

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D059
TITLE: Impairment Commission - Training on Alcohol/Substance Misuse for Church Leadership
PROPOSER: Mr. William Powel
TOPIC: Substance Abuse

Directly Related: (Attached)

2003-A123 Call on Dioceses to Establish Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency

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

2015-A158 Adopt Policy on Alcohol and Other Substance Misuse
2015-A159 Promote a Healing Ministry to Those Affected by Addiction
2009-A079 Request Education in Addiction Issues for Ordained Ministry

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.

D059 Impairment Commission - Training on Alcohol/ Substance Misuse for Church Leadership

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| Proposer | Mr. William Powel |
| Endorsed by | Getz, Ms. Pauline; Freeman, Ms. Jane |
| Sponsored by | |
| Page numbers | Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A |
| HiA / Leg. Cttee | HD / 16 - Churchwide Leadership |
| Current Status | Resolution Filed |
| Version | Original (as filed) |
| Review Status | Not yet reviewed |

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention:
1. directs the Executive Council, working with a knowledgeable and skilled advisor, to evaluate the policies and practices of its meetings and the meetings of its commissions, committees, and boards to make necessary changes that may contribute to a healthy environment with regard to alcohol and addiction; and
 2. recommends that the Pastoral Development Committee of the House of Bishops, working with a knowledgeable and skilled advisor, evaluate the policies and practices of meetings of the House of Bishops and recommend changes that may contribute to a healthy environment with regard to alcohol and substance abuse; and
 3. recommends that CREDO develop a program component to held participants explore their relationship to alcohol, drugs, and other addictive substances and behaviors.
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The above recommendations were included in the report of the Commission on Leadership and Impairment (“Commission”), which was formed by resolution of the House of Bishops on March 17, 2015. The resolution “requested that the Presiding Bishop appoint, in consultation of the House of Deputies, an independent commission to explore the canonical, environmental, behavioral, and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the Church, with special attention to issues of addiction and substance abuse.”

The Commission issued its report in March, 2017, which offered the following definition of impairment: “The inability to exercise ministry with reasonable skills and safety by virtue of physical or mental illness, inebriation, or excessive use of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals, or other substances.” (Report, p. 2).

The Commission stated that “[u]nnamed and unaddressed impairment of leaders causes damage with and beyond the body of Christ. The Commission has discovered that in many instances, church polity has impeded the ability of the Church to intervene, assess and treat impaired people and care for the injured community.” (Report, p. 4).

In offering the above “wellness practices,” the Commission concluded that ”recognizing the reach and effectiveness of CREDO across the church, its programs are a prime opportunity to educate, to train, and to promote self-awareness and insight for clergy with regard to addiction.” (Report, p. 19).



Resolution Number: 2003-A123
Title: Call on Dioceses to Establish Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention call on all dioceses to establish Diocesan Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency to provide educational programs for clergy, church staff, and congregations that take account of recent advances in treatment of alcohol and drug dependency, and that such committees address problems related to alcohol or drug dependency in clergy, church staff, and, when requested, laypersons; and be it further
Resolved, That dioceses make strong efforts to develop policies concerning treatment and future employment for diocesan clergy and church staff who are dependent on alcohol or drugs; and be it further
Resolved, That dioceses make strong efforts to ensure that health care insurance for diocesan clergy and church staff includes adequate coverage for mental health and addiction, particularly inpatient treatment for dependency on alcohol or drugs.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 340f.