

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D055
TITLE: Create an Ecumenical and Interreligious Working Group
PROPOSER: The Rev. Sharon Alexander
TOPIC: Structure

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A017 Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
2012-A035 Reaffirm Commitment to Interreligious Engagement
1976-A034 Urge the Church to Act and Plan Ecumenically

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

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.

D055 Create an Ecumenical and Interreligious Working Group

Proposer	The Rev. Sharon Alexander
Endorsed by	James, The Rev. Dr. Molly; Mead, The Rev. Matthew
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 19 - Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention, pursuant to Canon I.1.2(n)(1)(v), create an Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Working Group of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons (SCSGCC); and be it further
- Resolved*, That the Working Group will address matters of ecumenical and interreligious significance including but not limited to: responding to ecumenical and interreligious issues that may arise between meetings of General Convention; have primary responsibility for developing responses to ecumenical interreligious documents; assisting the Presiding Bishop, appropriate DFMS staff and the Executive Council with formulating and implementing ecumenical and interreligious policy; and providing such other assistance and counsel to the SCSGCC with respect to matters that come before the SCSGCC that have ecumenical or interreligious significance, in collaboration with the Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (or such other officer(s) that may be appropriate in the future); and be it further
- Resolved*, That the Ecumenical and Interreligious Working Group serve for as long as the SCSGCC determines that it needs the assistance and counsel of the Working Group; and be it further
- Resolved*, That the membership of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Working Group include up to three Bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop for three-year terms and up to three Priests and/or Deacons and up to three lay persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies for three-year terms, and members of the SCSGCC appointed by the SCSGCC; and be it further
- Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget and Finance add \$25,000 to the budget of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons for the triennium for the Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Working Group.

EXPLANATION

The proposed Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Working Group would be established by the

resolution pursuant to Canon I.1.2(n)(1)(v), and not as a Task Force, and serve on a continuing basis until the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons determined that it no longer needed the services of the Working Group. This Working Group would be constituted and serve in manner similar to that of the White & Dykman Working Group of the SCSGCC that exists pursuant to Canon I.1.2(n)(1)(iv). The purpose of the Working Group would be to provide the expertise and experience in ecumenical and interreligious matters needed by the SCSGCC and other bodies and offices of The Episcopal Church, including the Executive Council, when these matters arise, including but not limited to efforts to further our Church's ecumenical and interreligious relationships.

When ecumenical and inter-religious matters are being formulated it is important that these matters conform to the polity of The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons. The SCSGCC serves as the primary connector for these issues of polity, governance and structure with other bodies and offices of The Episcopal Church pursuant to Canon I.1.2(n)(1)(vi). Therefore, it would be an effective and efficient use of the Church's resources to have the Church's ecumenical and inter-religious work coordinated with that of the SCSGCC.



Resolution Number: 2015-A017
Title: Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Bodies
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continuation of the ecumenical dialogues sponsored currently by The Episcopal Church: The dialogue toward full communion with the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA)-Episcopal Dialogue, and the renewed round of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the U.S.A. (ARCUSA); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continued coordinating committee work with The Episcopal Church's full communion partners, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern and Southern Provinces of The Moravian Church in America; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention note with joy and gratitude the deepening relationship between the Primates and Presiding Bishops of The Episcopal Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Anglican Church of Canada, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and commend, to members of all four churches, the work they have done together and the statements and study documents they have issued jointly.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 665-666.



Resolution Number: 2012-A035
Title: Reaffirm Commitment to Interreligious Engagement
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention reaffirm the commitment of The Episcopal Church to engage in interreligious relations; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Statement on Interreligious Relations, Resolution 2009-A074, approved by the 76th General Convention to all dioceses, seminaries, congregations, and other organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Church be encouraged to be involved actively and appropriately on every possible level in interreligious work such as, but not limited to, services, prayer groups, educational programs, community service, and study groups; and be it further

Resolved, That diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officers gather and report the interreligious activities in their respective dioceses to the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, which will then report these findings to the 78th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 413.



Resolution Number: 1976-A034
Title: Urge the Church to Act and Plan Ecumenically
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, And in the spirit of the "Lund Principle" approved by our church's delegates and others attending the World Conference on Faith and Order in 1952 and affirmed by the 1968 Lambeth Conference, that the Episcopal Church at every level of its life be urged to act together and in concert with other churches of Jesus Christ in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction or church order compel us to act separately; and be it further

Resolved, That in all future presentations of budget and program to this General Convention, consideration be given to what efforts have been expended to secure data ecumenically and to plan ecumenically; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses be urged to establish a similar policy of ecumenical review and planning.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-91.