

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D030
TITLE: Supporting Formation
PROPOSER: Mrs. Andrea McKellar
TOPIC: Christian Formation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A079 Commend the Christian Formation Work of Forma
2012-A046 Commend the Ministry of Lifelong Christian Formation

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

2015-A075 Develop Web Access to Christian Formation Resources
2015-A078 Reaffirm the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation

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.

D030 Supporting Formation

Proposer	Mrs. Andrea McKellar
Endorsed by	Kitch, The Rev. Canon Anne; Canady, The Rev. Paul
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 14 - Christian Formation and Discipleship
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, designate an annual grant of \$50,000 each year of the triennium to Forma to support the work of, and further develop, the grassroots network which enables collaborative Christian formation of all the baptized across the Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

There is currently no funding for lifelong Christian formation at the denominational level, as The Episcopal Church Formation Department is financially resourced only for ministry with youth (ages 13-18) and young adults (ages 18-30). Since 2009, the office has had a reduction of \$2,000,000 in funding and lost 5 of 9 staff people who focused on children's formation, life-long formation, older adults and resource development. The Formation Department may be tasked with formation of all the baptized but is financially resourced only to focus on youth and young adults.

This grant would lift up the primacy of formation and discipleship ministries, supporting the work of lifelong formation by creating an annual grant to Forma of \$50,000 to further develop the grassroots network which enables collaborative Christian formation of all the baptized across the Episcopal Church and supports continuing formation of those who are called to form disciples. Forma has taken up the work that has been financially cut from the The Episcopal Church Formation Department, the formation of lay ministry, children's ministry, lifelong formation, older adult ministry. The grant will not be used to fund salary but will help to underwrite the annual Forma conference and underwrite training of lay ministers. Forma is unique in The Episcopal Church as it is engaged primarily in training lay ministers, when most of Episcopal church organizations focus on the formation of clergy.

There is precedent in the United States for funding parachurch organizations specializing in formation work. Our Called to Common Mission partners, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A fund professional organizations of catechists through annual grants from the denominational budget. This collaboration creates broad denominational reach and collaboration, as well as accountability, allowing for true ministry to children and all ages.

Forma has grown into an organization with a broad scope and dynamic network. Continuing the active and healthy partnership between The Episcopal Church Formation Department and Forma will serve those ministering to children and those engaged in formation ministries with all ages.



Resolution Number: 2015-A079
Title: Commend the Christian Formation Work of Forma
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention commend Forma for its leadership in building a network of lay and ordained persons engaged in Christian Formation and Education, assisting in the exchange of information among Christian Formation leaders, and providing resources and certification programs for lay and ordained persons engaged in Christian Formation and Education.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 422.



Resolution Number: 2012-A046
Title: Commend the Ministry of Lifelong Christian Formation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend FORMA, formerly the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED) for their work in developing and supporting lifelong Christian Formation in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend the ministry of Christian formation and education leaders in The Episcopal Church for continuing to lift up The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation adopted at the 76th General Convention and the importance of inviting, inspiring, and transforming people in the Christian faith as well as the continued development of training for leaders of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend to all dioceses and congregations the use of online Christian formation and leadership certifications as well as other forms of continuing education for Christian educators; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend the work of FORMA, formerly NAECED in continuing to develop the Certificate in Leadership for Lifelong Christian Formation (CLLCF); and the programs of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary, the Certificate Program in Christian Education at the Seminary of the Southwest, the Certificate in the Spiritual Guidance of Children at the General Theological Seminary, and other recognized entities for offering continuing education opportunities and certification for those called to the ministry of Christian formation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commend the Formation and Vocation Offices of The Episcopal Church in actively collaborating and serving as a resource as needed for the appropriate development and promotion of these certificate programs.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 212-213.