

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A221  
**TITLE:** Collaboration and Networking  
**PROPOSER:** 10 - Congregational and Diocesan Vitality  
**TOPIC:** Mission Strategy

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-C027 Amend Canon I.9 [Of Provinces]  
2015-C031 Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses

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

None

*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.*

# A221 Collaboration and Networking

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<b>Proposer</b>	10 - Congregational and Diocesan Vitality
<b>Topic</b>	Mission Strategy
<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>	HB / 10 - Congregational and Diocesan Vitality
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Passed review

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That after the 79th General Convention, The Episcopal Church commit to equipping and strengthening the work of networking and affinity groups of The Episcopal Church; including but not limited to: visioning for the kinds of collective aspirations for dioceses and articulating how these aspirations and efforts support The Episcopal Church in the mission of Jesus Christ; building the capacity for idea and resource sharing among dioceses and other networks; articulating the funding issues associated with collaboration; and finding ways to fund ministry; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That this work be initiated by affinity groups, networks, members of dioceses, and the wider Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the fruits and learnings of this work be reported to the Executive Council and presented with recommendations for any system changes to the 80th General Convention.

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## EXPLANATION

The Task Force for the Study of Provinces acknowledged that the current provincial structure is uneven, and efforts to change it create challenges around funding, human resources, program viability, and representation on Executive Council.

As the Committee for Congregational and Diocesan Vitality, we have discerned that the future of the provincial system is uncertain. In an attempt to move forward, the Committee wishes to focus on the places within and outside the provincial system where networking is flourishing and has potential for furthering the mission of Jesus Christ.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C027  
**Title:** Amend Canon I.9 [Of Provinces]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Canon I.9 be amended to insert a new Section 2, to read as follows:*

*Sec 2. The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate interdiocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts.;* and be it further

*Resolved, That the final sentence of Canon I.9.7 be amended as follows:*

**Each Diocese and Area Mission shall determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen~~elect~~ed.;** and be it further

*Resolved, That the Provincial Leadership Council, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons and any other person or group the Provincial Leadership Council deem appropriate, review the Provinces in order to develop best practices and other recommendations for Provinces, including (a) facilitating mission opportunities, communications, networking and collaboration and (b) reviewing potential geographic, affiliation and/or composition changes to Provinces;* and be it further

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons is directed to study whether there should be a revision to the Canons to provide for a single Court of Review for Priests and Deacons instead of Provincial Courts of Review (Canons IV.5.4 and IV.15), and report back to the 79th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 449.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C031  
**Title:** Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention ask that the bishops and dioceses of The Episcopal Church create, nurture, and develop a culture of collaboration that results in new structures, partnerships, and practices on the interpersonal, group, and organizational levels; measurable outcomes of performance; standards of accountability, reporting and mutual ministry reviews at all levels (bishops, clergy, diocesan bodies); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages Dioceses to explore opportunities for collaboration, and possibly merging, with contiguous Dioceses, to better carry out their common mission; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the bishops and diocesan leadership of The Episcopal Church to engage in frank discussion about the number and size of our dioceses across the church, diocesan collaboration, vitality, and shared ministry, and what change is needed; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Planning Committee of the House of Bishops is requested to set aside time this Triennium to discuss issues of diocesan vitality; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church is directed to seek input from the above conversations and to study opportunities and challenges of diocesan collaboration, vitality, shared ministry, and the number and size of dioceses, and to report back to the 79th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 462-463.