

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-B028
TITLE: Continue Commitment to Growing Financial Generosity Within the Church
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards
TOPIC: Budget

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A197 Adopt the Budget of The Episcopal Church
2009-D055 Reaffirm Tithe as Minimum Standard of Giving
2003-A139 Commend the Ministry of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
1988-A164 Affirm the Tithe As the Standard of Giving and Signify by Signatures
1988-D165 Urge Each Household to Make a Financial Pledge

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

2003-A139 Commend the Ministry of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
1997-A138 Affirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
1994-A120 Reaffirm the Tithe As the Minimum Standard of Giving
1991-A189 Reaffirm Resolution on Financial Pledging
1985-D140 Encourage Congregations to Accept the Practice of Giving to Others
1982-A116 Affirm the Tithe As the Standard of Giving

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.

B028 Continue Commitment to Growing Financial Generosity Within the Church

Proposer	The Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards
Endorsed by	Rickel, The Rt. Rev. Gregory; Fisher, The Rt. Rev. Douglas
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention and The Episcopal Church celebrate and strategically support enhanced financial generosity among its members through a commitment to proportional giving to church ministry; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the church continue to embrace the biblical tithe of 10% as a standard for faithful generosity; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Church continue its support of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) with a grant of \$150,000 for the years 2019-2021; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A197
Title: Adopt the Budget of The Episcopal Church
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention adopt the 2016-2018 Budget for the Episcopal Church as presented by the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance.

1.0 The Budget for the Episcopal Church for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, which shall be a unified budget including Canonical, Corporate, and Program (mission) portions, is adopted at a total of \$125,012,351.

1.1 The Canonical portion, providing for the contingent expenses of the General Convention, the stipend of the Presiding Bishop and the expenses of that office, the expenses of the President of the House of Deputies, and Church Pension Fund assessments is adopted at a total of \$22,584,693.

1.2 The Corporate portion, providing for the administrative support of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society offices, is adopted at a total of \$35,236,451.

1.3 The Program (mission) portion, providing for support for the mission and ministry (restricted and unrestricted) of the Church, is adopted at a total of \$67,191,207.

1.4 That \$150,000 be added to the Stewardship Development (TENS) line item (138) of the 2016-2018 Triennium budget; that \$150,000 be deducted from the Development Office line item (186b) of the 2016-2018 budget.

2.0 The funding policy for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 is adopted based on a single Asking of the dioceses. After a \$150,000 exemption from total income, a single Asking shall be applied at flat rates of 18%, 16.5% and 15%, respectively in years 2016, 2017 and 2018 of the balance of income to the diocese, reported in the diocesan financial statements for the year two years prior to the year to which the pledge is applied [e.g., 2016 Askings are to be based on 2014 actual income figures]. “Income” includes (1) all congregational giving to the diocese, (2) all unrestricted investment and endowment income to the diocese, (3) restricted investment and endowment income to the diocese which covers costs in the operating budget, and (4) other earnings from investments or enterprises. It is intended that income shall include revenues that fund normal operating and program expenses of the dioceses. It is not intended to include pass-through income that is used for expenses for programming that are simply administered by the dioceses, or that would not be otherwise funded by contributions from parishes or out of investment income.

2.1 We rejoice with dioceses that have moved toward, and those that have given at and above 19% during 2013-2015. Such giving creates a strong financial basis for vital mission and witness of the Episcopal Church. We encourage all our dioceses to adopt the Asking to the mission priorities which we have embraced in this 78th General Convention.

2.2 For the budgetary period income from diocesan commitments, totaling \$46,653,753 is anticipated.

2.3 For the budgetary period 2016-2018, payment by the dioceses of the Askings shall be made in twelve equal monthly payments.

2.4 All additional income, other than from the Askings of the dioceses, totaling \$49,476,979, is projected.

- 2.5** A General Ordination fee is hereby authorized, which fees are expected to cover the expenses and administration of examinations for Holy Orders. A candidate for Holy Orders eligible for examination and so certified by the diocesan bishop shall not be disqualified for examination because the fee has not been paid.
- 2.6** General Convention registration and exhibitors fees are hereby authorized, which fees shall be added to the funding from dioceses and applied to the expenses of the 2018 General Convention, and for no other purpose.
- 3.0** In the exercise of their respective authorities, the Executive Council of the General Convention and the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance shall be subject to the following policies:
- 3.1** Each year, the Executive Council, with the advice of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, shall adjust the budget to the assured income of the Executive Council so as to carry out the Budget for the Episcopal Church for that year on a balanced budget basis.
- 3.2** The fiscal year shall begin January 1.
- 3.3** If in any year the total anticipated income for budget support is less than the amount required to support the budget approved by the General Convention, the Canonical portion of the Budget for the Episcopal Church shall have funding priority over any other budget areas.
- 3.4** Undesignated bequests and legacies received during the budgetary period shall be set aside in the general endowment fund of which only the income shall be used for the general purposes of the Society.
- 3.5** Designated bequests and legacies received during the budgetary period shall be set aside in specific funds of which only the income shall be used for the purposes so designated.
- 3.6** Each interim body, Committee, Commission, Agency and Board (CCAB), or Task Force proposing to the General Convention any resolution with funding implications shall present to the Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance a detailed budget in support of its plan(s), including cost estimates from contractors and suppliers for all goods and services, by no later than six months before the opening day of the General Convention.
- 3.7** An annual report of the actual income and expenditures of the DFMS, relating the expenditures to the Church's priorities, shall be posted on the DFMS website when it is released.
- 3.8** An annual report of the trust fund balances with accompanying narratives shall be posted on the DFMS website when it is released.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 379-380.



Resolution Number: 2009-D055
Title: Reaffirm Tithing as Minimum Standard of Giving
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm the tithing as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention Secretariat is requested to make provisions for the members of each House conveniently to indicate that they either are tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years, by signing their name and clearly printing their name and diocese, or, if they feel it inappropriate to make such a private matter public, signing and clearly printing the word "Anonymous" and giving either their state of residence or the state or foreign country where they were born; and be it further

Resolved, That the record of names and "Anonymous" signings be published in the Convention Journal and in such other Church publications as the Presiding Bishop may designate.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 806-807.



Resolution Number: 2003-A139
Title: Commend the Ministry of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commend the transforming ministry of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), a ministry that invites individuals, congregations, and dioceses to grow into a new understanding of Christian stewardship theology that transforms us from selfishness and fear to love and giving; and be it further
Resolved, That all dioceses and congregations are encouraged to accept the invitation to become members of The Episcopal Network of Stewardship not only to support this important ministry but also to receive the many resources TENS is developing and making available to the church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 589f.



Resolution Number: 1988-A164
Title: Affirm the Tithes As the Standard of Giving and Signify by Signatures
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That we the members of this 69th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the tithes as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further
Resolved, That we the deputies and bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted or will adopt a plan to tithes within the next three years; and be it further
Resolved, That we do call all members of the Church to join us in accepting the tithes as the minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to prepare and distribute signatory pages for bishops and deputies of each diocese signifying their commitment to the tithes as the minimum standard of giving; and be it further
Resolved, That the Secretary [of the Convention] be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish the list of signatures in the Journal.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 208.



Resolution Number: 1988-D165
Title: Urge Each Household to Make a Financial Pledge
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 69th General Convention urge each household to participate in the mission of the Church by making a financial pledge through their congregation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 685.