

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C034
TITLE: Ministry to People with Mental Illness and their Families
PROPOSER: Delaware
TOPIC: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C020 Increase Ministry and Mission to the Mentally Ill
2009-C073 Refer a Resolution on Treatment for the Mentally Ill
1991-D088 Encourage Understanding of Mental Illness and the Needs of the Mentally Ill

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

2015-D032 Reaffirm Disabled Persons' Rights in the Criminal Justice System
2000-C032 Urge Congregations to Commend and Support Mental Health Support Groups
1985-D127 Support Ministry to the Homeless Who Are Mentally Ill

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.

C034 Ministry to People with Mental Illness and their Families

Proposer	Diocese of Delaware
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 the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church call upon the Episcopal Church, through the offices of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, to form a task force to further the Episcopal Church’s commitment to, with and for persons with mental illness and their families as reflected in the General Convention resolution 2015-C020.

EXPLANATION

Resolution C020 at General Convention 2015, which was a follow-up from a resolution passed by the 230th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Delaware in 2015, was adopted and reads:

“RESOLVED, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls upon diocese, congregations, schools and other entities of The Episcopal Church to explore and adopt best practices for the vitality and increased capacity of their mission and ministry in the inclusion, support and spiritual care for persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of The Episcopal Church increase understanding about mental illness by providing educational material and training; utilizing existing programs such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, veterans groups, government departments on mental health, local organization, and other programs and organizations; and sharing the information so that it is readily accessible.”

This resolution would encourage action throughout the Church on this vitally important ministry.



Resolution Number: 2015-C020
Title: Increase Ministry and Mission to the Mentally Ill
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church calls upon dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of the Episcopal Church to explore and adopt best practices for the vitality and increased capacity of their mission and ministry in the inclusion, support, and spiritual care for persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further
Resolved, That dioceses, congregations, schools and other entities of the Episcopal Church increase understanding about mental illness by providing educational material and training; utilizing existing programs such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, veterans groups, governmental departments of mental health, local organizations, and other programs and organizations; and sharing the information so that it is readily accessible.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 369.



Resolution Number: 2009-C073
Title: Refer a Resolution on Treatment for the Mentally Ill
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize the urgent need to find a way to effect a re-evaluation by the appropriate federal, state and local agencies of the care and long-term treatment of the chronically mentally ill members of our communities; and be it further
Resolved, That this resolution be the beginning of a mission for our country led by The Episcopal Church to develop an action plan with the help of mental health professionals, government officials, church leaders and other appropriate partners to find ways for communities to move forward with concrete steps to deal with these issues without moving backward into the abuses of the past.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 178-179.



Resolution Number: 1991-D088
Title: Encourage Understanding of Mental Illness and the Needs of the Mentally Ill
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That members of the Episcopal Church are encouraged to become knowledgeable about mental illness in order to reduce stigma and stereotypes which are prevalent within the Church body and the Community-at-large; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church and all its units and organizations, be encouraged to reach out, welcome, include and support persons with a mental illness, particularly those who have a prolonged, serious mental illness, and the families of those persons, and recognize the abilities and celebrate the gifts of those who have a mental illness; and be it further

Resolved, That the church encourage the development of specific programs to equip the clergy and laity for ministry to the mentally ill and their families and that clergy and lay ministers seek out training and opportunities to minister to the spiritual needs of those who are affected by a mental illness; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and congregations work with existing agencies and organizations to assist with and initiate programs, such as support groups, drop-in centers, housing and employment opportunities, which lead to an improved quality of life for people who have a mental illness, with specific attention to those who have become homeless; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses, congregations and individual parishioners become advocates for public policy and adequate funding to provide comprehensive community-based services, hospital care and research into the causes and treatment of mental illness; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses, congregations and individuals utilize the resources and support services offered by the Episcopal Mental Illness Network (EMIN) of the Presiding Bishop's Task Force on Accessibility.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 822.