

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-D025  
**TITLE:** Amend Canons III.6.5(g), III.7.5, III.8.5(b), III.9.1, III.10.1(c), III.12.1, III.12.2  
**PROPOSER:** The Very Rev. M. E. Eccles  
**TOPIC:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2009-D062 Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention  
2003-A029 Commit to Open Dialogue on Issues Facing the Church and Society  
1997-A051 Remind Convention Bodies to Be Attentive to Inclusion and Discrimination  
1991-A085 Instruct Interim Bodies to Examine Effects of Forms of Discrimination  
1991-A228 Provide Commissions on Ministry With Training in Cultural Differences

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

2006-D045 Amend Canon III.1.2 [Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons]  
2003-A023 Establish a Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct  
2003-A121 Develop a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals

*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.*

# D025 Amend Canons III.6.5(g), III.7.5, III.8.5(b), III.9.1, III.10.1(c), III.12.1, III.12.2

<b>Proposer</b>	The Very Rev. M.E. Eccles
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Varghese, The Rev. Winnie; McMillin, The Rev. Canon Andrea
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 74, 77, 83, 86, 101, 114
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HB / 15 - Ministry
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the Canon III.6.5(g) be amended to read as follows:

2 (g) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

3 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

4 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

5 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

6 (4) the Church's teaching on racism.

7 (5) *research-based understandings of gender identity and expression and human sexuality.*

8 And be it further

9 *Resolved*, That Canon III.7.5 be amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 5. The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Deacons and keep a record of such education. *Such continuing education shall include the theological foundations for the Church's teaching on non-discrimination as found in Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2 at least once every five years.*

11 and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That Canon III.8.5(h) be amended to read as follows:

13 (h) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

14 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

15 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

16 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

17 (4) the Church's teaching on racism.

18 (5) *research-based understandings of gender identity and expression and human sexuality.*

19 And be it further,

20 *Resolved*, That Canon III.9.1 be amended to read as follows:

21 Sec.1. The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Priests and keep a record of such education. *Such continuing education shall include the theological foundations for the Church's teaching on non-discrimination as found in Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2 at least once every five years.*

22 And be it further

23 *Resolved*, That Canon III.10.1(c) be amended to read as follows:

24 (c) evidence of training regarding

25 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

26 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

27 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

28 (4) the Church's teaching on racism.

29 (5) *research-based understandings of gender identity and expression and human sexuality.*

30 And be it further

31 *Resolved*, That Canon III.12.1 be amended to read as follows:

32 Sec. 1. Formation

33 Following election and continuing for three years following ordination, new Bishops shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly ordained Bishop. *The process of formation shall include training regarding*

- 34 *(1) prevention of sexual misconduct.*
- 35 *(2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.*
- 36 *(3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.*
- 37 *(4) the Church's teaching on racism.*
- 38 *(5) research-based understandings of gender identity and expression and human sexuality.*
- 39 *(6) the theological foundations for the Church's teaching on non-discrimination as found in Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2.*
- 40 *And be it further*
- 41 *Resolved, That Canon III.12.2 be amended to read as follows:*
- 42 *Sec. 2. Continuing Education*
- 43 *The House of Bishops shall require and provide for the continuing education of Bishops and shall keep a record of such education. Such education shall include*
- 44 *(1) prevention of sexual misconduct.*
- 45 *(2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.*
- 46 *(3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.*
- 47 *(4) the Church's teaching on racism.*
- 48 *(5) research-based understandings of gender identity and expression and human sexuality.*
- 49 *(6) the theological foundations for the Church's teaching on non-discrimination as found in Canons I.17.5 and III.1.2.*

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**EXPLANATION**

Episcopalians promise at their baptism to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving [our] neighbor as [ourselves.]” While LGBTQ+ persons are increasingly visible and welcomed in many of our congregations, clergy are not consistently educated regarding the diversity of human sexuality, gender identity and gender expression, or prepared and equipped to address the pastoral concerns of their congregants in these areas.

Gender and sexuality are important aspects of human life and flourishing, and clergy need accurate, research-based information about the diversity of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual

orientation in order to provide support and pastoral care for all their congregants, particularly LGBTQ+ young people and their families. Understanding and support from families and community is particularly important for the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ youth; rejected youth are at a higher risk for depression, drug use and suicide.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-D062  
**Title:** Continue Developing Policies and Procedures for Sexual Misconduct Prevention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life to continue the work of developing clear and firm policies and procedures for the well-being of all, and commit this church to being and becoming a place where children, youth and adults are safe, especially from abuse, neglect and exploitation, particularly in dioceses that have been unable to implement the call to provide sexual misconduct prevention training; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$20,000 for the implementation of the resolution during the 2010-2012 triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention request the Center for Evangelism and Congregational Life report to the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education before the 77th General Convention on the status of diocesan training and implementation.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 286-287.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A029  
**Title:** Commit to Open Dialogue on Issues Facing the Church and Society  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commit itself to foster moral deliberation on social questions, seeking to be a community where open, passionate, and respectful deliberation of challenging, contemporary issues is expected and encouraged; engage those of diverse classes, genders, ages, races, disabilities, engaging cultures, sexual orientation, and perspectives so that our limited horizons might be expanded and our witness in the world enhanced; address the issues faced by the people of God, in order to equip them for their discipleship and citizenship in the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in addition to the curricula identified and developed in accordance with Resolution A009 of the 73rd General Convention which provide guided conversation around sexual orientation, in particular "Room for Grace Dialogue", the 74th General Convention direct the Peace and Justice Ministries Office and Ethnic and Women's Ministries and, where appropriate, the Committee on Anti-Racism of the Executive Council and other groups to collaborate in further developing models and trainers, lay and ordained, to guide conversations on difficult issues facing our church and societies today and to promulgate their use; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$28,000 for implementation of this resolution, including \$6,000 for planning the process and printing materials, \$20,000 to bring trainers from dioceses and provinces together to learn the process and \$2,000 to sustain the process.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 630f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A051  
**Title:** Remind Convention Bodies to Be Attentive to Inclusion and Discrimination  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, In the absence of anti-sexism training during the last triennium, that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies remind the chairs of all boards, agencies, committees, commissions and interim bodies that the 1991 General Convention asked them to be "attentive to issues of inclusion affecting their members and the content of their deliberations, to devote meeting time at the beginning of each triennium to an exploration of how racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination may limit their work."*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 130.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A085  
**Title:** Instruct Interim Bodies to Examine Effects of Forms of Discrimination  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies instruct the chairs of all boards, agencies, committees, commissions and other interim bodies of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be attentive to issues of inclusion affecting their members and the content of their deliberations, to devote meeting time at the beginning of each triennium to an exploration of how racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination based on "difference" may limit their work, and to report results to the Executive Council.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 301.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A228  
**Title:** Provide Commissions on Ministry With Training in Cultural Differences  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That dioceses be urged to provide their Commissions on Ministry with continuing training in awareness of the important cultural differences among ethnic communities in the Church from whom prospective postulants may come, with the objective of removing stereotypical biases from the screening process; and further, that similar training and consulting resources be provided to Commissions on Ministry concerning ways to avoid perpetuating sexist stereotyping.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 784.