

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-C053  
**TITLE:** Implementation of Canon III.1  
**PROPOSER:** Province III  
**TOPIC:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2009-C080 Direct Assistance for Dioceses to Develop Programs in Baptized Ministry  
1997-A034 Support and Fund the Indigenous Theological Training Institute  
1982-D064 Affirm Support of Programs for Lay Ministry in the Secular World

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

2015-A046 Create a Resource List for Lay Leadership Formation Resources  
2003-C025 Reflect the Role of the Baptized in Ordination Liturgies

*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.*

# C053 Implementation of Canon III.1

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<b>Proposer</b>	Province III
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 67
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HD / 14 - Christian Formation and Discipleship
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<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, 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
  
- 2 Title III, CANON 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons which reads:
  
- 3 Sec. 1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including: (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. (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation;
  
- 4 and be it further
  
- 5 *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 Canon III.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.

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## EXPLANATION

Canon III.1 has been underutilized. For example, few dioceses have a Commission on Lay Ministry or its equivalent that focuses on empowering all the Baptized in their daily life. This resolution seeks to provide a remedy. The Canon calls on The Episcopal Church to “equip the saints for ministry” (Ephesians 4). Adopted in 2003, it provides the skeleton that now needs to be enlivened. 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. 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. This resolution was adopted by the Diocese of Virginia and is endorsed by the Synod of Province III.



**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-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.



**Resolution Number:** 1982-D064  
**Title:** Affirm Support of Programs for Lay Ministry in the Secular World  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That:*

**A. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm that the primary Ministry of the Laity is in the world, including but not limited to the occupations, family relations, neighborhood relations, and social relations of the Laity.**

**B. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm that this Ministry of the Laity in the world is supported, affirmed, and grounded in the Church.**

**C. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church support the ready availability of programs designed to foster the Ministry of the Laity, including but not limited to programs dealing with:**

**Identification of gifts for ministry;  
Skills training for ministry;  
Theological education for laity;  
Spiritual formation and mutual spiritual support for ministry.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-108.