

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-D082  
**TITLE:** Create Task Force on Title IV Revisions  
**PROPOSER:** Canon Julie Dean Larsen  
**TOPIC:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2006-A153      Create a New Title IV Task Force  
2000-A028      Establish Task Force on Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

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

2015-D076      Collect Information on Title IV Proceedings

*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.*

# D082 Create Task Force on Title IV Revisions

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<b>Proposer</b>	Canon Julie Dean Larsen
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Bradford, Mr. D.C. "Woody"; Nishibayashi, Ms. Kathryn
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church establish a Task Force on Title IV Revisions to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to assess diocesan experiences with Title IV proceedings and propose an addition to Title IV based upon human resource best practices. It shall be the duty of the Task Force to study human resource best practices at institutions with similarities to The Episcopal Church and dioceses; to interview dioceses regarding Title IV proceedings; and to propose additions to Title IV that add a method of handling some complaints through model practices that are consistent with human resources best practices. The membership of the Task Force is to be accountable to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, will report to the 80th General Convention and include, as part of its report, proposed revisions to Title IV; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$100 for the implementation of this resolution.

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## EXPLANATION

This Task Force is being created to study and propose the use of human resource best practices to address some of the concerns the Church, dioceses, complainants, and respondents are having with the current Title IV procedures. These issues include: the time and expense of handling Title IV matters, unfunded legal costs to clergy-respondents, the influence publicity regarding proceedings, concern over complainants' ability to easily access proceedings and fully participate in presenting their claims, the lack of guidelines for discipline, and the inability to implement progressive discipline as clergy move between dioceses.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A153  
**Title:** Create a New Title IV Task Force  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention express its sincere and abiding appreciation and gratitude for the diligent, intensive, and dedicated work and leadership of the Task Force on Disciplinary Policies and Procedures (“Task Force I”) since 2001, in the research, drafting, listening, and communicating of and about its work to develop a comprehensive revision to Title IV of the Church Canons, so that our Canons on discipline reflect our ecclesiology and theology; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention endorse the principles and values expressed in Task Force I’s proposed new Canon IV.1:*

**By virtue of our Baptismal Covenant, all members of this Church are called to holiness of life and accountability to one another. The Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and shall hold one another accountable as provided in this Title; and be it further**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention acknowledge that the work of Task Force I requires further work, reflection, and perfection; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Resolution A153 and the work of and documents from Task Force I be referred to a new Title IV Task Force (“Task Force II”) of twelve persons comprising: three members appointed by the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, three members appointed by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, and six other members, to include three members of Task Force I, jointly appointed by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop. Task Force II shall be charged to complete and perfect this vital work, continuing the focus on the following critical goals, concerns, and values:*

1. **Reflect the values, ecclesiology, and theology of the Church;**
2. **Move Title IV towards a reconciliation model for all appropriate circumstances;**
3. **Encourage the prompt resolution of conflicts in the Church and the reconciliation of persons involved in those conflicts at the earliest appropriate time and the lowest appropriate level of the Church;**
4. **Consider the possible inclusion of certain Lay Persons in Title IV whose office or other leadership role makes inclusion appropriate, provided the treatment of their accountability and discipline is commensurate with their lay status, responsibilities, and commitments;**
5. **Maintain the historic pastoral role and canonical authority of Bishops; and**
6. **Respect the roles, rights, and integrity of those persons subject to Title IV, and of injured persons, communities, Parishes, Missions, Congregations, and the Church; and be it further**

*Resolved, That Task Force II meet during the next triennium, giving the Church due notice of its meetings; that it make available such periodic reports of its work as will best inform the Church of its activities; and that it make a final report, with a proposed Title IV revision along with explanatory and educational materials, to the 76th General Convention not later than January 1, 2009; and be it further*

***Resolved, That the 75th General Convention consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for the implementation of this resolution.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 341-343.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A028  
**Title:** Establish Task Force on Disciplinary Policy and Procedure  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the General Convention establish, pursuant to Joint Rule 23, a Task Force of not less than 6 or more than 12 persons, of whom one-half shall be appointed by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development and one-half shall be appointed by the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons; and, that in light of the Church's theology and the Church's experience, the Task Force: (1) assess the present models of church discipline, as reflected both in the policies and procedures addressing allegations of clergy misconduct and in Title IV of the national canons of the Episcopal Church; (2) study and explore other models for addressing misconduct, such as the disciplinary models used by physicians, professors, lawyers and other professionals, and the policies and procedures of other Christian communions; and (3) at or before the 74th General Convention, deliver a report of its findings and recommendations to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, and the Committee on Sexual Exploitation, and the 74th General Convention; and (4) at or before the 75th General Convention, deliver its final report of such findings and recommendations to the same bodies; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the sum of \$60,000 be appropriated for the work of the Task Force.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 300.