

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C044
TITLE: Create Task Force to Implement Title III, Canon 1
PROPOSER: Vermont
TOPIC: Ministry

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A068 On the Topic of a Publication on Lay Ministry (Rejected)
2009-C080 Direct Assistance for Dioceses to Develop Programs in Baptized Ministry
1997-A134 Request Triennial Report on Diocesan Programs to Train the Laity
1997-A174 Amend Canon I.1.2 [Add Standing Commission on Ministry Development]

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

2015-A080 Request Study and Website on Confirmation as Christian Formation
2000-A074 Call on Dioceses to Maintain Continuing Education for Clergy and Lay

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.

C044 Create Task Force to Implement Title III, Canon 1

Proposer	Diocese of Vermont
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 67
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, in recognition of the Jesus Movement and the calling of all the baptized in their daily life and work, appoint a task force to study the implementation of Title III, Canon 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons, which reads:
 - 2 Sec. 1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:
 - 3 (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
 - 4 (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.
 - 5 and be it further
 - 6 *Resolved*, That such task force be appointed by the Presiding Officers jointly and that a report be given to the 80th General Convention with its recommendations for the implementation of Title III, Canon 1 in all parishes, dioceses, provinces, and the wider church, focusing on full engagement of all the Baptized in their ministries beyond Sunday in their daily life, work, and leisure.

EXPLANATION

Canon 1 of Title III is focused on the ministry of all the Baptized. It calls on The Episcopal Church to “equip the saints for ministry” (Ephesians 4). In the Catechism under The Ministry (BCP 855) the first order of ministry is lay persons. They represent the 99 % of The Episcopal Church. The Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304-5) is the “job description” for all the baptized in their respective orders. Adopted in 2003, this canon provides the skeleton that now needs to be enflashed. Hence this task force’s work is to recommend processes so that the church can affirm the calling of all the baptized, especially its lay persons, and empower them in all the areas of their ministry in work, home, community, and

wider world as well as in the Church.



Resolution Number: 2012-A068
Title: On the Topic of a Publication on Lay Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, that the 77th General Convention commend the use of *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* to all provinces, dioceses and congregations to advance the empowerment of laity as full partners in ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct that Office of Communications department of The Episcopal Church post *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* in English and with appropriate translations on The Episcopal Church website to be readily accessible to all provinces, dioceses, congregations and individuals; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to research and add resources to *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized*, including resources in appropriate languages; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct that the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to annually monitor the updating of *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized*.



Resolution Number: 2009-C080
Title: Direct Assistance for Dioceses to Develop Programs in Baptized Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention call upon the Executive Council, provinces, dioceses and congregations to promote and develop the discernment that all of daily life and work is ministry, calling for the intentional exercise of the Baptismal Covenant promises in all sectors of public as well as private life; and be it further

Resolved, That, as mandated in Canons III.1 and 2, Executive Council urge and assist diocesan Commissions on Ministry to promote and develop programs that will engage baptized persons in ministry discernment, and support congregations in providing processes for such discernment in community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Lay Leadership and Ministry Development and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development be directed to assist provinces and dioceses in concrete ways that support the full realization of the ministries of the baptized, both on Sunday and beyond, so that parishes may serve as ministry development “base camps” for all who seek to live their faith in every part of daily life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 713.



Resolution Number: 1997-A174
Title: Amend Canon I.1.2 [Add Standing Commission on Ministry Development]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That Canon I.1.2(n) is hereby amended by the addition of the following:
(6) A Standing Commission on Ministry Development consisting of 24 members. Nine members shall be appointed on the nomination of the nine Provincial Presidents, one nomination from each Province. The remaining 15 shall include 3 bishops, 4 priests and/or deacons, provided that two shall be deacons, and 8 lay persons.*

It shall be the duty of the Commission:

(a) to recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the development, affirmation and exercise of the ministry of all the baptized;

(b) to encourage and facilitate networks of individuals, institutions and agencies engaged in education, training, deployment and formation for ministry by all four orders;

(c) to study the needs and trends of theological education for all four orders with this Church, including issues of recruitment, training, deployment, evaluation and continuing education; to make recommendation to the several seminaries, the Executive Council and the General Convention; and to aid the General Board of Examining Chaplains in the exercise of its function;

(d) To discharge such other duties as may [sic] be assigned by the General Convention.

This Resolution shall be effective from the date of adoption.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 244.



Resolution Number: 1997-A134
Title: Request Triennial Report on Diocesan Programs to Train the Laity
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That consistent with the provisions of Title III, Canon 1 (Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons), the Council for the Development of Ministry, or other agency of the Executive Council as may be properly accountable for education of the laity, shall conduct a survey of all Dioceses every three years, which will describe the programs and budgets employed for the preparation and training of the laity for the exercise of their ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That prior to each General Convention a consolidated report of survey findings shall be prepared by the Council for the Development of Ministry or other appropriate agency and distributed to all Bishops and Deputies to the General Convention, to the Chairperson of each Diocesan Commission on Ministry, and to the Director of each training program identified in the survey.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 182.