

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D080
TITLE: Recommendation for Ecumenical Agreements
PROPOSER: Ms. Pauline Getz
TOPIC: Ecumenism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2006-A082 Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]

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

None

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.

D080 Recommendation for Ecumenical Agreements

Proposer	Ms. Pauline Getz
Endorsed by	James, The Rev. Dr. Molly; Montagno, The Rev. Karen
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
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 direct the Executive Council to include language in the several agreements that govern the exchange of clergy between denominations to allow and encourage bishops to communicate information regarding any and all disciplinary actions in a cleric's history, and enter into new agreements specifically for the exchange of information about involved clergy.

EXPLANATION

Under ecumenical agreements like Called to Common Mission, and the interim agreement with the United Methodist Church, the exchange of clergy from other denominations has become increasingly common. However, it occasionally happens that in such exchanges, information about misconduct by these clergy is not appropriately transmitted to their sending bishop, and/or not appropriately shared within The Episcopal Church. This proposed revision would ensure that within our polity, clergy from other traditions are neither held to theological standards which they cannot endorse, but nor are they held exempt from the standards of behavior we hold Episcopal clergy to. This also allows for bishops to communicate with each other about any offenses our clergy might commit while working in other churches.



Resolution Number: 2006-A082
Title: Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

[*Resolved*, that Canon III.10.4 be amended to read as follows:]

CANON 10: Of Reception of Clergy from other Churches

Sec. 4. Clergy Ordained in Churches Not in the Historic Succession

(a) If a person ordained or licensed by other than a Bishop in the Historic Succession to minister in a Church not in communion with this Church desires to be ordained,

(1) The person must first be a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this Church;

(2) The Commission shall examine the applicant and report to the Bishop with respect to:

(i) Whether the applicant has served in the previous Church with diligence and good reputation and has stated the causes which have impelled the applicant to leave the body and seek ordination in this Church,

(ii) The nature and extent of the applicant's education and theological training,

(iii) The preparations necessary for ordination to the Order(s) to which the applicant feels called;

(3) The provisions of Canon III.5, 6, and 8 shall be followed except that the minimum period of Candidacy need not apply, if the Bishop and the Standing Committee at the recommendation of the Commission judge the Candidate to be ready for ordination to the Diaconate earlier than twelve months; the applicant shall be examined by the Commission and show proficiency in the following subjects:

(i) Church History: the history of the Anglican Church and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America,

(ii) Doctrine: the Church's teaching as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism;

(iii) Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer;

(iv) Practical Theology:

(a) The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church,

(b) The conduct of public worship,

(c) The Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of the Diocese in which the applicant is resident,

(d) The use of voice in reading and speaking;

(v) The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant has come differs from this Church. This portion of the examinations shall be conducted, in part at least, by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file for at least three years.

(4) If all the requirements of this Canon have been fulfilled, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate a Deacon, but may do so no sooner than twelve months after the Candidate became a confirmed communicant of this Church. No sooner than six months thereafter, the Candidate may be ordained a Priest at the Bishop's discretion. At the time of such ordination the Bishop shall read this preface following the signing of the declaration of conformity:

The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is satisfied that A.B. accepts the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church and now desires to be ordained a Deacon (or ordained a Priest) in this Church. We are about to confer upon A.B. the grace and authority of Holy Orders as this Church has received them and requires them for the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon (or a Priest).

In such cases, the ordination certificate shall contain the words:

Acknowledging the ministry which A.B. has already received and hereby adding to that commission the grace and authority of Holy Orders as understood and required by this Church for the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon (or a Priest).

(5) Following reception or ordination each clergy person shall be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and clergy person shall meet regularly to provide the clergy person an opportunity for guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about ministry in The Episcopal Church.

Citation: Canon III.10.4 is excerpted from the Final Text of 2006-A082, which revised Canons in Title III. General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church*, Columbus, 2006 (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 583-630.