common ministry opportunities and concerns with other Provinces of the Anglican Communion as to the work of this Church and the Anglican Communion on issues of international peace with justice and to make recommendations pertaining thereto to the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council and the General Convention.~~

~~(2) A Standing Commission for Small Congregations. It shall be the duty of the Commission to identify and recommend to General Convention policies, priorities, and opportunities to affirm and strengthen the health and development of small congregations.~~

(3) A Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

(i) Review such proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons as may be submitted to the Commission, placing each such proposed amendment in proper Constitutional or Canonical form including all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change. The Commission shall express its views with respect to the substance of any such proposal only to the proponent thereof; *Provided, however*, that no member of the Commission shall, by reason of membership, be deemed to be disabled from expressing, before a Legislative Committee or on the floor of the House of membership, personal views with respect to the substance of any such proposed amendment.

(ii) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons with respect to their internal consistency and clarity, and on the basis of such a review propose to the General Convention such technical amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to achieve such consistency and clarity without altering the substance of any Constitutional and Canonical provisions; *Provided, however*, that the Commission shall propose, for the consideration of the appropriate Legislative Committees of the two Houses, such amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are technically desirable but involve a substantive alteration of a Constitutional or Canonical provision.

(iii) On the basis of such review suggest to the Executive Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society such amendments to their respective By-laws as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.

(iv) Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the authorized "Annotated Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as The Episcopal Church" to reflect actions of General Convention which amend the Constitution and Canons and, in the discretion of the Commission, develop other materials which are appropriate to the purpose of the "Annotated Constitution and Canons," and

facilitate the publication of this document and related materials. The Commission may provide or support forums to promote commentary, discussion, and understanding of the Constitution and Canons.

(v) Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the General Convention.

~~(4) A Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church. It shall be the duty of the Commission to identify, study and consider policies, priorities and concerns as to the effectiveness of The Episcopal Church in advancing, within this Church's jurisdictions, God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, including patterns and directions for evangelism, Church planting, leadership development, and ministries that engage the diversity of the Church's membership and the communities it serves, and to make recommendations to General Convention.~~

~~(5) A Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. It shall be the duty of the Commission to recommend to the General Convention a comprehensive and coordinated policy and strategy on relations between this Church and other Churches, and this Church and other religions, and to make recommendations to General Convention concerning inter-Church cooperation and unity, and interreligious dialogue and action.~~

~~(6) A Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. The Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer shall be a member *ex officio* with voice, but without vote. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:~~

~~(i) Discharge such duties as shall be assigned to it by the General Convention as to policies and strategies concerning the common worship of this Church.~~

~~(ii) Collect, collate and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions of the Book of Common Prayer.~~

~~(iii) Cause to be prepared and to present to the General Convention recommendations concerning the Lectionary, Psalter, and offices for special occasions as authorized or directed by the General Convention or House of Bishops.~~

~~(iv) Recommend to the General Convention authorized translations of the Holy Scripture from which the Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer are to be read.~~

~~(v) Receive and evaluate requests for consideration of individuals or groups to be included in the Calendar of the Church year and make recommendations thereon to the General Convention for acceptance or rejection.~~

~~(vi) Collect, collate, and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions of The Hymnal 1982 and other musical publications regularly in use in this Church and encourage the composition of new musical materials.~~

~~(vii) Cause to be prepared and present to the General Convention recommendations concerning the musical settings of liturgical texts and rubrics, and norms as to liturgical music and the manner of its rendition.~~

~~(viii) At the direction of the General Convention, to serve the Church in matters pertaining to policies and strategies concerning Church music.~~

~~(7) A Standing Commission on Ministry Development. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:~~

~~(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):~~

~~(ii) 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 discernment, education and training for ministry, leadership development, and deployment.~~

~~(iii) Study the needs and trends of theological education for all baptized persons, including seminary education and life-long learning, and recommend strategies to General Convention to strengthen theological education for all baptized persons.~~

~~(8) A Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy. It shall be the duty of the Commission to identify, study and theologically interpret social justice issues facing the United States and their impact on other nations, and to develop and recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention.~~

~~(9) A Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development. It shall be the duty of the Commission to recommend policies that foster within The Episcopal Church a broad understanding of Christian stewardship, both individual and corporate. The Commission shall recommend strategies to General Convention for stewardship, including education, development, and planned giving, with special sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Church.~~

~~(10)(2) A Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church. It shall be the duty of the Commission to study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the operation of the several Committees, Commissions, and Boards on a triennial basis to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and to bring about a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new Committee, Commission, Board or Agency, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred to the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church for its consideration and advice.~~

~~(11) A Standing Commission on World Mission, whose members shall include persons broadly representative of jurisdictions outside the United States of America, as well as persons having direct engagement with and experience in world mission. It shall be the duty of the Commission, to review and evaluate policies, priorities, and strategies for global mission, and to make recommendations regarding global mission to General Convention.~~

~~(12) A Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology. It shall be the duty of the Commission to identify, study and recommend to General Convention communication strategies; policies, priorities, and technologies to strengthen the Church's communication of the Gospel and the mission of the Church to the world at large and to improve information management and exchange within The Episcopal Church.~~

~~(13) A Standing Commission on Health. It shall be the duty of the Commission to identify and study national and international healthcare issues, practices, and policies and the Church's healthcare ministries, and to make recommendations to General Convention.~~

~~(14) A Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education. It shall be the duty of the Commission to develop and recommend to the General Convention comprehensive and coordinated policies for children, youth, adults, and seniors for lifelong Christian formation.~~

*(3) (i) Within 60 days after the adjournment of the General Convention, the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, in consultation with the Executive Officer of the General Convention, shall review legislation adopted by the General Convention and shall establish Task Forces where necessary to carry out the mandates of the General Convention. Task Forces thereby established shall consist of no more than eight people.*

*(ii) The Presiding Bishop and the President of House Deputies shall jointly appoint the membership of all Task Forces. Appointments to Task Forces are subject to the consent of the Executive Council. Such consent shall be considered at the first meeting of the Executive Council after the General Convention.*