

A001

TOPIC: RULES OF ORDER (JT.)

Amend Joint Rules of Order VII.17

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Nominations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 5; Constitution & Canons: p. 214

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 03 - Rules of Order

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Joint Rule VII.17 on the Joint
- 2 Standing Committee on Nominations be amended as follows:
- 3 **17.** There shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, which shall
- 4 submit nominations for the election of:
- 5 **(a)** Trustees of The Church Pension Fund, serving as the Joint Committee
- 6 referred to in Canon I.8.2.
- 7 **(b)** Members of the Executive Council under Canon I.4.1(c).
- 8 **(c)** The Secretary of the House of Deputies and the Treasurer of the General
- 9 Convention under Canon I.1.1(j).
- 10 **(d)** Trustees of the General Theological Seminary.
- 11 **(e)** General Board of Examining Chaplains.
- 12 **(f)** *Disciplinary Board for Bishops.*

EXPLANATION

This would add the newly established Disciplinary Board for Bishops (as referred in Title IV, Canon 17, Section 3) to the list of elective bodies and positions the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations would be responsible for nominating for election each triennium.

A002

TOPIC: RULES OF ORDER (JT.)

Amend Joint Rules of Order VII.18

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Nominations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 5–6; Constitution & Canons: p. 214

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 03 - Rules of Order

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Joint Rule VII.18 on the Joint
- 2 Standing Committee on Nominations be amended as follows:
- 3 **18.** The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations shall be composed of three
- 4 Bishops, three Presbyters, and six Lay Persons. *Members who are Presbyters or*
- 5 *Lay Persons shall be deputies to the most recent General Convention and will*
- 6 *continue to serve if elected as either a deputy or alternate to the next General*
- 7 *Convention.*

EXPLANATION

This would modify the procedure requiring resignations by Committee members when they cease to be deputies. It is disruptive to the orderly deliberations of the Committee to have its members subject to removal at various times during the triennium. There were four resignations in 2009–2012.

While it makes sense that those who nominate candidates for elections in the House of Deputies themselves be members of the House, it also makes sense to trust the wisdom of those who appoint membership to the Committee to appoint people whose judgment and experience already received be respected for a full triennium.

Bishops are not required to seek re-election each triennium, while Presbyters and Lay deputies must seek re-election. The Committee recommends that a Committee member continue serving if they retain deputy or alternate status for the next General Convention.

A003

TOPIC: GENERAL CONVENTION

Site for the 79th General Convention

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 40; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct its Joint Standing Committee on Planning & Arrangements to consider the
- 3 following sites for the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (2018):
- 4 Atlanta in the Diocese of Atlanta; Austin in the Diocese of Texas; Charlotte in the
- 5 Diocese of North Carolina; Kansas City in the Diocese of West Missouri; and
- 6 Knoxville in the Diocese of East Tennessee.

EXPLANATION

The Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements chose to propose sites in Province IV, which last hosted a General Convention in 1982, and Province VII, which last hosted a General Convention in 1970.

A004

TOPIC: GENERAL CONVENTION

General Convention Daily Agenda

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 40–42; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 01 - Dispatch of Business

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 function through the following activities:
- 3 1. Formal legislative sessions of the two Houses;
- 4 2. A joint session for the presentation of the Proposed Budget;
- 5 3. Meetings of the legislative committees of the two Houses; and
- 6 4. Open Hearings to be conducted, as needed, by all legislative committees;
- 7 and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the schedule and the daily timetable of the 77th General
- 9 Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2012 be:
- 10
- 11 Monday, July 2
- 12 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Volunteer Supervisors and Secretariat Gathering
- 13
- 14 Tuesday, July 3
- 15 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration and Deputy Certification
- 16 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Legislative Committee Officers and Legislative Aides
- 17 Orientation
- 18
- 19 Wednesday, July 4
- 20 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Legislative Committees
- 21 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Deputy Certification
- 22 12:30 – 1:30 pm PB&F Hearing: Budget Priorities
- 23 2:00 – 2:45 pm Presiding Bishop and President, House of Deputies Presentation
- 24 3:00 – 4:30 pm Orientation
- 25 5:00 – 7:00 pm Legislative Committees
- 26
- 27 Thursday, July 5
- 28 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
- 29 8:00 – 9:00 am Legislative Session
- 30 9:30 – 10:45 am Opening Eucharist
- 31 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Legislative Committees
- 32 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
- 33 2:00 – 4:00 pm Legislative Committees

34 4:30 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
35 7:30 – 9:00 pm Legislative Hearings
36
37 Friday, July 6
38 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
39 7:30 – 9:00 am Legislative Committees
40 9:30 – 10:45 am Community Eucharist
41 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Legislative Committees
42 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
43 2:00 – 4:00 pm Legislative Committees
44 4:30 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
45 5:00 pm Resolution Filing Deadline
46 7:30 – 9:00 pm PB&F and Other Hearings
47
48 Saturday, July 7
49 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
50 7:30 – 9:00 am Legislative Committees
51 9:30 – 10:45 am Community Eucharist
52 11:15 am – 12:45 pm Legislative Committees
53 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
54 2:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
55 7:30 – 9:00 pm PB&F and Other Hearings
56
57 Sunday, July 8
58 9:30 – 11:30 am UTO Ingathering and Eucharist
59 12:00 – 2:00 pm Diocese of Indianapolis Event
60 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
61 2:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
62 5:30 – 6:30 pm Provincial Caucuses
63 7:00 – 9:00 pm Suggested time for Provincial Gatherings
64
65 Monday, July 9
66 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
67 7:30 – 9:00 am Legislative Committees
68 9:30 – 10:45 am Community Eucharist
69 11:15 am – 1:00 pm Legislative Session
70 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
71 2:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
72 6:30 – 8:00 pm Bishop Gathering; Suggested Time for ECW Event
73
74 Tuesday, July 10
75 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
76 7:30 – 9:00 am Legislative Committees
77 9:30 – 10:45 am Community Eucharist
78 11:15 am – 1:00 pm Legislative Session
79 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification

- 80 2:15 – 3:15 pm Joint Session PB&F Budget
- 81 3:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
- 82 7:00 – 10:00 pm Suggested time for Seminary Gatherings
- 83
- 84 Wednesday, July 11
- 85 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
- 86 7:30 – 9:00 am Legislative Committees
- 87 9:30 – 10:45 am Community Eucharist
- 88 11:15 am – 1:00 pm Legislative Session
- 89 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
- 90 2:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
- 91 8:00 pm Reserved for Legislative Session
- 92
- 93 Thursday, July 12
- 94 7:00 – 7:30 am Deputy Certification
- 95 8:00 – 11:00 am Legislative Session
- 96 11:30 am – 12:45 pm Closing Eucharist
- 97 1:15 – 1:45 pm Deputy Certification
- 98 2:15 – 6:30 pm Legislative Session
- 99 6:30 pm Joint Adjournment – *Sine Die*

EXPLANATION

A005

TOPIC: BUDGET

Adoption of the Budget

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 44; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 25 - Program, Budget and Finance

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 adopt the 2013–2015 Budget for the Episcopal Church as presented by the Joint
- 3 Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance.

EXPLANATION

A006

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 45; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 25 - Program, Budget and Finance

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that \$100,000 be allocated for the
- 2 work of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance for the
- 3 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

A007

TOPIC: BUDGET

Reaffirm the Five Marks of Mission for Budgeting

PROPOSER

Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 45; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church re-affirm resolution 2009-DO27 (Five Marks of Mission)
- 3 as the framework for the 2013–2015 budget.

EXPLANATION

A008

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund the House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development

PROPOSER

House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 50; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That there be appropriated from
- 2 the budget of the General Convention, the sum of \$51,000 for the expenses of the
- 3 House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development for the 2013–2015
- 4 triennium.

EXPLANATION

A009

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

PROPOSER

House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 81; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church assign \$30,000 to the work of the House of Deputies
- 3 Committee on the State of the Church for the 2013–2015 triennium; and be it
- 4 further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 6 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the
- 7 implementation of this Resolution.

EXPLANATION

Experience during the 2009–2012 triennium indicates that the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church will need funding in the upcoming triennium for general administrative costs, at least four face-to-face meetings, and up to six electronic meetings. In addition, funding will be needed for anticipated collaborative meetings called by the Executive Council or other CCABs as well as the general CCAB organizational and orientation meeting that follows adjournment of each General Convention.

On Data from Non-Traditional Worshipping Communities and Quantifiable Measures of Mission

PROPOSER

House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 81–82; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 12 - Evangelism

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the Executive Council, in
- 2 collaboration with the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church,
- 3 identify information to be included in the Parochial Report form based upon
- 4 current changes and new realities in the Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, that pursuant to Canon I.6.1, the Executive Council authorize such
- 6 changes in the Parochial Report form and the House of Deputies Committee on
- 7 the State of the Church consider approval and implementation of such changes by
- 8 January 1, 2014; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, that the Executive Council, in collaboration with the Standing
- 10 Commission on Mission and Evangelism and the House of Deputies Committee
- 11 on the State of the Church, develop a reliable method for documenting mission
- 12 and outreach activity of The Episcopal Church by counting or estimating the
- 13 number of people served by ministries such as schools, soup kitchens, food
- 14 pantries and campus ministries.

EXPLANATION

As the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church considered data gathered through the Parochial Report form, the Committee became aware that the current form does not reflect the realities of a changing Episcopal Church. Many “non-traditional” communities of faith are thriving, yet do not file a Parochial Report. For example, how do congregations and faith communities measure effectiveness in pursuing the mission of the Church? How do faith communities that have sporadic or “event-oriented” worship report attendance?

Additional data gathered through the Parochial Report from both traditional and non-traditional worshipping communities will help to produce a more complete picture of the Episcopal Church and how we serve God.

In deliberating on its response to Resolution 2009-A062, the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church concluded that the Parochial Report is not likely to be a reliable instrument for documenting mission and outreach activities such as soup kitchens and campus ministries. Nevertheless, the committee supports efforts to devise survey instruments or other data-gathering techniques to obtain information of this nature.

A011

TOPIC: BUDGET

Reaffirm Commitment to Millennium Development Goals as a Mission Priority

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 97; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 affirms its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as a primary
- 3 mission priority through 2015 and pledges to redouble its efforts in pursuit of
- 4 achievement of these goals by 2015; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention requests that the Joint Standing
- 6 Committee on Program, Budget & Finance include in the 2013–2015 General
- 7 Convention Budget a line item of no less than 0.7% of the non-government
- 8 revenue of the Episcopal Church to support the Millennium Development Goals;
- 9 and that this 0.7% commitment will be a visible and prophetic act of leadership in
- 10 fighting global poverty; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That the funds from the 0.7% line item be contributed to a campaign
- 12 for the 2013–2015 triennium to be led and administered by Episcopal Relief &
- 13 Development in support of its programs that are working to achieve the
- 14 Millennium Development Goals.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has been a leader among communities of faith, nationally and globally, in calling attention to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as one way of responding to God's mission of reconciliation.

Countless individual Episcopalians as well as Episcopal parishes and dioceses have taken up the challenge to meet the MDGs by contributing 0.7% of their annual income to international development as commended by 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution I.15 and General Convention resolutions 2003-Do66, 2006-Do22, and 2009-Do16.

It is important for The Episcopal Church to provide continued leadership through 2015, which marks the date by which the MDGs are to be met.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 98–99; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That all things in heaven and on
2 earth belong to God alone, and that all worldly treasure is held in trust by the
3 human hands of the greater glory of God; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the global economy exists for the sake of human beings, not
5 human beings for the economy; and that all economic policy thus has moral
6 dimensions and consequences for all human beings; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, That all economic life within communities, nations, and the global
8 family should contribute to the wellbeing of all persons, serve the poor and the
9 needy, and promote the dignity and rights of all human beings; and be it further
10 *Resolved*, That trade between nations forms a vital and significant component of
11 the global economy and thus should exist within a framework that promotes the
12 common good and serves all persons; and be it further
13 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church urges governments to adopt trade policies
14 that reflect the following principles:
15 (a) Respect for every human being’s right to life and to the basic necessities of
16 life, as well as to fair participation in the global economy and the economy of
17 their communities and nations, including: a right to work, to receive just wages
18 and benefits, to experience decent and just working conditions, and to organize
19 and join unions or other labor associations;
20 (b) Promotion of the principle of mutuality between all persons in the formation
21 of trade rules and agreements, giving equal rights and voice to persons and
22 institutions – governmental, commercial, labor, and civil society organizations –
23 whether they live in developing or industrialized countries;
24 (c) Respect for local peoples and realities with an aim for trade to bring the fruits
25 of one nation or people into the economic life of another without undermining
26 the basic ability of local people to provide for their own economic wellbeing;
27 (d) Respect for the sanctity of all creation and the principle that human life exists,
28 by God’s design, in oneness with the environment and the larger created order;
29 (e) Ensures that societies, including governments, meet their basic obligation to
30 assure economic opportunity for all, meet basic human needs, and provide justice
31 in economic life; and be it further
32 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention urges all Episcopalians to
33 communicate these principles to their elected officials.

EXPLANATION

For decades, The Episcopal Church has supported global economic policies that seek to ensure the fair participation of all people in the worldwide economy and to ensure that all basic human needs are met. This support is rooted in our Baptismal Covenant in which we promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as yourself” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 305) Through emphatic support of the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular Goal 8 (“...develop a global partnership for development”) at the 74th, 75th, and 76th General Conventions, the Church has acknowledged implicitly that global trade policy plays a significant role in shaping the world economy and the manner in which economic systems do or do not contribute to the wellbeing of all people. To date, however, The Episcopal Church has not adopted significant policy addressing specifically how global trade rules should be shaped to further the common good. The 76th General Convention commended that matter to the study of this Standing Commission over the 2010–2012 triennium.

In approaching its task, the Standing Commission reviewed past General Convention resolutions on global economic life, inter-Anglican engagements such as the Lambeth Conferences, and the trade policies adopted by ecumenical partners.

Rather than seeking to address the virtues or limitations of free markets, the proposed resolution reflects the Commission’s desire to speak to economic reality as it presently exists in the world. The free market itself is neither an intrinsic force for good or ill; it is simply the reality in which trade and the larger global economy exist. Accordingly, such simplistic formulations as “fair trade” versus “free trade” do little except create false dichotomies that ultimately are unhelpful in advocating for trade policies that serve the human family. Rather, the guiding principle for the Church should be to promote policies that, working within the present global economic realities, contribute to the wellbeing of all persons, serve the poor and the needy, promote the dignity of all human beings, and seek to maximize the participation of all people in the global economy.

Study Genetically Modified Food Crops

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 99; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 seek to inform the Church of the issues surrounding the development of
 3 genetically engineered crop plants and the patenting of genetically modified
 4 organisms (GMOs); by charging the Standing Commission on Anglican and
 5 International Peace with Justice Concerns, the Standing Commission on Health,
 6 the Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith, the Standing
 7 Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy, and other CCABs deemed
 8 relevant, to jointly study those issues and report to the 78th General Convention;
 9 and be it further
 10 *Resolved*, That in commissioning such study, the 77th General Convention intend
 11 to empower the 78th General Convention to take action toward developing policy
 12 that will allow the Office of Government Relations to address these issues as they
 13 relate to Congressional farm bills and other federal policy or legislation; and be it
 14 further
 15 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention seek to empower with information
 16 those organizations of The Episcopal Church that strive to address equity and
 17 social justice in matters such as global economic development, the environment,
 18 sustainable agriculture, health, and nutrition; and be it further
 19 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention encourage individual Episcopalians
 20 seek to undertake study about GMOs and reflection upon the theology and
 21 stewardship of creation; to learn about the influence both domestic and globally
 22 of GMOs upon agriculture, economic development, the environment, alleviation
 23 of hunger, and biodiversity.

EXPLANATION

With the development of strains of genetically modified foods crops and their dissemination worldwide, concerns are being raised about the impact of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on ecological sustainability and global economic justice.

The issue of patenting geneplasm and other life forms raises both general and contextually specific ethical questions. When the question arises about patenting crop seeds, the particular considerations have much to do with economic justice for small-scale farmers. This applies to family farmers and sustainable farming in the United States, and especially to small-scale and subsistence farmers in the developing world.

The Executive Council commissioned a report on these issues in 2011 and has sought counsel from experts in

the field. Given that these are complex issues, pertinent to both domestic and international policy, The Episcopal Church would do well to follow the example of the Lutheran Church of America and other denominations in seeking to identify the moral, ethical and theological principles involved.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 99–100; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 commends the Anglican Church of Korea for its leadership toward the goal of
- 3 Korean reunification; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urges the United States government to
- 5 minimize the practice of organizing military exercises near the border of the
- 6 Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That the General Convention also affirms its past commitment to call
- 8 for a withdrawal of United States military forces from the region; and be it
- 9 further
- 10 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urges the governments of the Democratic
- 11 People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to continue
- 12 allowing family visits across their border; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages the development of people-
- 14 to-people exchanges with the DPRK, especially from the United States.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has stood in solidarity with the Anglican Church in Korea and with the National Council of Churches of Korea in their continuing efforts for reunification of the Korean Peninsula and disarmament of the region.

During this past triennium, controversial incidents between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) involving civilian and military casualties have led to an escalation in political tensions. “War games” sponsored by the ROK and the United States armed forces near the DPRK are experienced as provocative and are one cause for tensions.

The border between the DPRK and the ROK is considered the most heavily militarized region in the world. An increased militarization of the region, such as has been seen in recent months, is deeply concerning, especially given the DPRK’s access to nuclear weapons technology.

We pledge in our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. There has been a high level of demonization of the DPRK in the international community. To address this challenge and to increase understanding, we recommend that local and national religious leaders, academics, members of civil society, and political representatives sponsor and engage in increased interaction between our nations.

Commend Democratic Movements in the Middle East and North Africa

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 100; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 commends the “Arab Spring” democratic movements in the Middle East and
 3 North Africa for their witness to justice and human rights, and to the power of
 4 popular nonviolent organizing for political, economic and societal change. And
 5 since the response to these popular movements will ultimately depend on the
 6 political institutions these uprisings generate, be it further
 7 *Resolved*, That the General Convention calls on the United States government to
 8 continue exercising leadership within the international community for adopting a
 9 universal standard for democracy, that includes participatory governance marked
 10 by freedom of religion, speech and assembly: a commitment to the rule of law and
 11 to equality before the law; the acceptance of state monopoly over the use of force,
 12 and adherence to international agreements to which a country is bound; and be it
 13 further
 14 *Resolved*, That the General Convention reaffirms Resolution 1991-A149, “Urge a
 15 Full Accounting of the Use of Foreign Aid in the Middle East,” adopted by the
 16 70th General Convention, and calls on the President of the United States for a full
 17 accounting of how United States foreign aid, including military aid, is used in the
 18 Middle East and North Africa, in recognition that transparency is critical for
 19 requiring accountability from aid recipients; and be it further
 20 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention calls upon the President of the
 21 United States to seek accountability for those policies and practices of recipients
 22 of United States aid that contradict and undermine core democratic principles, as
 23 well as those United States laws and statutes that define legal uses of United
 24 States funding.

EXPLANATION

In this period of rapid political transitions in the Middle East and North Africa, reshuffling a fragile status quo in the relationships between states in the region, the Standing Commission supports the development of internationally-recognized democratic principles to complement the legal guidelines already in place to regulate United States foreign aid, including military aid, to the region. The Arab Spring provides an occasion to renew the call for transparency and accountability in United States foreign aid to ensure that policies and practices in the administration of this aid promote peace, protect human rights and the strengthen of civil society, as well as uphold the fundamental dignity and worth of every human being.

Commend the Responsibility to Protect from Mass Atrocities

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 101; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 affirms that our Lord's commandment to love thy neighbor implies a binding
 3 moral responsibility on sovereign states to protect their populations from mass
 4 atrocities, including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against
 5 humanity, as defined by international law; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention welcomes the United Nations'
 7 establishment of the responsibility to protect as an international norm, and its
 8 efforts to uphold it through collective action when individual states fail to do so;
 9 and be it further
 10 *Resolved*, That the General Convention commends the President of the United
 11 States for adopting the responsibility to protect as a principle of United States
 12 foreign policy; and be it further
 13 *Resolved*, That the General Convention condemns the abuse of this norm to
 14 rationalize military actions in sovereign states for political ends exceeding its
 15 humanitarian intent; and be it further
 16 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages the Presiding Bishop through
 17 the Office of Government Relations to join the International Coalition for the
 18 Responsibility to Protect so as to shape the continued development of
 19 precautionary principles for this norm and promote its faithful implementation;
 20 and be it further
 21 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urges all Episcopalians to understand and
 22 reflect upon the principle of the responsibility to protect, and to advocate for its
 23 adherence by their respective governmental leaders.

EXPLANATION

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a moral response to the tragic persistence of mass atrocities such as genocide in the world today. The development of this international norm over the past decade bears witness to the historic genocides committed against Native Americans during the period of European colonization, against the Jewish people and other persecuted minorities during the Holocaust, and against innocent victims in Rwanda, Bosnia, Congo and Darfur, among other regions in conflict.

In 2005, heads of state and government established R2P as an international norm at the United Nations World Summit, to be understood as a solemn promise made by leaders of every country to all persons endangered by mass atrocities. The United Nations Security Council subsequently reaffirmed R2P. President Barack Obama adopted R2P as a principle of United States foreign policy in his 2010 National Security Strategy.

To ensure the norm's proper application, and to prevent its abuse, several precautionary principles governing

R2P have been discussed, although they have yet to be explicitly endorsed by the United Nations. These precautionary principles would include: mass atrocities must include large-scale actual or threatened loss of life; the purpose of the intervention must be to prevent or halt suffering; military force must be the last resort; the means must be commensurate with the ends sought; and the intervention must have a reasonable prospect of success.

The formal adoption of the basic principles for faithful implementation of R2P is a task that faces the International Coalition, in which the resolution encourages the Presiding Bishop to participate. When these basic principles as adopted are not observed, it is the responsibility of the International Coalition and other moral voices to object.

Monitor the Use and Ethics of Drone Warfare

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 101–102; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
 2 Convention bears witness to the increased use of unmanned aerial vehicles, or
 3 “drones,” by the United States in war zones as well as disputed areas of conflict
 4 for surveillance and weaponized attacks; and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention acknowledges that the stated purpose of
 6 drone attacks against suspected terrorists raises both legal and moral questions.
 7 Legally, the use of armed drones to conduct targeted killings of alleged militants
 8 may contravene international legal standards and United States policy against
 9 extrajudicial killings. Morally, drone attacks have also led to the tragic loss of
 10 innocent civilian lives, raising concerns about the distant and dehumanizing
 11 administration of these weapons systems; and are it further
 12 *Resolved*, That the General Convention expresses concern about the rapid growth
 13 of this technology without sufficient public dialogue and without clear
 14 international conventions to regulate this emergent technology of war, including
 15 its relation to prohibitions against the preventive first use of aggressive military
 16 force; and urges the President of the United States and his Administration to
 17 provide transparent accounting for the use of surveillance and combat drones;
 18 and be it further
 19 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages the Suffragan Bishop for
 20 Federal Ministries to provide chaplaincy services to members of the military
 21 involved in the operation of drones; and be it further
 22 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urges the Standing Commission on
 23 Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, in collaboration with the
 24 Committee on Science, Technology, and Faith of Executive Council, to collaborate
 25 to monitor the continued use of drones, weigh their ethical implications, and
 26 prepare a report for the 78th General Convention with recommendations for
 27 governmental leaders and military commanders concerning their use.

EXPLANATION

Although drones have been in operation for approximately a decade, their use by the United States has expanded enormously since 2009, and they have emerged as the “weapon of choice” in prosecuting the so-called war on terrorism. Under President Obama’s direction, targeted killings from drone strikes increased fourfold within two years from the previous Administration (from 2008 to 2010), and have resulted in the celebrated killing of several alleged terrorist leaders as well as an unknown number of civilians.

Control of this new technology has alternated between the United States Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency, raising questions about accountability and transparency. And the deployment of drones not only in war zones, such as Afghanistan, but also in allied countries, such as Pakistan, and in sovereign states such as Somalia and Yemen, have raised concerns that they potentially violate international law.

The effectiveness of combat drones has also been questioned, given the increased anti-United States sentiment their use has generated among the general population in Pakistan, for example. Also, given the dependence of drones and other forms of robotic warfare are on communications technologies, they are vulnerable to exploitation and “hacking” by non-state actors. □The use of drones is transforming modern warfare in uncertain ways. Some argue that, because they are often remotely controlled by individuals based far from the battlefield, they dehumanize warfare and could therefore lead to increased violence and cruelty. Moreover, personnel operating drones have reportedly experienced similar psychological stress disorders to armed forces in the battlefield, causing a form of disassociation between their workday war experience and their afterhours “normal” civilian lives.

Others contend that they are a more discriminate and proportionate use of force than alternatives such as strategic “carpet-bombing” or the deployment of ground troops, and therefore risk fewer lives and reduce the destruction that might otherwise result.

Finally, much of the debate to date over drones has revolved around their practical and legal implications, with less attention to their moral and ethical ramifications – a subject this resolution urges the Church to consider more deeply at its next General Convention.

Support Aid for the Drought in the Horn of Africa

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 102–103; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 calls for prayer and relief for the ongoing serious drought in the Horn of Africa
- 3 and the effect of this on populations of the region; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention calls upon Episcopal Relief &
- 5 Development and its ecumenical partner Church World Service to redouble its
- 6 efforts to address the drought; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That General Convention urges the United States government to
- 8 continue to support humanitarian aid to the victims of the drought in the Horn of
- 9 Africa.

EXPLANATION

Since July 2011, a severe drought has been affecting the entire Horn of Africa region in the eastern portion of the continent. Said to be the worst in 60 years, the drought has caused a severe food crisis across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya that threatens the livelihood of more than 13.3 million people. The crisis cries for international aid.

Continue Advocacy for Peace in Sudan

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 103; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 calls for continued advocacy and prayer from all Episcopalians for peaceful
 3 resolution of the conflict in the Blue Nile of Sudan and South Kordofan, Sudan;
 4 and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention expresses sincere gratitude to the
 6 Episcopal Church in the Sudan for its continued leadership toward the goal of a
 7 just peace in the region; and be it further
 8 *Resolved*, That General Convention urges the United States government to
 9 support international efforts for a successful and truly comprehensive political
 10 implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the
 11 government of Sudan in Khartoum led by the National Congress Party (NCP),
 12 and the government of the Republic of South Sudan under the Sudan People's
 13 Liberation Movement (SPLM).

EXPLANATION

For two decades, Sudan was involved in a bloody civil war between the north, government of Sudan in Khartoum, the National Congress Party (NCP) and rebellion in the south, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and other rebel groups. This civil war, which was described as one of the worst civil wars in Africa, cost millions of lives. In 2005, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between Khartoum's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) was signed. The CPA ended the two-decade-long civil war, and after a referendum conducted by the United Nations, the Republic of South Sudan became a separate nation state.

Recently, the government of Sudan in Khartoum lodged a complaint with the U.N. Security Council accusing the Republic of South Sudan of supporting rebel groups in the country's border-states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. This renewed conflict threatens the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and the peace and stability of the region. According to political observers, the renewed conflict is rooted in unimplemented provisions of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The issues include the failed democratic transformation of Sudan, stymied popular consultations, and the unresolved status of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces indigenous to the North.

End the Embargo Against Cuba

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 103–104; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church urges continued advocacy and prayer from all
- 3 Episcopalians for an end to the United States economic embargo against the
- 4 Republic of Cuba, including the ban on United States citizens traveling to Cuba
- 5 and financial remittance limitations from the United States to Cuba; and be it
- 6 further
- 7 *Resolved*, That General Convention commends the work of the Presiding Bishop
- 8 and many other religious leaders, and the Obama administration for easing the
- 9 restrictions on United States citizens traveling to Cuba and for Cuban citizens to
- 10 visiting the United States.

EXPLANATION

On March 17, 1960, following the 1959 revolution in Cuba that brought Fidel Castro to power, President Eisenhower approved a covert action plan against the Cuban government. The plan included the use of a “powerful propaganda campaign” designed to overthrow Castro. It also included: a) a termination of sugar purchases from Cuba; b) an end of oil deliveries to Cuba; c) a continuation of an existing arms embargo imposed on Cuba in the mid-1958; and d) the organization of a paramilitary force of Cuban exiles in the United States to invade Cuba.

On October, 19, 1960, the Cuban government nationalized all United States businesses, without compensation. The United States retaliated by breaking off diplomatic relations with Cuba, and imposed a “partial economic embargo” that excluded food and medicine. On September 4, 1961, the United States Congress passed the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The Act prohibited aid to Cuba and authorized the President to create a “total embargo upon all trade” with Cuba. For over five decades, United States presidents have continued some form of a total economic embargo on Cuba, despite several U.N. resolutions and other religious and human rights groups calling for an end to the embargo.

On April 13, 2009, President Obama lifted all restrictions on Cuban Americans’ travel and remittances to Cuba. Now, Cuban Americans can “go as often as they like, stay for as long as they like and go see pretty much any family member.” In addition, President Obama removed restrictions on remittances to Cuba and loosened cell phone, satellite radio and satellite television restrictions.

On January 15, 2010, the Cuban government opened its airspace to allow the United States to fly over Cuba in order to aid with the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. On February 1, 2010, the Cuban government announced that the United States and its officials would sit down to negotiate the issue of immigration. These are all good

signs, especially as nothing happens without dialogue and negotiations. The Cuban government clearly hoped its actions, especially opening up its airspace to provide a more direct aid route to Haiti, would lead the United States government to lift the five-decade-old economic embargo. That has not happened.

In February 2011, the Commission visited Florida and met with Cuban Americans living in Miami. And from October 25 through October 29, 2011, the Commission traveled to Havana, Cuba, on a fact-finding mission about the effects of the five-decade-old economic embargo on Cuba. The Commission met with the Bishop and other leaders of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, a United States official at the United States Interest Section in Havana, as well as Cuban government officials. The Commission found that:

- The five-decade-old economic embargo has had no substantial direct effect on the Communist government of Cuba.
- The embargo gives the regime in Cuba the excuse to suppress Cuban citizens.
- The embargo has not weakened the Cuban government; instead, it has hampered the mission of the Episcopal Church of Cuba.
- The embargo hurts the welfare of common Cubans and not the government.
- In a recent poll (September 19, 2011), a majority of Cuban Americans living in Miami-Dade County favored an end to the United States embargo against Cuba. (Cuban Research Institute, Ford Foundation, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, Florida International University).
- Even Cuban dissidents living in the United States are calling for the lifting of the five-decade-old economic embargo.

Advocate Humane Treatment for Cuban Prisoners

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 104–105; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 calls for humane treatment of all political prisoners in the Republic of Cuba; and
- 3 be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That General Convention urges the government of the Republic of
- 5 Cuba to stop the policy of banishing released Cuban political prisoners who wish
- 6 to remain in their homeland to foreign countries; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That the General Convention urges the President of the United States
- 8 to consider the request of the Episcopal Church in Cuba to release the five Cuban
- 9 nationals convicted of spying for the government of the Republic of Cuba.

EXPLANATION

In 1998, five Cuban intelligence officers (one of them a naturalized United States citizen) were arrested and charged in Miami with spying against the United States, including on American military installations. These so-called “Cuban Five” were accused of working in Miami for the Cuban government, to detect and prevent attacks from Cuban exile groups. The Cuban government considered these attacks as a threat to their national security. For example, one member of the Cuban Five was convicted of gathering information on “Brothers to the Rescue,” a pro-democracy group that was dropping leaflets on Cuba and helping Cuban migrants at sea.

In June 2001, the so-called Cuban Five were charged with conspiracy to murder, and it was alleged that their actions contributed to the downing of two planes flown by Brothers to the Rescue offshore Cuba. The Cuban Five were convicted and sentenced in Miami for spying for the Cuban government. The case of the Cuban Five became a rallying cry for the Cuban government.

On October 7, 2011, one of the so-called Cuban Five, René González, 55, was released on probation after serving 13 years in a Florida prison. González continues to live in Miami. On the other hand, the Cuban government has a policy of banishing released Cuban political prisoners to a third country.

In December 2009, Alan Gross, a United States citizen, was detained in Havana, Cuba, accused of spying for the United States government. Alan Gross was traveling to Cuba on his sixth visit, having traveled several times to Cuba without any problem, following President Obama’s lifting of travel restrictions.

In February 2011, the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns visited Florida and met with Cuban Americans living in Miami. And from October 25 through October 29, 2011, the Commission traveled to Havana, Cuba, on a fact-finding mission. The Commission met with the Bishop and leaders of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, a US official at the United States Interest Section in Havana, as well as

with Cuban communist government officials. The Commission found that:

- The Cuban government hails the so-called “Cuban Five” as heroes, with billboards in Havana Airport, books and movies.
- Alan Gross claimed that he was in Cuba to help set up Internet access for Jewish citizens of Cuba.

Initiate Program of Accompaniment with the Dioceses of Colombia and Ecuador Central

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 105; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That in support of Executive
 2 Council Resolution WM-010, affirming the efforts of the Diocese of Colombia to
 3 minister to refugees on the border with Ecuador and to alleviate the conflicts that
 4 gave rise to the displacement of poor persons, the 77th General Convention
 5 commits the Church to continue its efforts by initiation a program of
 6 Accompaniment whereby bishops of the dioceses of Colombia and Ecuador
 7 Central have an advocate in the wider Church; and be it further
 8 *Resolved*, That this be initiated in the 2013–2015 triennium, by assigning a
 9 member of either the Standing Commission on International Peace with Justice
 10 Concerns or the Executive Council Committee on World Mission, or another as
 11 named by the Presiding Officers, to be present with bishops and diocesan leaders
 12 of the Dioceses of Colombia and Ecuador Central, in such meetings and events as
 13 the bishop of each diocese might direct, such persons to serve for one triennium;
 14 and be it further
 15 *Resolved*, That the members so assigned will report on each meeting to the body
 16 from which he or she has been assigned, to the appropriate Partnership Officer,
 17 and to other ecclesiastical groups as the bishop of the diocese may wish; and be it
 18 further
 19 *Resolved*, that the person so assigned will advocate with the Diocese for such
 20 concerns as the Diocese believes are matters for attention by the whole Church;
 21 and be it further
 22 *Resolved*, that a sum of \$60,000 be allocated from the budget of the Domestic
 23 and Foreign Missionary Society for the 2013–2015 triennium for this purpose.

EXPLANATION

There is a growing appreciation of Accompaniment as an essential ministry of the church, providing living witness and support to leaders of dioceses in times of severe trial. In the recent past, natural disasters (Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti) and organizational crises (including departures of bishops and diocesan leaders from The Episcopal Church) have been addressed in part by acts of Accompaniment or “standing with” local leadership, initiated at several levels of The Episcopal Church. Accompaniment has enhanced communication and affected decision-making on resources and funding. Perhaps the greatest effect is spiritual, assuring those in crisis that they are joined in some immediate way with the larger church as compassionate witness to their distress and suffering.

This resolution responds to a call for Accompaniment by the Dioceses of Colombia and Ecuador Central. The response to this call should rightly include members of appropriate committees and commissions, and/or those authorized for this role by the primary officers of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

The Commission believes that careful and committed presence with the leadership of dioceses addressing natural or human-based crises is a ministry of this church grounded in our Baptismal Covenant.

Encourage Prison Ministry Throughout The Episcopal Church

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 105–106; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 directs the Suffragan Bishop for Federal Ministries to include in his or her
- 3 responsibilities the encouragement and development of prison chaplaincies on a
- 4 national level in the various nations of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the program for development of such ministries include training
- 6 for chaplains and for diocesan leaders as advocates for the human rights of
- 7 prisoners in the several nations of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Suffragan Bishop for Federal Ministries explore ways in which
- 9 that office can assist in national level chaplaincies in the several nations of The
- 10 Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That a sum of \$60,000 for the 2013–2015 triennium be allocated for
- 12 this purpose.

EXPLANATION

The specific occasion for this resolution was the hearings held by our Commission which clarified the needs of clergy in Latin America for support and training to implement effective chaplaincy programs for prisoners, with standards set at the national level (in each nation). There are issues surrounding living conditions, as well as human rights issues in Latin American prisons that clergy there are asked to deal with on a regular basis, yet there are few resources to support them.

Training and financial support are crucial for the development of prison ministry, not only in Latin America. Such support is owed to all dioceses and clergy in all Provinces of The Episcopal Church.

Recognize Communications as Ministry

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 110; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 19 - Communications

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
2 of the Episcopal Church recognizes that communications is an essential ministry
3 of the Church that enables and empowers evangelism, congregational
4 development, the building of community, and mission at the Churchwide,
5 diocesan and congregational levels; that there should be a trained
6 communications person in each diocese and ongoing training in communications
7 for all congregations; that there should be sensitivity to multi-lingual and multi-
8 cultural requirements that may exist; and that communications should be
9 adequately funded to meet the needs of mission and ministry as defined by the
10 diocese.

EXPLANATION

At a time when communications channels are increasing almost exponentially, there has been a noticeable trend, both Churchwide and on a diocesan level, to curtail, cut back or eliminate trained communications personnel working on behalf of the church. Yet the new economies of scale are allowing ministers of communications to spread the Good News at very little or no cost.

According to a 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation Study of children 8 to 18 years of age, the average amount of time per day these young people engaged in digital media is more than seven and a half hours. How much of the gospel is available to them during all those hours? Reaching people where they are with a Gospel message as we have received it becomes more critical as the multi-channel, multi-voice communications world unfolds.

This is no time to be narrowing the Church's focus in communications. To the contrary, it is a time to be expanding it. In an age when parchment cost a premium, thank God no one told Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to put down their pens.

A025

TOPIC: COMMUNICATIONS

Challenge Congregations to Develop Websites

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 110–111; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 19 - Communications

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church challenges every congregation in The Episcopal Church
- 3 to have an effective, dynamic and current website by 2015.

EXPLANATION

This Website Challenge is simple: empower every congregation with the tools and knowledge to build an effective, dynamic and current website, no matter their size or budget.

To this end, the Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology has created ChurchTools.org, to provide valuable resources, how-to videos, links, and an online community of helpful people to meet the goal of launching a website for each of the 6,800 congregations of The Episcopal Church around the world. To help make the point of accessibility and feasibility, ChurchTools.org was built in less than two hours for about \$30 on the WordPress platform. If a church already has a website, additional online toolkits will feature ways to improve that site, provide helpful tips, offer strategies for tracking what's actually happening on the website (Do you know the top 10 most visited pages on your site and how long people stay on them?), and other ways to improve what congregations already are doing (embedded video, online polls, sermon libraries, and more).

It is the Commission's plan to offer additional challenges that reflect congregational needs identified through online polls and community discussion on ChurchTools.org.

Develop a Strategic Plan for Information Technology

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 111; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 19 - Communications

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church directs the Chief Operating Officer to develop a strategic
- 3 plan for technology that supports Churchwide mission in the 21st Century; and be
- 4 it further
- 5 *Resolved*, that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance
- 6 consider funding of this resolution in the amount of \$50,000 to implement its
- 7 goals.

EXPLANATION

Members of the Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology believe that the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, working at the Episcopal Church Center and other offices of The Episcopal Church, needs the technological tools to do their jobs well and faithfully. Obsolete computer hardware, out-of-date software, inadequate file storage capacity and the inability to manage projects in collaboration with colleagues hinder the ability of staff members in all departments to accomplish their work effectively. This resolution calls upon the Chief Operating Officer or his designee to make a comprehensive assessment of the technological needs of denominational office staff and to develop a multi-year plan to bring resources up to acceptable standards.

A027

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund the Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 111; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 19 - Communications

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church requests the Joint Standing Committee on Program,
- 3 Budget and Finance to consider funding of the Standing Commission on
- 4 Communication and Information Technology in the amount of \$20,000 for the
- 5 2013-2015 triennium, for two face-to-face meetings and interim web conference
- 6 meetings.

EXPLANATION

Amend Constitution Article I, Section 2

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 118; Constitution & Canons: p. 1

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; not yet reviewed; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Article I, Section 2 of the
- 2 Constitution be amended as follows:
- 3 **Sec. 2.** Each Bishop of this Church having jurisdiction, every Bishop Coadjutor,
- 4 every Suffragan Bishop, every Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop who by reason
- 5 of advanced age or bodily infirmity, or who, under an election to an office created
- 6 by General Convention, or for reasons of mission strategy determined by action of
- 7 General Convention or the House of Bishops, has resigned jurisdiction, shall have
- 8 a seat and a vote in the House of Bishops. *Only Bishops having jurisdiction shall*
- 9 *have a vote on matters which, if adopted, would require a specific*
- 10 *appropriation of funds.* A majority of all Bishops entitled to vote, exclusive of
- 11 Bishops who have resigned their jurisdiction or positions, shall be necessary to
- 12 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

EXPLANATION

Resolution 2009-A052 sought to take away the vote of resigned/retired Bishops. The House of Deputies adopted. The House of Bishops amended. The resolution was referred to the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons for study and review before the next General Convention. The House of Deputies concurred with the referral. The voting right of resigned/retired Bishops has been debated in numerous General Conventions. There has been a reluctance to take the right to vote away from resigned/retired Bishops, but also a desire to limit voting on matters which impact the budget to Bishops who actively bear responsibility for the people of a diocese or of the whole Church. The Commission proposes a revised A052 for adoption on first reading.

A029

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.15.10

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 118–119; Constitution & Canons: p.
54

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.15.10 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **Sec. 10.** ~~In case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation in a foreign~~
4 ~~land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church, it shall be~~
5 ~~the duty of the Bishop in charge of such Congregations to summon the Council of~~
6 ~~Advice, and cause an inquiry to be instituted as to the truth of such accusation;~~
7 ~~and should there be reasonable grounds for believing the same to be true, the said~~
8 ~~Bishop and the Council of Advice shall appoint a Commission, consisting of three~~
9 ~~Clergy and two Lay Persons, whose duty it shall be to meet in the place where the~~
10 ~~accused resides, and to obtain all the evidence in the case from the parties~~
11 ~~interested; they shall give to the accused all rights under the Canons of this~~
12 ~~Church which can be exercised in a foreign land. The judgment of the said~~
13 ~~Commission, solemnly made, shall then be sent to the Bishop in charge, and to~~
14 ~~the Presiding Bishop, and, if approved by them, shall be carried into effect;~~
15 ~~Provided, that no such Commission shall recommend any other discipline than~~
16 ~~admonition or removal of the Member of the Clergy from charge of said~~
17 ~~Congregation. Should the result of the inquiry of the aforesaid Commission reveal~~
18 ~~evidence tending, in their judgment, to show that said Member of the Clergy~~
19 ~~deserves a more severe discipline, all the documents in the case shall be placed in~~
20 ~~the hands of the Presiding Bishop, who may proceed against the Member of the~~
21 ~~Clergy, as far as possible, according to the Canons of the General Convention.~~

22 *In the case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation or otherwise*
23 *authorized to serve the Church in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense*
24 *under the Canons of this Church:*

25 *(a) With the permission of the Presiding Bishop, the Bishop in Charge and the*
26 *Council of Advice may (i) engage a Diocese of this Church to provide the needed*
27 *Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church,*
28 *or (ii) establish among the Congregations of the Convocation the needed*
29 *Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church.*
30 *In either case, the Provincial Court of Review shall either be that of the Diocese*
31 *providing the needed Disciplinary Structures or that of the Province of the*
32 *Convocation; and, for the purposes of implementing the provisions for*
33 *Ecclesiastical Discipline (Title IV) of a member of the Clergy, the Bishop in*

34 *Charge shall serve the function reserved for the Bishop Diocesan, except that the*
35 *Presiding Bishop must approve any Accord, any Agreement for Discipline and*
36 *the terms of any Order, and pronounce the Sentence.*
37 *(b) If no other provision has been made to organize or provide the Disciplinary*
38 *Structures in fulfillment of the Canons on Ecclesiastical Discipline for a*
39 *Congregation in a foreign land, it shall be the duty of the Bishop in charge of*
40 *such Congregations to summon the Council of Advice, and cause an inquiry to*
41 *be instituted as to the truth of such accusation; and should there be reasonable*
42 *grounds for believing the same to be true, the said Bishop and the Council of*
43 *Advice shall appoint a Commission, consisting of three Clergy and two Lay*
44 *Persons, whose duty it shall be to meet in the place where the accused resides,*
45 *and to obtain all the evidence in the case from the parties interested; they shall*
46 *give to the accused all rights under the Canons of this Church which can be*
47 *exercised in a foreign land. The judgment of the said Commission, solemnly*
48 *made, shall then be sent to the Bishop in charge, and to the Presiding Bishop,*
49 *and, if approved by them, shall be carried into effect; Provided, that no such*
50 *Commission shall recommend any other discipline than admonition or removal*
51 *of the Member of the Clergy from charge of said Congregation. Should the result*
52 *of the inquiry of the aforesaid Commission reveal evidence tending, in their*
53 *judgment, to show that said Member of the Clergy deserves a more severe*
54 *discipline, all the documents in the case shall be placed in the hands of the*
55 *Presiding Bishop, who may proceed against the Member of the Clergy, as far as*
56 *possible, according to the Canons of the General Convention.*

EXPLANATION

Resolution 2009-A123 sought to allow Convocations of this Church (Congregation in a foreign land) to organize the needed disciplinary structures to fulfill the intent of Title IV. Because Convocations are organized in several national and cultural contexts and may be of very different sizes, the revised Canon allows each Convocation to organize itself to best meet local needs while seeking to follow the requirements of this Church. Provision is also provided for action if the Convocation is unable to self-organize.

Amend Canons: Canon III.7.8–10; Canon III.9.8–11; Canon III.12.7(a)–(c); Canon IV.16

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 119-125; Constitution & Canons: p. 75-76, 91-92, 113-114, 148-149

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that Canon III.7.8, Canon III.7.9,
2 Canon III.7.10, Canon III.9.8, Canon III.9.9, Canon III.9.10, Canon III.9.11,
3 Canon III.12.7(a), Canon III.12.7(b), Canon III.12.7(c), and Canon IV.16 be
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **Canons III.7.8–10 (for deacons)**

6 **Sec. 8. Release and Removal from the Ordained Ministry of this Church**

7 If any Deacon of this *The Episcopal Church* shall declare *express*, in writing, to
8 the Bishop of the Diocese in which such Deacon is canonically resident, *an*
9 *intention to be released and removed from a renunciation* of the ordained
10 Ministry of this Church, *and from the obligations attendant thereto, including*
11 *those promises made at Ordination in the Declaration required by Article VIII of*
12 *the Constitution of the General Convention and a desire to be removed*
13 *therefrom*, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to record the declaration and request
14 ~~so made matter~~. The Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is acting
15 voluntarily and for causes, ~~assigned or known~~, which do not affect the Deacon's
16 person's moral character, *and is neither the subject of information concerning*
17 *an Offense that has been referred to an Intake Officer nor a Respondent in a*
18 *pending disciplinary matter as defined in Title IV of these Canons*, shall lay the
19 matter before the clerical ~~members~~ of the Standing Committee, and with the
20 advice and consent of a majority of such ~~members~~ *the Standing Committee* the
21 Bishop may pronounce that such ~~renunciation is accepted~~, and that the Deacon
22 *the person* is released *and removed* from the *ordained Ministry of this Church*
23 *and from the obligations of the Ministerial office attendant thereto*, and is
24 deprived of the right to exercise in *The Episcopal Church* the gifts and spiritual
25 authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in Ordination.
26 The Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it
27 was for causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, *at the*
28 *person's request*, ~~if desired~~, give a certificate to this effect to the person so
29 *released and removed* from the ordained Ministry.

30 **Sec. 9.** If a Deacon making submitting the aforesaid ~~declaration~~ writing
31 described in Section 8 of this Canon be ~~of renunciation of the ordained Ministry~~
32 the subject of information concerning an Offense that has been referred to an

33 Intake Officer or a Respondent in a pending disciplinary matter as defined in
34 Title IV of these Canons, ~~be under Presentment for any Offense, or shall have~~
35 ~~been placed on Trial for the same,~~ the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such
36 ~~declaration is made~~ writing is submitted shall not ~~consider or act upon~~ consider
37 or act upon the written request unless and ~~such declaration~~ until after the said
38 ~~Presentment~~ disciplinary matter shall have been resolved by a dismissedal,
39 Accord or Order and the time for appeal or rescission of such has expired ~~or the~~
40 ~~said Trial shall have been concluded and the Deacon judged not to have~~
41 ~~committed an Offense.~~

42 **Sec. 10.** In the case of the ~~renunciatio~~ *release and removal of a Deacon of from*
43 *the ordained Ministry by of a Deacon this Church* as provided in this Canon, a
44 declaration of *release and* removal shall be pronounced by the Bishop in the
45 presence of two or more Members of the Clergy, and shall be entered in the
46 official records of the Diocese in which the Deacon being *released and* removed is
47 canonically resident. The Bishop who pronounces the declaration of *release and*
48 removal as provided in this Canon shall give notice thereof in writing to every
49 Member of the Clergy, each Vestry, the Secretary of the Convention and the
50 Standing Committee of the Diocese in which the Deacon was canonically
51 resident; and to all Bishops of this Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each
52 Diocese of this Church, the Presiding Bishop, the Recorder of Ordinations, the
53 Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the House of Deputies, The
54 Church Pension Fund, and the Board for ~~Church Deployment~~ *Transition*
55 *Ministry.*

56 **Canons III.9.8–11 (for priests)**

57 **Sec. 8.** ~~Renunciatio~~ *of Release and Removal from the Ordained Ministry of this*
58 *Church*

59 If any Priest of ~~this~~ *The Episcopal Church* shall ~~declare~~*express*, in writing, to the
60 Bishop of the Diocese in which such Priest is canonically resident, *an intention to*
61 *be released and removed from a renunciation of the ordained Ministry of this*
62 *this Church and from the obligations attendant thereto, including those*
63 *promises made at Ordination in the Declaration required by Article VIII of the*
64 *Constitution of the General Convention, and a desire to be removed therefrom,* it
65 shall be the duty of the Bishop to record the ~~declaration and request so~~
66 ~~made~~*matter.* The Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is acting
67 voluntarily and for causes, ~~assigned or known,~~ which do not affect the Priest's
68 *person's moral character, and is neither the subject of information concerning*
69 *an Offense that has been referred to an Intake Officer nor a Respondent in a*
70 *pending disciplinary matter as defined in Title IV of these Canons,* shall lay the
71 matter before the ~~clerical members of the Standing Committee,~~ and with the
72 advice and consent of a majority of ~~such members~~ *the Standing Committee* the
73 Bishop may pronounce that such ~~renunciatio~~ is accepted, and that the Priest *the*
74 *person* is *released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church and*
75 *from the obligations of the Ministerial office attendant thereto,* and is deprived of
76 the right to exercise *in The Episcopal Church* the gifts and spiritual authority as a
77 Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in Ordination. The Bishop
78 shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it was for causes

79 which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if desired at the
80 person's request, give a certificate to this effect to the person so removed and
81 released from the ordained Ministry.

82 **Sec. 9.** A Priest who would be permitted ~~could~~ under this Canon ~~be released and~~
83 ~~removed to renounce the exercise from the~~ of ordained Ministry of this
84 Church ~~office~~, and who desires to enter into other than ecclesiastical employment,
85 may declare *express* in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in
86 which the Priest is canonically resident a desire to be released *and removed* from
87 the obligations of the office and a desire to be released *and removed* from the
88 exercise of the office of Priest. Upon receipt of such ~~declaration~~ *writing*, the
89 Ecclesiastical Authority shall proceed in the same manner as ~~if the declaration~~
90 ~~was one of renunciation of the ordained Priesthood~~ *underprescribed in Section 8*
91 *of this Canon.*

92 **Sec. 10.** If a Priest ~~making the aforesaid declaration of renunciation of the~~
93 ~~ordained Ministry be under Presentment for any Offense, or shall have been~~
94 ~~placed on Trial for the same~~ *submitting the writing described in Section 8 or 9 of*
95 *this Canon be the subject of information concerning an Offense that has been*
96 *referred to an Intake Officer or a Respondent in a pending disciplinary matter*
97 *as defined in Title IV of these Canons, the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such*
98 ~~declaration is made~~ *writing is submitted* shall not consider or act upon such
99 ~~declaration~~ *the written request unless and until after the said Presentment*
100 *disciplinary matter shall have been resolved by a dismissal, Accord or Order*
101 *and the time for appeal or rescission of such has expired.* ~~ed or the said Trial shall~~
102 ~~have been concluded and the Priest judged not to have committed an Offense.~~

103 **Sec. 11.** In the case of the ~~renunciation of~~ *release and removal of a Priest from*
104 *the ordained Ministry of this Church by a Priest as provided in this Canon, a*
105 *declaration of release and removal shall be pronounced by the Bishop in the*
106 *presence of two or more Priests, and shall be entered in the official records of the*
107 *Diocese in which the Priest being released and removed is canonically resident.*
108 *The Bishop who pronounces the declaration of release and removal as provided*
109 *in this Canon shall give notice thereof in writing to every Member of the Clergy,*
110 *each Vestry, the Secretary of the Convention and the Standing Committee of the*
111 *Diocese in which the Priest was canonically resident; and to all Bishops of this*
112 *Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of this Church, the Presiding*
113 *Bishop, the Recorder of Ordinations, the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the*
114 *Secretary of the House of Deputies, the Church Pension Fund, and the Board for*
115 ~~Church Deployment~~ *Transition Ministry.*

116 **Canon III.12.7(a)-(c) (for bishops)**

117 **Sec. 7. Renunciation Release and Removal from** of the Ordained Ministry of this
118 *Church*

119 **(a)** If any Bishop of this *The Episcopal Church* shall declare *express*, in writing, to
120 the Presiding Bishop, a ~~renunciation of~~ *an intention to be released and removed*
121 *from the ordained Ministry of this this Church and from the obligations*
122 *attendant thereto, including those promises made at Ordination in the*
123 *Declaration required by Article VIII of the Constitution of the General*
124 *Convention, and a desire to be removed therefrom, it shall be the duty of the*

125 Presiding Bishop to record the ~~declaration and request so made~~ *matter*. The
126 Presiding Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is acting voluntarily
127 and for causes, ~~assigned or known~~, which do not affect the person's moral
128 character, *and is neither the subject of information concerning an Offense that*
129 *has been referred to an Intake Officer nor a Respondent in a pending*
130 *disciplinary matter as defined in Title IV of these Canons*, shall lay the matter
131 before the Advisory Council to the Presiding Bishop, and with the advice and
132 consent of a majority of the members of the Advisory Council the Presiding
133 Bishop may pronounce that ~~such renunciation is accepted, and that the Bishop~~
134 *person is released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church and*
135 *from the obligations attendant thereto, of all Ministerial offices*, and is deprived
136 of the right to exercise *in The Episcopal Church* the gifts and spiritual authority
137 as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in Ordinations. The
138 Presiding Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that
139 it was for causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if
140 ~~desired at the person's request~~, give a certificate to this effect to the person so
141 *released and removed from the ordained Ministry*.

142 **(b)** If a Bishop submitting the writing described in Section 7(a) of this Canon be
143 the subject of information concerning an Offense that has been referred to an
144 Intake Officer or a Respondent in a pending disciplinary matter as defined in
145 Title IV of these Canons ~~making the aforesaid declaration of the renunciation of~~
146 ~~the ordained Ministry be under Presentment for any canonical Offense, or shall~~
147 ~~have been placed on Trial for the same~~, the Presiding Bishop shall not consider or
148 act upon the written request unless and until the disciplinary matter shall have
149 been resolved by a dismissal, Accord or Order and the time for appeal or
150 rescission of such has expired ~~shall not consider or act upon such declaration~~
151 ~~until after the Presentment shall have been dismissed or the said Trial shall have~~
152 ~~been concluded and the Bishop judged not to have committed an Offense~~.

153 **(c)** In the case of ~~such renunciation by the release and removal of~~ a Bishop *from*
154 *the ordained Ministry of this Church* as provided in this Canon, a declaration of
155 removal *and release* shall be pronounced by the Presiding Bishop in the presence
156 of two or more Bishops, and shall be entered in the official records of the House
157 of Bishops and of the Diocese in which the Bishop being removed *and released* is
158 canonically resident. The Presiding Bishop shall give notice thereof in writing to
159 the Secretary of the Convention and the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Standing
160 Committee of the Diocese in which the Bishop was canonically resident, to all
161 Bishops of the Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of this
162 Church, the Recorder, the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the
163 General Convention, The Church Pension Fund, and the ~~Church Deployment~~
164 *Board for Transition Ministry*.

165 **Canon IV.16**

166 **CANON 16: Of Abandonment of The Episcopal Church**

167 **(A) By a Bishop**

168 **Sec. 1.** If a Bishop abandons The Episcopal Church (i) by an open renunciation of
169 the Doctrine, Discipline or Worship of the Church; or (ii) by formal admission
170 into any religious body not in communion with the same; or (iii) by exercising

171 Episcopal acts in and for a religious body other than the Church or another
172 church in communion with the Church, so as to extend to such body Holy Orders
173 as the Church holds them, or to administer on behalf of such religious body
174 Confirmation without the express consent and commission of the proper
175 authority in the Church, it shall be the duty of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops,
176 by a majority vote of all of its members, to certify the fact to the Presiding Bishop
177 and with the certificate to send a statement of the acts or declarations which show
178 such abandonment, which certificate and statement shall be recorded by the
179 Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop shall then place a restriction on the
180 exercise of ministry of said Bishop until such time as the House of Bishops shall
181 investigate the matter and act thereon. During the period of such restriction, the
182 Bishop shall not perform any Episcopal, ministerial or canonical acts.

183 **Sec. 2.** The Presiding Bishop, or the presiding officer, shall forthwith give notice
184 to the Bishop of the certification and restriction on ministry. Unless the restricted
185 Bishop, within sixty days, makes declaration by a verified written statement to
186 the Presiding Bishop, that the facts alleged in the certificate are false or utilizes
187 the provisions of Canon III.12.7, the Bishop will be liable to *Deposition or Release*
188 *and Removal*. If the Presiding Bishop is reasonably satisfied that the statement
189 constitutes (i) a good faith retraction of the declarations or acts relied upon in the
190 certification to the Presiding Bishop or (ii) a good faith denial that the Bishop
191 made the declarations or committed the acts relied upon in the certificate, the
192 Presiding Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Disciplinary Board for
193 Bishops, shall terminate the restriction. Otherwise, it shall be the duty of the
194 Presiding Bishop to present the matter to the House of Bishops at the next
195 regular or special meeting of the House. ~~If the~~*The House may*, by a majority of
196 the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote, (1) *consent to the deposition of the*
197 *subject Bishop, in which case*, the Presiding Bishop shall depose the Bishop from
198 *the ordained Ministry of The Episcopal Church*, and pronounce and record in
199 the presence of two or more Bishops that the Bishop has been so deposed, *or* (2)
200 *consent to the release and removal of the subject Bishop from the ordained*
201 *Ministry of The Episcopal Church, in which case the Presiding Bishop shall*
202 *declare such release and removal in the presence of two or more Bishops.*

203 **(B) By a Priest or Deacon**

204 **Sec. 3.** If it is reported to the Standing Committee of the Diocese in which a
205 Priest or Deacon is canonically resident that the Priest or Deacon, without using
206 the provisions of Canon III.7.8-10 or III.9.8-11, has abandoned The Episcopal
207 Church, then the Standing Committee shall ascertain and consider the facts, and
208 if it shall determine by a vote of three-fourths of all the members that the Priest
209 or Deacon has abandoned The Episcopal Church by an open renunciation of the
210 Doctrine, Discipline or worship of the Church, or by the formal admission into
211 any religious body not in communion with the Church, or in any other way, it
212 shall be the duty of the Standing Committee of the Diocese to transmit in writing
213 to the Bishop Diocesan, or if there be no such Bishop, to the Bishop Diocesan of
214 an adjacent Diocese, its determination, together with a statement setting out in a
215 reasonable detail the acts or declarations relied upon in making its
216 determination. If the Bishop Diocesan affirms the determination, the Bishop

217 Diocesan shall place a restriction on the exercise of ministry by that Priest or
218 Deacon for sixty days and shall send to the Priest or Deacon a copy of the
219 determination and statement, together with a notice that the Priest or Deacon has
220 the rights specified in Section 2 of *this Canon* and at the end of the sixty day
221 period the Bishop Diocesan will consider deposing the Priest or Deacon in
222 accordance with the provisions of Section 4.

223 **Sec. 4.** Prior to the expiration of the sixty day period of restriction, the Bishop
224 Diocesan ~~may permit the~~ Priest or Deacon ~~to~~ *may* utilize the provisions of Canon
225 III.7.8-10 or III.9.8-11, as applicable. If within such sixty day period the Priest or
226 Deacon shall transmit to the Bishop Diocesan a statement in writing signed by
227 the Priest or Deacon, which the Bishop Diocesan is reasonably satisfied
228 constitutes a good faith retraction of such declarations or acts relied upon in the
229 determination or a good faith denial that the Priest or Deacon committed the acts
230 or made the declarations relied upon in the determination, the Bishop Diocesan
231 shall withdraw the notice and the restriction on ministry shall expire. If, however,
232 within the sixty day period, the Bishop Diocesan does not ~~declare pronounce~~
233 ~~acceptance of the renunciation~~ *the release and removal* of the Priest or Deacon in
234 accordance with Canon III.7.8-10 and or III.9.8-11, as applicable, or the Priest or
235 Deacon does not make retraction or denial as provided above, then it shall be the
236 duty of the Bishop Diocesan either (i) to depose the Priest or Deacon or (ii) if the
237 Bishop Diocesan is satisfied that no previous irregularity or misconduct is
238 involved, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, to pronounce
239 and record in the presence of two or more Priests that the Priest or Deacon is
240 released *and removed* from the *ordained Ministry of this Church and from the*
241 *obligations attendant thereto, of Priest or Deacon* and (for causes which do not
242 affect the person's moral character) is deprived of the right to exercise in *The*
243 *Episcopal Church* the gifts and spiritual authority conferred in Ordination.

EXPLANATION

The Presiding Bishop's office communicated to the Commission the following insights gleaned in recent years regarding the existing "renunciation" and "abandonment" canons: First, the renunciation canons were being regarded by some as carrying a negative mark against those ordained persons who "renounced" their ordained ministry according to those canons. The proposed amendments attempt to clarify that there is no negative connotation associated with that process, in large part by recasting the process in terms of "release" from the obligations of Ordained Ministry in The Episcopal Church and "removal" from the privileges that flow therefrom. Second, the current abandonment canon for bishops provides only one outcome in the instance of a bishop who has been found to have abandoned The Episcopal Church, which is deposition; by contrast, the abandonment canon for priests and deacons provides the option of removal in addition to deposition. The failure of the abandonment canon for bishops to provide the option of removal forecloses the possibility of a more pastoral response that might be appropriate in some instances. The proposed amendments make removal an option in the abandonment canon for bishops.

A031

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon III.11.4(a)

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 125–126; Constitution & Canons: p. 104–105

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 07 - Consecration of Bishops

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the following section of Title
2 III, 11.4(a) be amended to read as follows:

3 **Sec. 4.**

4 **(a)** If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than one hundred and
5 twenty days before the meeting of the General Convention, The Standing
6 Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its
7 President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to
8 the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a
9 certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a
10 statement *of receipt of (that)*

11 *(1) evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest,*

12 *(2) certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist,*
13 *appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of the Presiding*
14 *Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to that person's*
15 *medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and have not discovered any*
16 *reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the*
17 *person has been chosen. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding*
18 *Bishop and The Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose; and*

19 *(3) evidence that a testimonial in the following form was signed by a*
20 *constitutional majority of the Convention* ~~must also be delivered in the following~~
21 ~~form:~~

22 **We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how**
23 **important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not**
24 **be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to**
25 **bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the**
26 **presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on**
27 **account of which they Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that**
28 **Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we**
29 **believe the Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and**
30 **to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith,**
31 **and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a**
32 **Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a**
33 **wholesome example to the flock of Christ.**

34 **(Date)** _____ **(Signed)** _____

35 The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church
36 exercising jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates
37 mentioned in this Section and request a statement of consent or withholding of
38 consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more than one hundred and twenty
39 days after the sending by the electing body of the certificate of the election, shall
40 respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop
41 is elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph (b) of
42 this Section or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the
43 Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-
44 elect, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected shall
45 then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary *certificates*
46 *mentioned in this Section* (documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon), to the
47 Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to
48 indicate a majority of those Bishops consents to the ordination, the Presiding
49 Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for
50 which the Bishop is elected and the Bishop-elect of the consent.

EXPLANATION

This amendment adds parallel language to Canon III.11.4(b). During review of other proposed amendments to the procedures for the Ordination of Bishops, SCCC noted that the reference to a certificate evidencing the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination was missing from the provision. Research found that Title III rewrite contained in 2006-A082, adopted by the 75th General Convention, did not including the referenced to such a certificate but that it was inference from the rest of the provision.

A032

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon III.12.5(b)(3)

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 126–127; Constitution & Canons: p.
112

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____, concurring, the 77th General Convention
2 amend Canon III.12.5(b)(3) as follows:
3 (3) Bishops of a Church in communion with this Church, in good standing
4 therein, if they:
5 (i) have previously resigned their former responsibilities;
6 (ii) have received approval, by a competent authority within the Church of their
7 ordination of their appointment to the position of Assistant Bishop;
8 (iii) have exhibited satisfactory evidence of moral and godly character and having
9 met theological requirements;
10 (iv) have promised in a writing submitted to the Bishop making the appointment
11 to submit in all things to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church;
12 ~~and thorough examination covering their medical,~~
13 (v) have submitted to and satisfactorily passed a *thorough examination covering*
14 *their medical*, psychological and psychiatric condition by recognized and licensed
15 professionals appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese with the
16 approval of the Presiding Bishop. The forms for medical, psychological and
17 psychiatric reports prepared by The Church Pension Fund shall be used for these
18 purposes.

EXPLANATION

Prior to 2006, the predecessor provisions of Canon III.27.2(c)(5) (2000) and Canon 21.3(c)(5) (2003), Of Assistant Bishops, read: “(5) have submitted to and satisfactorily passed a thorough examination covering their medical, psychological and psychiatric condition by recognized and licensed professionals appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese with the approval of the Presiding Bishop. The forms for medical, psychological and psychiatric reports prepared by The Church Pension Fund shall be used for these purposes.”

The Title III rewrite adopted in 2006 produced the disconnected wording currently found in Canon III.12.5 (b) regarding Assistant Bishops. The proposed amendment restores the previous wording and retains the requirement for certification of medical, psychological and psychiatric condition before assuming the role of Assistant Bishop. Identical requirements, contained in Canon III.11.3 (b) (2009), apply to the election of any Bishop of this Church.

A033

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canons: Canon IV.2; Canon IV.5.3(i); Canon IV.6.7; Canon IV.11.5

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 127–128; Constitution & Canons: p.
123–124, 129, 131, 137

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the following
2 sections of Canons IV.2, IV.5 (3), IV.6.7, and IV. 11.5 be amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **Canon IV.2**

5 **Advisor** shall mean a person designated to support, assist, consult with and,
6 advise *and, where expressly so authorized under this Title, speak for a*
7 Complainant or Respondent in any matter of discipline under this Title, as
8 provided in Canon IV.19.10.

9
10 **Complainant** shall mean (a) *the any person or persons from whom the Intake*
11 *Officer receives information concerning an Offense and who, upon consent of*
12 *that person(s), is designated a Complainant by the Intake Officer* or (b) any
13 Injured Person designated by the Bishop Diocesan who in the Bishop Diocesan's
14 discretion, should be afforded the status of a Complainant, provided, however,
15 that any Injured Person so designated may decline such designation.

16
17 **Hearing Panel** shall mean a panel of three *or more* members of the
18 Disciplinary Board selected by the president of the Board, unless some other
19 manner of selection is provided by Diocesan Canon, to serve as the body before
20 which a hearing is held as provided in Canon IV.13, provided, however, that no
21 such member may serve as a member of the Conference Panel in the same case.

22
23 **Canon IV.5.3(i)**

24 **(i)** Any Diocese may agree *in writing* with one or more other Dioceses to develop
25 and share resources necessary to implement this Title, including members of
26 Disciplinary Boards, Church Attorneys, Intake Officers, Advisors, Investigators,
27 Conciliators and administrative and financial support for proceedings under this
28 Title.

29
30 **Canon IV.6.7**

31 **Sec. 7.** If the Intake Officer determines that the information, if true, would
32 constitute an Offense, the Intake Officer shall promptly forward the intake report

33 to the Reference Panel. The president shall promptly select from the Disciplinary
34 Board, ~~by lot or by other random means,~~ a Conference Panel and a Hearing
35 Panel, and shall designate a president of each Panel, *unless some other means of*
36 *selecting the Panels or designating the president of a Panel is provided by*
37 *Diocesan Canon.* A Conference Panel may consist of one or more person. A
38 Hearing Panel shall consist of not less than three persons and shall include both
39 clergy and lay members. The president *of the Disciplinary Board* shall be
40 ineligible to serve on either Panel.

41

42 **Canon IV.11.5**

43 **Sec. 5.** All investigations shall be confidential until such time information
44 obtained therefrom may be utilized by the Church Attorney, the Bishop Diocesan
45 or the Panels ~~upon the consent of the person interviewed or as the Bishop~~
46 ~~Diocesan deems pastorally necessary, and.~~ Aall Persons, prior to being
47 interviewed shall be advised of the confidential nature of the investigation and
48 when such information may be shared during the course of the proceedings.

EXPLANATION

Canon IV.2 revisions: The first addition contemplates that Respondents and Complainants may not wish to speak for themselves at various stages of the discipline process and may have elected not to secure counsel. The Advisor could thus speak for the Complainant or Respondent without taking on the formal burden of an advocate or attorney. The second amendment describes how a person with information about an offense becomes a Complainant. The current definition does not contain any such instruction. First, the informant must agree to the designation as it requires participation in the disciplinary process. Moreover, as the provision currently reads, it does not describe the actor who so designates the complainant. The Intake Officer is the first person who officially accepts the information and thus, is in the best position to make the designation. The third amendment, as currently written, conflicts with Canon IV.6.7 in providing that a Hearing Panel shall be composed of “not less than three members”. This seeks to bring the two provisions into conformity.

Canon IV.5.3 revision: While it is likely that most dioceses that choose to share resources will provide a writing that reflects their agreement, good practice dictates that this should be required under the canons.

Canon IV.6.7 revision: As currently written this provision is inconsistent with IV.2, which does not provide for random selection of members of the Disciplinary Board who will serve on a Conference or Hearing Panels. This will bring the two provisions into conformity with each other. It is recommended that the possibility for random selection of panel members be retained through providing local dioceses with the option to retain this method through local canons.

Canon IV.11.5 revision: There are certain times in the disciplinary process when information obtained from investigations will be shared with others. For instance, if the matter proceeds to the Conference Panel or Hearing Panel, the information obtained from the investigation is utilized. Further, requiring the Intake Officer or Investigator to secure the permission of the witnesses after the investigation is administratively burdensome and can delay the process. The revision clarifies that otherwise confidential information will be shared in the disciplinary process and that witnesses and other persons interviewed must be advised of this fact prior to their interview.

A034

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon V.2

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 129; Constitution & Canons: p. 168

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 05 - Canons

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the following section 3 be
- 2 added to Canon V.2 to read as follows:
- 3 **Sec. 3.** As used in these Canons, the terms “the Church” and “this Church” refer
- 4 to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States in America, also known
- 5 as The Episcopal Church, unless expressly noted otherwise.

EXPLANATION

In its work with the Canons, the Commission noticed that the terms “the Church” and “this Church” are used interchangeably throughout the Canons to refer to The Episcopal Church. The Commission proposes this definitional amendment to the Canons to clarify this existing usage.

A035

TOPIC: INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Commit to Continued Interreligious Engagement

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 138–139; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 18 - Ecumenical Relations

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 reaffirm the commitment of The Episcopal Church to engage in interreligious
- 3 relations; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention commend the Statement on Interreligious
- 5 Relations approved by the 76th General Convention to all dioceses, seminaries,
- 6 congregations, and other organizations; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That all members of the Church be encouraged to be involved actively
- 8 and appropriately on every possible level in interreligious work such as, but not
- 9 limited to, services, prayer groups, educational programs, community service,
- 10 and study groups; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That diocesan ecumenical and interreligious officers gather and report
- 12 the interreligious practices in their respective dioceses to the Standing
- 13 Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, which will then report
- 14 these findings to the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

During the 2010–2012 triennium, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations worked on the implementation of Resolution 2009-A074 of the 76th General Convention, which commended to the Church interreligious “dialogue for building relationships,” particularly the Statement on Interreligious Relations. The Resolution and the Statement have been posted in English, Spanish, and French on The Episcopal Church’s website. The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations will gather information on interreligious practices and experiences from the Church and disseminate such information along with other materials to help deepen the Church’s involvement in interreligious relations and dialogue.

A036

TOPIC: ECUMENISM

Further Dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 139; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 18 - Ecumenical Relations

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 give thanks for the full communion agreement between The Episcopal Church
- 3 and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which celebrated its
- 4 tenth anniversary in 2011; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Church acknowledge that there exist areas of theological
- 6 divergence that hinder the fullest degree of communion possible; and be it
- 7 further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Church commit itself to address those areas that hinder this
- 9 relationship, including but not limited to the diaconate and lay presidency of the
- 10 Eucharist; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That the Church invite the ELCA to a new season of bilateral dialogue
- 12 to discuss and address these matters; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 14 Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for the
- 15 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The document "Called to Common Mission," which initiated full communion between The Episcopal Church and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, left some issues unresolved, as evidenced by the interpretations put forth by the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA in August 1999 and the Mind of the House resolution passed by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church on April 3, 2000. Resolution of these issues is beyond the purview of the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee, and these issues have the potential for undermining our full communion relationship if not discussed, explored, and resolved.

Approve and Commend Guidelines for Ecumenical Shared Ministries

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 139–142; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 18 - Ecumenical Relations

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies _____, That the 77th General Convention
2 commend the following guidelines developed by the Standing Commission on
3 Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the
4 Dioceses of this Church in which there is a need to establish or participate in local
5 ecumenical shared ministries.

6 **Guidelines for Local Ecumenical Shared Ministries**

7 **I. Introduction**

8 These guidelines are by intention permissive rather than prescriptive, while
9 requiring intentional participation in their local adaptation by the local
10 Ecclesiastical Authority, the judicatories of other cooperating Churches, clergy,
11 and congregational leadership.

12 These guidelines do not preclude the adoption of diocesan Canons to govern
13 particular circumstances if the local Ecclesiastical Authority deems it in the best
14 interests of the mission of the Church or the well-being of the clergy of the
15 diocese to do so, provided always that any local Canons do not conflict with the
16 Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church.

17 Nothing in these guidelines is to be interpreted as abrogating the responsibilities
18 of the local Ecclesiastical Authority with respect to the discipline of particular
19 clergy of this Church under the Canons.

20 **II. Guidelines**

21 1. Local ecumenical shared ministries in which the partnering Church is in full
22 communion with The Episcopal Church are to be organized and administered
23 under the provisions of the respective agreement of full communion between The
24 Episcopal Church and the Church concerned, along with any additional
25 guidelines or policies developed by the Coordinating Committees that oversee
26 those full communion relationships.

27 2. Local ecumenical shared ministries in which the partnering Church is one with
28 which The Episcopal Church is in a relationship of interim Eucharistic sharing or
29 any other formal ecumenical agreement approved by General Convention are to
30 be organized and administered under the provisions of the respective agreement
31 between The Episcopal Church and the Church concerned, along with any
32 guidelines developed by the bilateral dialogue team with that Church. In addition,

33 local judicatories are encouraged to be as flexible as possible within the bound of
34 our current Canons to be responsive to opportunities for collaborative ministries
35 with these Churches.

36 3. Where there is no relation of full communion or an interim agreement, the
37 Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations recommends
38 the following:

39 • The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
40 emphasizes the fundamental principle that the Church must always be able to
41 proclaim the Gospel afresh in each generation and place, celebrate the Eucharist,
42 and administer the sacraments of the New Covenant, by which the reconciling
43 love of Christ is lived and proclaimed and the baptized are equipped for ministry
44 in God's world. Therefore, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and
45 Interreligious Relations recognizes that there are many circumstances in which a
46 local ecumenical shared ministry with a Church or Churches with which we do
47 not yet share formal full or interim agreements may be either helpful or necessary
48 to this mission. At a minimum, agreement on the first three points of the
49 Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and a commitment to discuss the fourth point
50 would be a theological foundation for such work.

51 • Consequently, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious
52 Relations advises a period of discernment, involving, but not limited to, questions
53 of mission strategy and/or the needs of Episcopalians in a particular place, which
54 will be conducted with leadership of the Church or Churches with which it is
55 desired to share a local ecumenical ministry. Such strategy and need are likely to
56 be at least already partially apparent, and the discernment need not be lengthy.
57 The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
58 recommends that discernment in such cases follow a process that is collaborative,
59 transparent, and respectful of the decision-making cultures of both The Episcopal
60 Church and the other Church(es) concerned.

61 • There is a range of excellent resources, including, but not limited to, the
62 official reports of the ecumenical agreements between The Episcopal Church and
63 other Churches, as well as documents from other ecumenical dialogues, especially
64 the Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry Statement from the World Council of
65 Churches, that will be helpful in local discernment.

66 • Where, after due discernment, the mission strategy of the Church and/or the
67 needs of Episcopalians warrant the establishment of a local ecumenical shared
68 ministry, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
69 advises that the local Ecclesiastical Authority set up a joint task force for the
70 establishment of a covenant along the lines of such covenants as have been
71 common between judicatories of The Episcopal Church and other Churches over
72 the last 50 years. Such covenants may be specific to a particular shared ministry,
73 or may be more general. While not wishing to multiply levels of administration
74 and governance, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious
75 Relations suggests a local body, responsible to the Ecclesiastical Authority, to
76 advise the Ecclesiastical Authority and support any clergy who are involved in
77 such shared ministries as necessary.

78 • The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations does

79 not consider that it is within our competence to make specific provision at a
80 national level for detailed questions of property, financial support of the ministry
81 by or to the respective partnering Churches, deployment of clergy and lay
82 professionals, the provision for pension and health insurance, the registration of
83 membership, or other questions of administration, which will vary from ministry
84 to ministry, and will require the detailed attention of the local Ecclesiastical
85 Authority. Most of these matters are, in any case, already governed by Canon, and
86 will require specific negotiation on a case-by-case basis. We do, however,
87 encourage local Ecclesiastical Authorities to be as permissive as possible within
88 the boundaries of our polity for the sake of mission and ministry.

89 • Where a local ecumenical shared ministry already exists, and where there is a
90 sufficient number of members of this Church to warrant it, the Standing
91 Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations recommends that the
92 local Ecclesiastical Authority encourage the calling of a Priest of this Church to be
93 the pastoral leader.

94 • By Canon and custom, wide discretion is afforded the Ecclesiastical Authority
95 in providing for the worship of the Church. Local ecumenical shared ministries
96 may well raise unique questions and open new possibilities, which it must be
97 within the potential of dioceses to explore. The Standing Commission on
98 Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations encourages a clear, reasoned, and
99 transparent process in making such decisions and provisions. Questions of
100 liturgical practice in local shared ecumenical ministries, where there are
101 significant numbers of Episcopalians as well as significant numbers of members
102 of another Church or tradition, must be carefully and sensitively negotiated.

103 • Whether a priest of this Church may be permitted or licensed to function as a
104 pastor of a congregation of a Church not in communion with this Church is a
105 complicated matter. The appointment of a person in Holy Orders to be the pastor
106 of a congregation of a Church not in full communion with this Church may or
107 may not constitute part of an arrangement for a local shared ecumenical ministry.
108 In any case, such an appointment must be carefully negotiated beforehand with
109 the Ecclesiastical Authority so that various questions and issues (such as
110 responsibility for oversight and eligibility for pensionable service) may be
111 satisfactorily decided before commitments are made.

112 • Each local ecumenical shared ministry should be subject to regular review by
113 the leadership of the congregation and the respective judicatories. The Standing
114 Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations recommends that the
115 local Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer have a role in this
116 oversight.

117 • The Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer and the Standing Commission on
118 Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations continue to be resources for assisting
119 Ecclesiastical Authorities in exploring and establishing local ecumenical shared
120 ministries.

EXPLANATION

In response to Resolution 2009-DO16 of the 76th General Convention, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations suggests these guidelines for Ecclesiastical Authorities, clergy, and

congregations where there is a need for local ecumenical shared ministries. Because such ministries are by definition local, the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations proposes guidelines rather than new Canons. The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations recognizes that circumstances, histories, and cultures will differ in each local ecumenical shared ministry, and the ability of the Church to respond to mission is best served by a policy that permits the widest range of responses.

Removal from Ecumenical Dialogues

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 142–143; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 18 - Ecumenical Relations

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 express its disappointment that the formal membership of representatives of The
 3 Episcopal Church in certain international ecumenical dialogues has been
 4 withdrawn by the Archbishop of Canterbury; and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church give thanks for those Episcopalians who
 6 continue to serve on the Network for Interfaith Concerns (NIFCON), the
 7 Anglican-Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC), and the
 8 Commission on Unity, Faith, and Order; and be it further
 9 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church remain faithfully committed to our
 10 Anglican identity, to our historic roots of seeking that unity for which all
 11 Christians long, and to mission and ministry with other Christians for the sake of
 12 the world; and be it further
 13 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church continue to find ways to further the
 14 principles of unity outlined in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and in the
 15 numerous national and international agreements between Anglicans and Roman
 16 Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, Methodists, Reformed, and others, taking into
 17 account the increasingly globalized aspects of the ecumenical movement; and be
 18 it further
 19 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church commit itself to work with Anglican
 20 partners as appropriate, and with the Anglican Communion Office as far as
 21 possible, and to consult with ecumenical partners who are themselves members
 22 of worldwide communions; and be it further
 23 *Resolved*, That this General Convention allocate funds for continued
 24 representation in dialogue with those global bodies whose ecumenical
 25 conversations have been previously authorized by General Convention, especially
 26 but not limited to those with Roman Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, and the
 27 Orthodox.

EXPLANATION

The ecumenical movement, like much of modern life, has become increasingly globalized. Many member Churches of the Anglican Communion, including The Episcopal Church, have separate full communion proposals with other partners who are themselves members of global communions.

A039

TOPIC: HEALTH CARE

Improve the Church's Health Care Outreach

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Health

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 149–150; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That every congregation of The
- 2 Episcopal Church educate its membership and the wider community spread the
- 3 word about the health care reform law by encouraging parishioners to become
- 4 informed, hosting an adult forum, partnering with other congregations to host a
- 5 community forum, and partnering with a community center to increase ability to
- 6 provide health care locally.

EXPLANATION

The benefits of the health care reform law officially entitled the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are being phased in over a period of years with the majority being introduced by 2014. Current benefits include:

- **A**dults with pre-conditions who have been uninsured for 6 months can receive insurance coverage under the new Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan.
- **C**hildren can no longer be denied health care coverage because of pre-existing conditions. This protection will be added for adults in 2014
- **C**hildren can remain on their parent's health care plan up until age 26.
- **M**edicare recipients are eligible for an increased number of preventative services and receive a 50 percent discount on covered brand name prescription drugs when they reach the gap ("donut hole") of prescription coverage. The gap will be completely closed by 2020.
- **N**ew appeal processes are in place for insured persons who are denied care or payment for services.
- **P**rotection from insurance coverage being discontinued due to unintended mistakes on application.
- **N**o lifetime cap on the amount insurers will pay for an individual's health care.
- **B**est insurance option for individuals and families can be found online at: <http://finder.healthcare.gov/>
- **G**reater access to primary care health services through an expanded network of community health centers, increased payments for rural health care providers, and increased numbers of scholarships and forgiveness of educational loans for physicians and other health care professionals who agree to work in underserved areas.

By 2014 uninsured persons will be able to compare affordable insurance through state-based Health Insurance Exchanges on easy to use websites. An increased percentage of low-income individuals and families will qualify for Medicaid. Those with low and moderate income will be able to receive tax credits in advance to help pay for coverage. It is estimated that over 30 million currently uninsured American citizens and legal immigrants will obtain health insurance through the exchanges. For a complete implementation timeline of the law go to HealthCare.gov.

Establish the Church as the Moral Voice of Health Care

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Health

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 150; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That every member of The
- 2 Episcopal Church make a moral commitment to health care for all of citizens and
- 3 legal residents by actively supporting the full implementation and funding of the
- 4 health care reform law in the United States.

EXPLANATION

Episcopalians who are resident in the United States should be aware of the legislative commitment made to improve health care through the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Unless Episcopalians make the moral commitment to support the provisions of that law, the goal of the legislative commitment will be eroded away as budget decisions are made on federal and state levels.

Christians have made the commitment to stand with the poor and the marginalized, and Episcopalians pledge in the Baptismal Covenant “to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” General Convention Resolution 1994-A057 adopted multiple principals of health care including “universal access to quality cost effective health care services” and “the balanced distribution of resources” throughout the country, and the Executive Council passed a resolution as recently as 2011 (A&N-027) that “urges all Episcopalians in the United States to engage in advocacy for a responsible federal budget that expresses the shared moral priorities of the nation.” The Episcopal Church has made the moral commitment to insure that all citizens have access to health care, and can live into that moral commitment by speaking out in communities and to legislators for the full implementation and funding of health care reform in the United States.

A041

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.17

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 155–156; Constitution & Canons: p.
58

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that Canon I.17 be amended by
- 2 adding a new section 8, and amending and renumbering the subsequent section
- 3 as section 9:
- 4 **Sec. 8.** *Each congregation shall provide instruction in the history, structure*
- 5 *and governance of The Episcopal Church and opportunities for lifelong faith*
- 6 *formation as described in The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation adopted*
- 7 *by the 76th General Convention in 2009.*
- 8 **Sec. 9.** Any person accepting any office in this Church shall well and faithfully
- 9 perform the duties of that office in accordance with the Constitution and Canons
- 10 of this Church and of the Diocese in which this office is being exercised. *All such*
- 11 *persons shall have completed instruction in the history, structure and*
- 12 *governance of this Church and in the duties and responsibilities of their office.*

EXPLANATION

The 2009 General Convention adopted The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation, which describes the many processes by which Episcopalians live into the Baptismal Covenant. The explanation accompanying that resolution explained the vision underlying the Charter in this way: “We affirm that life-long Christian formation is foundational to the success of any church, and in the case of our own, is an integral part of the process by which we will rebuild The Episcopal Church. Our congregations will grow in numbers and health when they are supported by leaders – of all orders of ministry – who know their identity in Christ and are able to access their tradition for the purposes of proclaiming and living out the Gospel.”

These proposed amendments of the Canons underscore the importance of lifelong formation as spelled out in the Charter and address a further priority: that people in leadership positions in The Episcopal Church, such as members of a vestry, delegates to diocesan convention, and other appointive or elective positions, demonstrate adequate formation in Episcopal identity. It is important to form new members and those elected to leadership positions in Episcopal identity and governance, building upon the foundation of baptismal catechesis and life-long learning opportunities for all members.

The resolution does not prescribe a singular mode of instruction but rather affirms the rich and diverse contextual realities in The Episcopal Church and acknowledges that myriad resources for formation in Episcopal identity already exist at parish, diocesan and other levels. In order to fulfill this requirement for instruction, parishes, dioceses and others are encouraged to collaborate and share resources.

A042

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canons: Canon I.1.1(b), Canon I.1.2(a), Canon I.2.5, Canon I.4.1(c), Canon I.4.3(d), Canon I.9.7, Canon III.4.1, Canon IV.17.3

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 156–158; Constitution & Canons: p. 11–12, 13, 29, 30–31, 32, 45, 66

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, the 77th General Convention
2 affirm that the Book of Common Prayer teaches that Baptism is full initiation into
3 Christ’s Body the Church and Confirmation is an occasion for those baptized at
4 an early age “to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment
5 to the responsibilities of their Baptism” (BCP 412); and be it further
6 *Resolved*, that the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer
7 understands Baptism and not Confirmation to be the sacramental prerequisite
8 for leadership in The Episcopal Church; and be it further
9 *Resolved*, that Canon I.1.1(b), Canon I.1.2(a), Canon I.2.5, Canon I.4.1(c), Canon
10 I.4.3(d), Canon I.9.7, Canon III.4.1, and Canon IV.17.3 be amended to read as
11 follows:
12 **Canon I.1.1(b)**
13 **(b)** There shall be a President and a Vice-President of the House of Deputies,
14 who shall perform the duties normally appropriate to their respective offices or
15 specified in these Canons. They shall be elected not later than the seventh day of
16 each regular meeting of the General Convention in the manner herein set forth.
17 The House of Deputies shall elect from its membership, by a majority of separate
18 ballots, a President and a Vice-President, who shall be of different orders. Such
19 officers shall take office at the adjournment of the regular meeting at which they
20 are elected, and shall continue in office until the adjournment of the following
21 regular meeting of the General Convention. They shall be and remain *ex officio*
22 members of the House during their term of office. No person elected President or
23 Vice-President shall be eligible for more than three consecutive full terms in each
24 respective office. In case of resignation, death, absence, or inability, of the
25 President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office until a new
26 President is elected. The President shall be authorized to appoint an Advisory
27 Council for consultation and advice in the performance of the duties of the office.
28 The President may also appoint a Chancellor to the President, ~~a confirmed~~ *an*
29 adult communicant of the Church in good standing who is learned in both
30 ecclesiastical and secular law, to serve so long as the President may desire, as
31 counselor in matters relating to the discharge of the responsibilities of that office.

32 **Canon I.1.2(a)**

33 **(a)** The Canon shall specify the duties of each such Commission. Standing
34 Commissions shall be composed of three (3) Bishops, three (3) Priests and/or
35 Deacons of this Church and six (6) Lay Persons, who shall be ~~eonfirmed~~-adult
36 communicants of this Church in good standing. Priests, Deacons and Lay persons
37 are not required to be members of the House of Deputies.

38 **Canon I.2.5**

39 **Sec. 5.** The Presiding Bishop may appoint, as Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop,
40 ~~a eonfirmed~~ *an* adult communicant of the Church in good standing who is
41 learned in both ecclesiastical and secular law, to serve so long as the Presiding
42 Bishop may desire, as counselor in matters relating to the office and the discharge
43 of the responsibilities of that office.

44 **Canon I.4.1(c)**

45 **(c)** The Executive Council shall be composed (a) of twenty members elected by
46 the General Convention, of whom four shall be Bishops, four shall be Presbyters
47 or Deacons, and twelve shall be Lay Persons who are ~~eonfirmed~~ adult
48 communicants in good standing (two Bishops, two Presbyters or Deacons, and six
49 Lay Persons to be elected by each subsequent regular meeting of the General
50 Convention); (b) of eighteen members elected by the Provincial Synods; (c) of the
51 following *ex officio* members: the Presiding Bishop and the President of the
52 House of Deputies; and (d) the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer
53 of the Executive Council, who shall have seat and voice but no vote. Each
54 Province shall be entitled to be represented by one Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon
55 canonically resident in a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province
56 and by one Lay Person who is a ~~eonfirmed~~ adult communicant in good standing
57 of a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province, and the terms of the
58 representatives of each Province shall be so rotated that two persons shall not be
59 simultaneously elected for equal terms.

60 **Canon I.4.3(d)**

61 **(d)** The Presiding Bishop shall appoint, with the advice and consent of a majority
62 of the Executive Council, an executive director, who shall be an adult ~~eonfirmed~~
63 communicant in good standing or a member of the clergy of this Church in good
64 standing who shall be the chief operating officer and who shall serve at the
65 pleasure of the Presiding Bishop and be accountable to the Presiding Bishop. If a
66 vacancy should occur in the office of the executive director, a successor shall be
67 appointed in like manner.

68 **Canon I.9.7**

69 **Sec. 7.** Each Diocese and Area Mission within the Province shall be entitled to
70 representation in the Provincial House of Deputies by Presbyters or Deacons
71 canonically resident in the Diocese or Area Mission, and Lay Persons, ~~eonfirmed~~
72 adult communicants of this Church in good standing but not necessarily
73 domiciled in the Diocese or Area Mission, in such number as the Provincial
74 Synod, by Ordinance, may provide. Each Diocese and Area Mission shall
75 determine the manner in which its Deputies shall be chosen.

76 **Canon III.4.1**

77 **Sec. 1 (a)** A ~~eonfirmed~~ communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary

78 ~~circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop,~~ a communicant in
79 good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral
80 Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor,
81 Evangelist, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training,
82 continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of
83 licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission
84 on Ministry.

85 **Canon IV.17.3**

86 **Sec. 3.** The Disciplinary Board for Bishops is hereby established as a court of the
87 Church to have original jurisdiction over matters of discipline of Bishops, to hear
88 Bishops' appeals from imposition of restriction on ministry or placement on
89 Administrative Leave and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon
90 IV.19.5. The Disciplinary Board for Bishops shall consist of ten Bishops elected at
91 any regularly scheduled meeting of the House of Bishops, and four Priests or
92 Deacons and four lay persons initially appointed by the President of the House of
93 Deputies with the advice and consent of the lay and clergy members of the
94 Executive Council and thereafter elected by the House of Deputies. All lay
95 persons appointed to serve shall be ~~confirmed~~ adult communicants in good
96 standing. Members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of six years, with
97 terms of one half of the Bishops and one half of the lay persons, Priests and
98 Deacons collectively expiring every three years, with the first expirations
99 occurring at the end of the year 2012.

EXPLANATION

These amendments bring the canons into conformity with the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer, which teaches that "Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church" (BCP p. 299). They will extend to all members of the Episcopal Church opportunities for serving as appointed or elected leaders. These amendments will equip members of the Episcopal Church with the knowledge and understanding to lead effectively. Amending these canons clarifies that rather than being a prerequisite to holding office in the Church, Confirmation is a "mature public affirmation of faith and commitment to the responsibilities of...baptism" (BCP, 412) through which each confirmand is strengthened, empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit (BCP, 418). The canons will continue to require individuals holding office to be "communicants in good standing," which is defined by canons I.17.2(a) and I.17.3 as "those who have received Communion three times in the previous year," and "have been faithful in corporate worship unless for good cause prevented and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God."

Amend Constitution Article I, Section 4

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 158; Constitution & Canons: p. 2

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; not yet reviewed; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring that Article I.4 of the Constitution
- 2 of The Episcopal Church be amended to read as follows:
- 3 **Sec. 4** The Church in each Diocese which has been admitted to union with the
- 4 General Convention, each area Mission established as provided by Article VI, and
- 5 the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe, shall be entitled to
- 6 representation in the House of Deputies by not more than four ordained persons,
- 7 Presbyters or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese and not more than
- 8 four Lay Persons, ~~confirmed~~ adult communicants of this Church, in good
- 9 standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese; but the
- 10 General Convention by Canon may reduce the representation to not fewer than
- 11 two Deputies in each order. Each Diocese, and the Convocation of the American
- 12 Churches in Europe, shall prescribe the manner in which its Deputies shall be
- 13 chosen.

EXPLANATION

This amendment brings the constitution into conformity with the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer, which teaches that “Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church” (BCP p. 299). It will extend to all members of The Episcopal Church the opportunity to serve as deputies to General Convention. These amendments will equip members of The Episcopal Church with the knowledge and understanding to lead effectively. Amending the constitution restores Confirmation to its rightful place as a “mature public affirmation of faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism” (BCP p. 412). The constitution will continue to require individuals serving as deputies for General Convention to be “communicants in good standing,” which is defined by canons I.17.2(a) and I.17.3 as “those who have received Communion three times in the previous year, and “have been faithful in corporate worship unless for good cause prevented and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God.”

Review Confirmation Requirements in Title III

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 159; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education
- 3 and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to review the
- 4 requirement for Confirmation in the Title III Canons on the ordination of
- 5 deacons and priests and consider any revisions to the canons needed to conform
- 6 them to the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, that this review include consultation with other provinces of the
- 8 Anglican Communion and full communion partners such as the Evangelical
- 9 Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, that the standing commissions report their findings to the 78th General
- 11 Convention in 2015.

EXPLANATION

Resolution 2009-B013 adopted by the 76th General Convention directed the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education to bring to the 77th General Convention “any proposed revisions to the canons to conform them to the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer.” The Commission began its work by focusing on canons pertaining to lay leadership in the Church. The Commission believes that consultation with the Standing Commission on Ministry Development and others partners is necessary to address canons pertaining to ordination. This resolution permits the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education to complete its work in consultation with the Standing Commission on Ministry Development in the next triennium and to report back to the 78th General Convention in 2015.

A045

TOPIC: COURTESY

Express Gratitude to the Consultation on Baptismal Theology

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 159; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 21 - Privilege and Courtesy

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the 77th General Convention express its gratitude and appreciation to
- 2 the Consultation on Baptismal Theology, first convened jointly by the Presiding
- 3 Bishop and the Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission in October 2007, for
- 4 its work, study, and prayer on the baptismal theology of the Book of Common
- 5 Prayer, which has greatly supported and informed the work of the Standing
- 6 Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education this past triennium.

EXPLANATION

Commend Continued Development of Lifelong Christian Formation

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 159–160; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 15 - Education

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 commend the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors
- 3 (NAECED) for their work in developing and supporting lifelong Christian
- 4 Formation in The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention commend the ministry of Christian
- 6 formation and education leaders in The Episcopal Church for continuing to lift up
- 7 The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation adopted at the 76th General
- 8 Convention and the importance of inviting, inspiring, and transforming people in
- 9 the Christian faith as well as the continued development of training for leaders of
- 10 the Church; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention commend to all dioceses and
- 12 congregations the use of online Christian formation and leadership certifications
- 13 as well as other forms of continuing education for Christian educators; and be it
- 14 further
- 15 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention commend the work of NAECED in
- 16 developing the Certificate in Leadership for Lifelong Christian Formation
- 17 (CLLCF), the programs of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia
- 18 Theological Seminary, the Certificate Program in Christian Education at the
- 19 Seminary of the Southwest, the Certificate in the Spiritual Guidance of Children
- 20 at the General Theological Seminary, and other recognized entities for offering
- 21 continuing education opportunities and certification for those called to the
- 22 ministry of Christian formation; and be it further
- 23 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention commend the Formation and
- 24 Vocation Offices of The Episcopal Church in actively collaborating and serving as
- 25 a resource as needed for the appropriate development and promotion of these
- 26 certificate programs.

EXPLANATION

Christian formation leaders, facilitators and teachers called to this ministry, paid or volunteer, need continuing education and resources to do their ministry. The Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education has been made aware in its research that the use of certification is sought and desired by Christian formation leaders and directors in the various dioceses and congregations. Affirming the variety of resources and centers available and making them known through organizations such as NAECED is good stewardship,

allowing congregations and dioceses to collaborate as opposed to working in isolation.

Research has shown a significant decrease in the number of diocesan and congregational professionals in Christian formation. Volunteer ministers are especially desirous of greater resources for skill development and confidence. The use of technology is so widely used now, it is in the Church's best interest to have continuing education and resources available on-line as well as in residential or local settings. This resolution does not mandate certification for those called to the ministry of Christian education; it reaffirms those who desire to continue their education and professional development.

In consultation with the Standing Commission on Ministry Development as well as NAECED, we are mindful of the need and desire to have this work incorporate the work of TEAC (Theological Education of the Anglican Communion) on Anglican Theological Competencies: teaching skills, knowledge in scripture, tradition, Anglican identity, personal and spiritual growth and transforming communities and systems. In addition, it is desired that this work for certification and continuing education be consistent with the increasing number of effective models for ministry development being used throughout The Episcopal Church. All models of ministry development need to be validated and supported equally.

A047

TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY

Develop an Electronic Learning Community

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 160–161; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 15 - Education

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That The Episcopal Church
- 2 develop an electronic learning community with delivery systems to support faith
- 3 formation, collaboration, and networking with interactive capabilities for cross-
- 4 conversations on the web; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, that upgrades in technology, necessary staff, technology networking as
- 6 needed and staff coordination within the Episcopal Church Center be completed;
- 7 and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, that the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team and the Office of
- 9 Communication be directed to collaborate and gather within one year of the
- 10 adoption of this resolution such resources and tools from all levels of the Church
- 11 to populate this electronic learning community; and it be further
- 12 *Resolved*, that this online community have elements of mission, worship,
- 13 advocacy, evangelism, scripture, environmental issues, Christian faith formation,
- 14 outreach, stewardship, and social justice as articulated in The Charter for
- 15 Lifelong Christian Formation and Education; and be it further
- 16 *Resolved*, that a review committee, charged with ensuring the integrity and
- 17 breadth in the development of these resource materials, and composed of nine
- 18 members representing various ministries and disciplines of the Church, be
- 19 appointed by the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the various
- 20 ministry disciplines of the Episcopal Church Center; and be it further
- 21 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 22 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$210,000.00 for
- 23 the upcoming triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church in the 21st century is called to look at providing faith formation resources via a network rather than single congregations or dioceses operating alone. The Church's diversity will call for faith opportunities for all ages, in all circumstances and in a variety of experiences. The Church is called to develop collaboration, including in how its members share the vast arena of Christian formation content. Today's technology now provides a means to do so.

Most dioceses and congregations do not have a staff member to search for program ideas, resources, and connections to the greater Episcopal community in the area of faith formation. The Internet has greatly reduced that isolation, but it takes a trained eye and an Episcopal ethos to weed through the vast amount of

content that is found on the web that can inform living out promises in the Baptismal Covenant and the Five Marks of Mission.

Offering such an online, curated resource would allow the Church to incorporate an immense range of faith formation opportunities. With the Formation and Vocations Ministries team working alongside the Office of Communication, a site can be developed to support the entire Church. Representatives from a variety of constituencies can serve as a review committee, vetting the practicality and relevance of content and time. All of this could be done electronically and would not need face-to-face meetings. In this way, all resources on this site will be examined as appropriate for use in Episcopal settings: home, church, school, and beyond.

The funds requested for this resolution would be targeted to the technology development that would need to be built for such a site over the next triennium. The Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education believes that such an online learning community can serve as a resource center for the 21st century and provide access to all in the Church and beyond, creating a hub for learning and transformation, exhibiting a collaborative effort in sharing the multitude of programs and resources that exist across the Church.

Form Congregational Song Task Force

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 166; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in response to the hymnal
- 3 revision feasibility study called for by the 76th General Convention, to form a
- 4 congregational song task force to further the mission of The Episcopal Church by
- 5 enlivening and invigorating congregational song through the development of a
- 6 variety of musical resources and energized and empowered leadership; and be it
- 7 further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music continue to
- 9 develop and expand the work begun in the World Music Project.

EXPLANATION

A majority of respondents to the hymnal revision feasibility study conducted in 2010-2011 do not favor revision of The Hymnal 1982. Respondents in Province IX expressed an urgent need for affordable musical resources suitable for their context, and non-European-American clergy and musicians expressed their desire to have culturally appropriate musical resources included in the official hymnal of the Church. A task force on congregational song will help discover and develop both music and musical leadership that contribute to congregational vitality. The work already begun in the world music project dovetails with the need for musical resources suitable for diverse contexts.

A049

TOPIC: LITURGY

Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 168; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 commend "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing"
- 3 for study and use in congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church; and be
- 4 it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention authorize for trial use "The
- 6 Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from "Liturgical Resources I: I
- 7 Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" beginning the First Sunday of Advent
- 8 2012, under the direction of a bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority; and be it
- 9 further
- 10 *Resolved*, That bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions
- 11 where same-gender marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal,
- 12 may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this
- 13 Church, including adaptation of the liturgy and declaration of intention contained
- 14 in "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing"; and be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music develop an open
- 16 process to review "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing," inviting
- 17 responses from provinces, dioceses, congregations, and individuals from
- 18 throughout The Episcopal Church and from throughout the Anglican
- 19 Communion, and report to the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

In response to Resolution 2009-C056, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music developed liturgical and theological resources for blessing same-gender relationships. Throughout the triennium, the commission heard stories of the urgent pastoral need for these resources in congregations of The Episcopal Church. Because these are new resources for a pastoral situation not previously recognized in official liturgical books of The Episcopal Church, the commission recommends that they be used under the direction of a bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority, and that there be a process of review in order to refine the materials, so that they are in keeping with Anglican theological and liturgical tradition.

A050

TOPIC: MATRIMONY

Create Task Force on the Study of Marriage

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 168–169; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to appoint a
- 3 task force of not more than twelve people, consisting of theologians, liturgists,
- 4 pastors, and educators, to identify and explore biblical, theological, historical,
- 5 liturgical, and canonical dimensions of marriage; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the task force consider issues raised by changing societal and
- 7 cultural norms and legal structures, including legislation authorizing or
- 8 forbidding marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships between two people
- 9 of the same sex, in the U.S. and other countries where The Episcopal Church is
- 10 located; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That the task force develop tools for theological reflection and norms
- 12 for theological discussion at a local level; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That the task force report its progress to the 78th General Convention;
- 14 and be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 16 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the
- 17 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

As the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music developed liturgical resources for blessing same-gender relationships, it faced repeated questions about marriage. What makes a marriage Christian? What is the relationship between the Church's blessing of a relationship, whether different-gender or same-gender, and a union, "marriage" or otherwise, created by civil law? Is the blessing of a same-gender relationship equivalent to the marriage of a different-gender couple, and if so, should this liturgy be called "marriage"?

Because the Church's understanding of marriage affects so many of its members, the Commission believes it is important to engage in a Churchwide conversation about our theology of marriage. The Dioceses of El Camino Real and North Carolina have both recently undertaken studies of marriage, with reports available from the Digital Archives.

A051

TOPIC: LITURGY

Continue Trial Use of Holy Women, Holy Men

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 169; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 continue the trial use of Holy Women, Holy Men until the next General
- 3 Convention; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on
- 5 Liturgy and Music to continue the process of inviting responses from the wider
- 6 Church and developing Holy Women, Holy Men for the coming triennium; and
- 7 be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be requested to
- 9 present the revised edition of Holy Women, Holy Men to the 78th General
- 10 Convention in 2015 for a first reading.

EXPLANATION

Identify Additional Church Calendar Commemorations

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 169-170; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consult with the
 3 Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women, the Episcopal Women’s
 4 History Project, and other organizations of women in The Episcopal Church to
 5 identify women suitable for inclusion in the Calendar of the Church Year and to
 6 develop liturgical material for their commemoration; and be it further
 7 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention propose additional commemorations
 8 in the Calendar of the Church Year and authorize trial use thereof for the
 9 triennium 2013-2015, as follows:
 10 • March 28, James Solomon Russell;
 11 • April 17, Emily Cooper;
 12 • May 15, Junia and Andronicus;
 13 • July 1, Pauli Murray;
 14 • July 29, First Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in The Episcopal Church;
 15 • August 17, Virginia Dare and Manteo;
 16 • September 23, Thecla.
 17 and be it further
 18 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention authorize for trial use as a
 19 supplement to *Holy Women, Holy Men* the propers for these commemorations as
 20 found in the Blue Book; and be it further
 21 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention authorize for trial use during the
 22 2013-2015 triennium alternative collects to those in *Holy Women, Holy Men*, as
 23 found in the Blue Book.

EXPLANATION

James Solomon Russell (March 28): Born in slavery, James Solomon Russell (1837-1935) nevertheless managed to obtain a sound education and attended the first seminary in Virginia founded for African Americans (later the Bishop Payne Divinity School). Ordained a deacon in 1882 and a priest in 1887, he served St. Paul’s, Lawrenceville, where he founded a normal school that would provide both a literary and industrial education for African Americans. Though elected Suffragan Bishop of Arkansas, and later of North Carolina, he declined both to continue his school; in 1917, he was appointed the first “Archdeacon for Colored Work” in Southern Virginia, and received honorary degrees from Virginia Theological Seminary and Monrovia College in Liberia.

Emily Cooper (April 17): At age 36, Emily Cooper became a deaconess in 1873. Shortly afterwards, she was called to serve in the Diocese of Kentucky. In 1880, she was made director of the Home of the Innocents in Louisville, where she cared for neglected, unwanted, seriously ill and abused children. She assisted at the baptisms of 284 children (often providing them with names since no one else had named them) and the burial of 220 who either had no parents or whose families were too poor to afford a grave.

Junia and Andronicus (May 15): Andronicus and Junia are referred to in Paul's letter to the Romans as "my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was" (Romans 16:7, NRSV). They are celebrated on May 17 in the Eastern Orthodox calendar.

Pauli Murray (July 1): Pauli Murray (1910-July 5, 1985) was the first African-American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood (1977). Growing up as a mixed-race person in the South, she became an advocate of "the universal cause of freedom," and throughout her life she worked tirelessly and with distinction as a lawyer, an advocate for civil and labor rights and feminism through her legal writings, essays and poetry.

Virginia Dare and Manteo (August 17): Virginia Dare was the first child of English parents born in the New World, days after the establishment of the Roanoke Colony, on August 18, 1587. Her baptism was held a few days after the colony's first baptism—that of Algonquian Native American Manteo on August 13; on that same day, Sir Walter Raleigh had proclaimed the chief "Lord of Roanoke." Manteo traveled to England with Raleigh several times, helped convert some of his people to Christianity, assisted the settlers during harsh winters, and proved an invaluable mediator between cultures. The ultimate fate of the "Lost Colony" and of Dare and Manteo remains unknown.

Thecla (September 23): Known from the apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla, Thecla was a follower of Paul. Widely venerated by the Church from at least the fourth century, she is called "Apostle and proto-martyr among women" among the Orthodox.

A053

TOPIC: LITURGY

Authorize Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 171-172; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 authorize Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation, found in the Blue Book
- 3 report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, for use in The
- 4 Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music consider these
- 6 liturgical materials for inclusion in a revised edition of The Book of Occasional
- 7 Services.

EXPLANATION

These materials respond to the desire for liturgical materials for a season of creation as expressed in resolutions proposed to the 76th General Convention. Rather than establishing a season of creation, these liturgical texts allow congregations and other groups to honor God in creation in a variety of contexts. While the Book of Occasional Services is being revised, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music proposes to make these texts available electronically.

A054

TOPIC: LITURGY

Authorize Rites and Prayers for the Care of Beloved Animals

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 172; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 authorize for use in congregations or other church groups wishing to provide
- 3 pastoral care for people caring for animals, liturgical materials found in the Blue
- 4 Book report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, entitled "Various
- 5 Rites and Prayers for Animals."

EXPLANATION

These liturgical texts respond to resolution 2009-Co78, which directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop liturgical resources to observe the loss of a companion animal. The Commission proposes to make these texts available electronically.

A055

TOPIC: LITURGY

Authorize Daily Prayer for All Seasons

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 172; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
- 2 Convention authorize liturgical materials entitled "Daily Prayer for All Seasons,"
- 3 found in the Blue Book report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music,
- 4 for publication and distribution by Church Publishing Incorporated for
- 5 experimental use by individuals and in congregations and other church groups
- 6 wishing to pray or meditate throughout the day.

EXPLANATION

Just as the Book of Common Prayer is threaded throughout with familiar scripture, this new resource draws heavily on the collects, rhythms and patterns that those who have used and love the BCP's daily office will recognize. This new resource is intended as a complement to the Daily Offices and Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families in the 1979 BCP, to encourage individuals and small groups, particularly those not already using the full Daily Offices, to take time to pray during the day.

A056

TOPIC: LITURGY

Continue Revision of the Book of Occasional Services

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 173; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue its work on a
- 3 revision of the Book of Occasional Services and report its progress to the 78th
- 4 General Convention.

EXPLANATION

The 76th General Convention directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to undertake a substantial revision of the Book of Occasional Services and report its progress to the 77th General Convention. The Commission established a subcommittee to undertake this work. It was determined that a realistic goal would be to work towards bringing a full report with recommendations to General Convention in 2015.

A057

TOPIC: LITURGY

Authorize Enriching Our Worship 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 173; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 authorize continuing use of Enriching Our Worship 1: The Daily Office, Great
- 3 Litany, and Eucharist; Enriching Our Worship 2: Ministry with the Sick and
- 4 Dying and Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults
- 5 together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child; Enriching Our Worship 4: The
- 6 Renewal of Ministry and the Welcoming of a New Rector or other Pastor; and
- 7 Enriching Our Worship 5: Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing,
- 8 Childbirth, and Loss, under the direction of a bishop exercising ecclesiastical
- 9 authority.

EXPLANATION

A058

TOPIC: LITURGY

Continue Addressing Christian Anti-Judaism

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 174; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue to collect,
- 3 review, and disseminate materials to address Christian anti-Judaism expressed in
- 4 and stirred by portions of Christian scriptures and liturgical texts.

EXPLANATION

This resolution asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to continue work first directed in Resolution 2006-C001, calling for “materials to assist members of the Church to address anti-Jewish prejudice expressed in and stirred by portions of Christian scriptures and liturgical texts.”

A059

TOPIC: LITURGY

Revise Book of Common Prayer for Revised Common Lectionary

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 174–176; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, the *Standard Book of Common*
- 2 *Prayer* shall be revised as follows:
- 3 p.271: Palm Sunday, Liturgy of the Palms
- 4 Year A: Matthew 21:1-11
- 5 Year B: ~~Mark 11:1-11a~~ *Mark 11:1-11, or John 12:12-16*
- 6 Year C: ~~Luke 19:29-40~~ *Luke 19:28-40*
- 7 p. 272: Palm Sunday, At the Eucharist
- 8 Old Testament: ~~Isaiah 45:21-25, or Isaiah 52:13-53:12~~ *Isaiah 50:4-9a*
- 9 Psalm: ~~22:1-21, or 22:1-11~~ *31:9-16*
- 10 Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
- 11 p. 273: Palm Sunday, At the Eucharist
- 12 Year A: ~~Matthew 26:36-27:54(55-66) or 27:1-54(55-66)~~ *Matthew 26:14-27:66,*
- 13 *or 27:11-54*
- 14 Year B: ~~Mark 14:32-15:39(40-47)~~ *Mark 14:1-15:47, or 15:1-39 (40-47)*
- 15 Year C: ~~Luke 22:39-23:49(50-56),~~ *Luke 22:14-23:56, or 23:1-49 (50-56)*
- 16 p. 274: Maundy Thursday
- 17 Old Testament: ~~Exodus 12:1-14a~~ *Exodus 12:1-4(5-10)11-14*
- 18 Psalm: ~~78:14-20,23-25~~ *116:1,10-17 (omit Hallelujah in verse 17)*
- 19 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (~~27-32~~)
- 20 Gospel: ~~John 13:1-15, or Luke 22:14-30~~ *John 13:1-17,31b-35*
- 21 p. 276: Good Friday
- 22 Old Testament: ~~Isaiah 52:13-53:12, or Genesis 22:1-18, or Wisdom 2:1,12-24~~
- 23 Psalm: ~~22:1-11(12-21), or 40:1-14, or 69:1-23~~
- 24 Epistle: ~~Hebrews 10:1-25~~ *Hebrews 10:16-25, or 4:14-16; 5:7-9*
- 25 p. 277: Good Friday
- 26 ~~John 18:1-19:37, or 19:1-37~~
- 27 *John 18:1-19:42*
- 28 p. 283: Holy Saturday
- 29 Old Testament: ~~Job 14:1-14, or Lamentations 3:1-9,19-24~~
- 30 Psalm: ~~130, or 31:1-5~~ *31:1-4,15-16*
- 31 Epistle: I Peter 4:1-8
- 32 Gospel: Matthew 27:57-66, or John 19:38-42

- 33 pp. 288-295: The Great Vigil of Easter:
 34 p. 288: The story of Creation
 35 ~~Genesis 1:1–2:2~~
 36 *Genesis 1:1–2:4a*
 37 ~~Psalm 33:1-11, or Psalm 36:5-10 136:1-9,23-26~~
 38 p. 288: The Flood
 39 Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
 40 Psalm 46
 41 p. 289: Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac
 42 Genesis 22:1-18
 43 ~~Psalm 33:12-22, or~~
 44 Psalm 16
 45 p. 289: Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea
 46 ~~Exodus 14:10–15:1~~
 47 *Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*
 48 Canticle 8, The Song of Moses
 49 p. 290: God’s Presence in a renewed Israel
 50 ~~Isaiah 4:2-6~~
 51 *Baruch 3:9-15,32–4:4, or Proverbs 8:1-8,19-21;9:4b-6*
 52 ~~Psalm 122~~
 53 *Psalm 19*
 54 p. 290: Salvation offered freely to all
 55 Isaiah 55:1-11
 56 ~~Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah, or Psalm 42:1-7~~
 57 p. 290: A new heart and a new spirit
 58 Ezekiel 36:24-28
 59 ~~Psalm 42:1-7, or Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah~~
 60 *Psalms 42 and 43*
 61 p. 291: The valley of dry bones
 62 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 63 ~~Psalm 30, or~~
 64 Psalm 143
 65 p. 291: The gathering of God’s people
 66 ~~Zephaniah 3:12-20~~
 67 *Zephaniah 3:14-20*
 68 ~~Psalm 98, or Psalm 126~~
 69 p. 295: At the Eucharist
 70 Gospel: *Year A* Matthew 28:1-10
 71 *Year B: Mark 16:1-8*
 72 *Year C: Luke 24:1-12*

EXPLANATION

General Convention Resolution 2006-A077 resolved that “the Revised Common Lectionary shall be the Lectionary of this Church, amending the Lectionary on pp. 889-921 of the Book of Common Prayer.” While the Revised Common Lectionary made no changes to Ash Wednesday, there are changes in the lectionary passages for each of the Holy Week liturgies and for the Easter Vigil. The section of “Proper Liturgies for Special Days”

(pp. 270-295) includes the passages appointed for these days. As a result, the internal pages of the Book of Common Prayer are no longer consistent with the Lectionary. This resolution brings pages 270-295 of the BCP into conformity with the current Lectionary of The Episcopal Church.

Article X of the Constitution requires that revisions to the Book of Common Prayer are proposed in one regular meeting of General Convention, published to the Diocesan Conventions, and adopted at the next succeeding regular meeting of General Convention by a vote by orders. This is the proposing resolution for revisions to the authorized text of the Book of Common Prayer, "Proper Liturgies for Special Days" (pp. 270–295) to reflect the previously approved changes to the Lectionary. If adopted, this revision will return to the next regular meeting of General Convention for second reading and vote by orders.

A060

TOPIC: LITURGY

Continue Work on Liturgies for Adoption of Children

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 176–177; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on
- 2 Liturgy and Music to continue the work of developing liturgical materials for
- 3 inclusion in the Enriching Our Worship series to address pastoral issues in the
- 4 context of adoption of children, and to report to the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music first began work on liturgical materials addressing pastoral issues in the context of adoption of children in response to General Convention Resolution 2006-A070. Work has begun on articulating theological principles and drafting liturgical materials. The Commission hopes to complete this project and present materials to the 78th General Convention in 2015.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 177; Constitution & Canons: p. 61

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon II.2 be amended to
2 read as follows:

3 **Canon 2: Of Translations of the Bible**

4 The Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer shall be read from the
5 translation of the Holy Scriptures commonly known as the King James or
6 Authorized Version (which is the historic Bible of this Church) together with the
7 Marginal Readings authorized for use by the General Convention of 1901; or from
8 one of the three translations known as Revised Versions, including the English
9 Revision of 1881, the American Revision of 1901, and the Revised Standard
10 Version of 1952; from the Jerusalem Bible of 1966; from the New English Bible
11 with the Apocrypha of 1970; or from The 1976 Good News Bible (Today's English
12 Version); or from The New American Bible (1970); or from The Revised Standard
13 Version, an Ecumenical Edition, commonly known as the "R.S.V. Common Bible"
14 (1973); or from The New International Version (1978); or from The New
15 Jerusalem Bible (1987); or from the Revised English Bible (1989); or from the
16 New Revised Standard Version (1989) (~~1990~~); *or from The Message (2002); or*
17 *from the Common English Bible (2011)*; or from translations, authorized by the
18 diocesan bishop, of those approved versions published in any other language; or
19 from other versions of the Bible, including those in languages other than English,
20 which shall be authorized by diocesan bishops for specific use in congregations or
21 ministries within their dioceses.

EXPLANATION

This amendment seeks to authorize two additional translations of the Holy Scriptures for use in the reading the Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer. It also corrects the date of publication of the New Revised Standard Version, which the 1991 General Convention added to this canon.

The Common English Bible is an important new translation involving 120 biblical scholars from 22 denominations, including the Anglican Communion. The translators came from American, African, Asian, European, and Latino communities. An additional 500 people field-tested the translation.

The Message Bible (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002) offers good biblical scholarship and a keen grasp of the nuance of the Greek and Hebrew texts often missed by standard translations, and a vivid contemporary idiom that improves greatly upon The Good News Bible. For congregations desiring to hear scripture with a contemporary conversational feel, for youth wanting a more engaging and readable Bible, for comparative

Bible study, and for those not fluent in traditional language, this Bible version preserves much of original the tone and rhythm in paraphrasing the original language texts in lively accessible English, ideal for reading aloud. Eugene Peterson, the author, is Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, is a Presbyterian pastor, poet, and author of many books, and earned his master's degree in Hebrew.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 178; Constitution & Canons: p. 62

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon II.3.5 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:
3 **Sec. 5.** No copy, translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or a part
4 or parts thereof, shall be made, printed, published, or used as of authority in this
5 Church, unless it contains the authorization of the Custodian of the Standard
6 Book of Common Prayer, certifying that the Custodian or some person appointed
7 by the Custodian has compared the said copy, translation, or edition with the said
8 Standard, or a certified copy thereof, and that it conforms thereto. *The*
9 *Custodian, or some person appointed by the Custodian, may exercise due*
10 *discretion in reference to translations of the entire Standard Book or parts*
11 *thereof, into the Church's other official languages, so that such translations*
12 *reflect the idiomatic style and cultural context of those languages.* And no copy,
13 translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or a part or parts thereof,
14 shall be made, printed, published, or used as of authority in this Church, or
15 certified as aforesaid, which contains or is bound up with any alterations or
16 additions thereto, or with any other matter, except the Holy Scriptures or the
17 authorized Hymnal of this Church, or with material set forth in the Book of
18 Occasional Services and The Proper for the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, as those
19 books are authorized from time to time by the General Convention.

EXPLANATION

Throughout our history, translations from the Standard Book of Common Prayer have tended to be rather literal translations on the formal equivalence model. To be a multi-lingual church with three official languages, it would seem to be a matter of simple justice to encourage a degree of idiomatic freedom, moving in the direction of dynamic equivalence, for translations of the Standard Book into French and Spanish. Moving in this direction could have positive implications for inculturation and evangelism, while remaining faithful to the content and direction of the Standard Book.

A063

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Meetings of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 179; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the General Convention
- 2 request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to
- 3 consider a budget allocation of \$105,000 for meetings of the Standing
- 4 Commission on Liturgy and Music during the 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

A064

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Liturgical Resource Work of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 179; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the General Convention request
- 2 the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a
- 3 budget allocation of \$202,000 for the work of the Standing Commission on
- 4 Liturgy and Music during the 2013-2015 triennium to develop and review
- 5 liturgical resources as mandated by General Convention and the Canons of the
- 6 Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 478–482; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon III.12 is hereby
2 amended to include a new Section 9 to read as follows:

3 **Sec. 9. Reconciliation or Dissolution of the Episcopal Relationship**

4 **(a)** *There shall be a Reconciliation Council comprised of the Presiding Bishop,*
5 *the President of the House of Deputies, the Vice President of the House of*
6 *Bishops and the Vice President of the House of Deputies. In the event of a*
7 *vacancy on the Reconciliation Council due to the incapacity of a member or a*
8 *vacancy in any of the four offices whose members comprise the Reconciliation*
9 *Council, the vacancy shall be filled within one month of its arising and as*
10 *follows: (i) where either of the episcopal positions is vacant, the Presiding*
11 *Bishop's Council of Advice shall appoint a Bishop to fill the vacancy; (ii) where*
12 *either the clerical or lay position is vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by an*
13 *appointment made by a majority of the clerical and lay members of Executive*
14 *Council with a clerical vacancy being filled by a member of the clergy and a lay*
15 *vacancy being filled by a member of the laity.*

16 **(b)** *When within a Diocese serious and sustained disagreement or dissension*
17 *exists between or among any of the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or*
18 *Bishop Suffragan, or between or among any of these and the Standing*
19 *Committee or Diocesan Convention, such that the disagreement or dissension*
20 *imperils their relationship or otherwise seriously compromises the diocese's*
21 *faithfulness to God's mission, any one or more of them may petition the*
22 *Presiding Bishop to convene the Reconciliation Council to intervene and assist in*
23 *resolving the disagreement or dissension. A Standing Committee's decision to*
24 *file a petition must be supported by a resolution adopted by a vote of two-thirds*
25 *of all members of the Standing Committee, and which designates not fewer than*
26 *three and not more than five members of the Standing Committee to act on*
27 *behalf of the Committee, which number shall include both orders and may not*
28 *include the Chancellor or any Vice or Deputy Chancellor. A Diocesan*
29 *Convention's decision to file a petition must be supported by a resolution*
30 *adopted by a vote taken in the same manner the Convention uses in electing a*
31 *bishop, at an annual or special meeting of the Convention and which designates*
32 *not fewer than three and not more than five Convention delegates to act on*
33 *behalf of the Convention, which number shall include both orders and may not*

34 include the Chancellor or any Vice or Deputy Chancellor. The petition shall be in
35 writing and shall include sufficient information to inform the Reconciliation
36 Council and the parties involved of the nature, causes, and specifics of the
37 disagreement or dissension, and the steps previously taken to resolve the
38 disagreement or dissension.

39 **(c)** Within fourteen days of receipt of the petition, the Presiding Bishop shall
40 send the petitioner acknowledgement of receipt and shall deliver a copy of the
41 petition to all other parties to the disagreement or dissension and to the other
42 members of the Reconciliation Council. In cases where the only parties to the
43 disagreement or dissension are bishops, the Presiding Bishop also shall send a
44 copy of the petition to the Standing Committee of the Diocese and to the
45 Secretary of the Diocesan Convention who shall distribute the petition to the
46 clergy and lay delegates.

47 **(d)** Promptly, but no later than forty-five days from the date the petition is
48 received by the Presiding Bishop, the Reconciliation Council shall direct that all
49 appropriate pastoral steps are taken to facilitate a resolution of the
50 disagreement or dissension in every informal way, and may appoint a
51 consultant for administrative and other appropriate support services, or
52 provide for mediation between or among the parties, or both. The parties,
53 following the recommendations of the Reconciliation Council, shall labor in
54 good faith that they may be reconciled or reach a mutual decision for
55 dissolution.

56 In order to facilitate a successful reconciliation process, the Reconciliation
57 Council may direct any of the following:

58 (1) That any Bishop who is a party undergo such examination and assessment
59 as may be determined by the Reconciliation Council. The results of the
60 examinations and assessments shall be made available to those examined and to
61 the Reconciliation Council.

62 (2) That where the Standing Committee is a party its members undergo such
63 examination and assessment as may be determined by the Reconciliation
64 Council. The results of the examinations and assessments shall be made
65 available to those examined and to the Reconciliation Council.

66 (3) Any other investigation, examination, assessment and reporting in the
67 course of the reconciliation process as the Reconciliation Council determines to
68 be consistent with the good order of the Church, the results of which shall be
69 reported fully to the Reconciliation Council.

70 The Reconciliation Council in its discretion and with written agreement of those
71 examined, may share the results of any examination or assessment arising from
72 subdivisions 1 or 2 of this subsection (d), or a summary thereof, with such
73 parties and other persons as may be conducive to the reconciliation goals of this
74 Canon. The Reconciliation Council in its discretion may share the results of any
75 examination, investigation, assessment or report arising from subdivision 3, or
76 a summary thereof, with such parties and other persons as may be conducive to
77 the reconciliation goals of this Canon.

78 **(e)** The Reconciliation Council shall monitor the progress of the reconciliation of
79 the disagreement or dissension with care and diligence, and shall ensure that

80 *the parties are kept apprised of the progress, or lack thereof, at least every three*
81 *months. The Reconciliation Council may set and adjust a schedule for the*
82 *reconciliation efforts, and shall require periodic reports from any consultant or*
83 *mediator involved in the process. After six months have passed from the receipt*
84 *of the petition, the Reconciliation Council shall meet to review the matter and*
85 *discern whether sufficient progress has been made to warrant additional*
86 *reconciliation efforts. If the Reconciliation Council discerns that sufficient*
87 *progress has been made to warrant additional reconciliation efforts, it shall*
88 *establish a plan for continuing the efforts, and continue to monitor the process*
89 *and keep the parties informed as provided in this subsection. At the six-month*
90 *point or at any point thereafter, if the Reconciliation Council discerns that*
91 *sufficient progress has not been made and that there is no good cause to*
92 *warrant additional reconciliation efforts, it shall proceed as provided in*
93 *subsections (g) and (h) of this Canon.*

94 **(f)** *If the differences between the parties are resolved through the process*
95 *described in subsections (d) and (e) of this canon to the satisfaction of them and*
96 *the Reconciliation Council, the resolution shall be incorporated into a written*
97 *reconciliation agreement signed by the parties and the Presiding Bishop on*
98 *behalf of the Reconciliation Council. The reconciliation agreement shall make*
99 *careful and thorough provision for the agreement of the parties and for the*
100 *implementation of the terms of the agreement, which shall include definitions of*
101 *responsibility and accountability for each party, and any other bodies or*
102 *individuals within the diocese whose participation is essential, and which may*
103 *include but is not limited to mutual evaluation, continued mediation, the*
104 *restriction of the ministry of a Bishop or the resignation of some or all parties in*
105 *the spirit of reconciliation. If the Diocesan Convention is a party to the*
106 *reconciliation agreement, it must adopt the agreement in order for the*
107 *agreement to become binding upon it. The terms and conditions of a*
108 *reconciliation agreement shall be binding on the parties to the agreement, the*
109 *Diocese, the Diocese's Ecclesiastical Authority and all Diocesan governing*
110 *bodies.*

111 **(g)** *A reconciliation agreement that provides for the resignation of a Bishop is*
112 *subject to the consent provisions of Article II.6 of the Constitution and Canon*
113 *III.12.8 (d), (e).*

114 *In the event that any required consent to a reconciliation agreement is not*
115 *forthcoming, the parties and the Reconciliation Council shall proceed as*
116 *provided in subsections (h) and (i) of this Canon, as though no reconciliation*
117 *agreement was made.*

118 **(h)** *If the Reconciliation Council has discerned that notwithstanding concerted*
119 *and sustained efforts, sufficient progress has not been made toward*
120 *reconciliation and that there is no good cause to warrant additional*
121 *reconciliation efforts, it shall so notify the parties and in the notice explain the*
122 *reasons for this decision. The Reconciliation Council shall then promptly, but no*
123 *later than 60 days following delivery of the notice, deliberate and issue a*
124 *judgment resolving the disagreement or dissension. The judgment shall be in*
125 *writing, shall explain the reasons for its provisions, and may order the*

126 dissolution of the relationship between a Bishop and the Diocese by 1) the
127 removal of a Bishop, 2) the removal of some or all members of the Standing
128 Committee, 3) the removal of both a Bishop and some or all members of the
129 Standing Committee 4) the restriction of the ministry of a Bishop, and 5) any
130 other action that is appropriate under the circumstances. In order to issue a
131 judgment, the Reconciliation Council must find both (i) that notwithstanding the
132 taking of all reasonable efforts, the disagreement or dissension is irreconcilable
133 under the circumstances of the imperfection of the human condition and (ii) that
134 the Diocese's faithfulness to God's mission is gravely compromised by the
135 irreconcilable disagreement or dissension.

136 **(i)** No judgment issued by the Reconciliation Council under subsection (g) of
137 this Canon that provides for the dissolution of the relationship between a Bishop
138 and the Diocese by 1) the removal of a Bishop, 2) the removal of some or all
139 members of the Standing Committee, 3) the removal of both a Bishop and some
140 or all members of the Standing Committee, may become effective without the
141 consent of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese and in the case of the removal
142 of a bishop the consent of the House of Bishops, following the vote of the
143 Diocesan Convention. If the Diocesan Convention shall not have a meeting
144 scheduled within three months of the issuance of the Reconciliation Council's
145 judgment, the Reconciliation Council shall direct the Secretary of the Diocesan
146 Convention to call a special meeting of the Diocesan Convention to consider the
147 matter within such time. If the House of Bishops shall not have a meeting
148 scheduled within three months of the Diocesan Convention's action, the
149 Presiding Bishop shall call a special meeting of the House for the purpose of
150 acting on the matter.

151 **(j)** Upon receipt of a signed reconciliation agreement, the Reconciliation
152 Council shall send a copy thereof, together with an abstract of the matter, to all
153 parties and to the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese.

154 **(k)** If at any time prior to the effective date of a judgment issued by the
155 Reconciliation Council under subsection (g) of this Canon the parties and the
156 Reconciliation Council enter into a reconciliation agreement as provided in
157 subsections (e) and (f) of this Canon, the judgment shall be rescinded.

158 **(l)** In the event of the failure or refusal of a party to comply with the terms of a
159 reconciliation agreement or a judgment of the Reconciliation Council that has
160 received any consents required by subsection (i), the Reconciliation Council may
161 invoke such remedies as may be set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the
162 Episcopal Church.

163 **(m)** For good cause, the Reconciliation Council may extend or shorten the time
164 periods specified in this Canon, for the good order of the Church, provided that
165 progress in the reconciliation or dissolution process is not unduly impaired. All
166 parties shall be notified in writing of the length of any change to a time period.

167 **(n)** Written and oral statements made during the course of proceedings under
168 this Canon are not discoverable or admissible in any proceeding under Title IV
169 of these Canons provided that this shall not require the exclusion of evidence in
170 any proceeding under the Canons which is otherwise discoverable and
171 admissible.

172 **(o)** *If prior to, or in the course of, proceedings under this Canon, a Title IV*
173 *Offense is alleged against a Bishop who is a party to a proceeding under this*
174 *Canon the Reconciliation Council may, but need not, suspend some or all*
175 *proceedings under this Canon for a period determined by the Reconciliation*
176 *Council.*

177 **(p)** *In any process under this Canon, each party, and the Reconciliation*
178 *Council, shall bear its own costs.*

179 **(r)** *In any process under this Canon, a party may be represented by an*
180 *attorney, but representation by an attorney shall not excuse a party from the*
181 *obligation to personally engage in the processes described in this Canon fully*
182 *and in good faith.*

183 **(s)** *The Reconciliation Council may adopt rules, procedures and guidelines for*
184 *its governance and procedures, consistent with this Canon and the Constitution*
185 *and Canons of the Church.*

186 And be it further

187 *Resolved,* That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
188 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$105,000 for the
189 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

Where there is serious and prolonged dissension or disagreement, God's mission is impeded. The spirit of the proposed canon, drafted in response to General Convention Resolution 2009-B014, is grounded first and foremost on seeking reconciliation and healing in such cases so that God's mission may thrive. The canon assumes that the parties have already made some effort to ameliorate their differences and have come to recognize the need for support or assistance. When there is dissension between or among the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, or any of these and the Standing Committee or Diocesan Convention, any of these may initiate the reconciliation process offered by this proposed canon. The proposed canon offers options for reaching reconciliation through a variety of means. However, it also recognizes that when other options have been exhausted, the dissolution of relationships is a legitimate avenue for healing and reconciliation.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 482; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Title III, Canon 9 be amended
2 by adding a new Section 14 as follows:
3 **Sec. 14. Impairment of a Member of the Clergy**
4 **(a)** *If, in the Bishop's judgment, there is sufficient reason to believe that the*
5 *ministry of a member of the clergy serving a congregation of the diocese is*
6 *severely impaired by physical, mental or substance abuse-related causes, it*
7 *shall be the duty of the Bishop to raise this concern with the member of the*
8 *clergy and the bishop may require a medical and/or psychological assessment.*
9 **(b)** *Should an assessment indicate that treatment is necessary, it shall be the*
10 *duty of the Bishop to provide assistance in making that treatment possible.*
11 **(c)** *Should the Bishop, after laboring to assist the member of the clergy in*
12 *securing treatment, have reason to believe that the impairment continues to*
13 *cause distress in the congregation, the bishop shall consult with the vestry to*
14 *enlist their help on resolution of the matter; and if, in the Bishop's judgment, the*
15 *matter is not resolved, then to present this concern to the Standing Committee*
16 *and request that an independent assessment be made of the relationship of the*
17 *member of the clergy and the congregation.*
18 **(d)** *Should that assessment indicate that the parish is sufficiently threatened by*
19 *the impairment of the clergy and should the Standing Committee concur by a*
20 *2/3 vote with this assessment, the Standing Committee shall recommend a*
21 *course of action to the bishop, which may include that the pastoral relationship*
22 *of the priest and congregation be terminated, according to the provisions*
23 *Section 13.d.6 through Section h.*

EXPLANATION

Theological Education: Ministry Formation

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 485–486; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
 2 Convention affirm that baptism is the source of all ministry and that ordained
 3 ministry education takes place within the context of preparing all for ministry;
 4 and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention directs the Standing Commission on
 6 Ministry Development to convene ministry education and formation providers,
 7 including to the deans, faculty, alumni/ae, and students of the eleven Episcopal
 8 seminaries and of the divinity schools of colleges and universities that have
 9 significant numbers of Episcopalian students and/or Anglican studies programs;
 10 representatives of the Association of Theological Schools; leaders and students of
 11 diocesan ministry schools, especially those that provide total and team ministry
 12 training programs; Living Stones Partnership; National Association of Christian
 13 Education Directors; provincial and diocesan Commissions on Ministry; the
 14 House of Bishops Theological Education Committee; the General Board of
 15 Examining Chaplains; those knowledgeable about the emergent church
 16 movement; representatives of Episcopal camp and conference centers; Episcopal
 17 chaplains; diocesan deployment officers; Diversity Social and Environmental
 18 Ministries; and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, in a series of
 19 regional consultations to generate a shared vision of theological education and
 20 formation for ordained ministry and to identify exemplary models for the
 21 formation, education, and evaluation of ordained ministry; and be it further
 22 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission report to the 78th General Convention
 23 its findings and recommendations; and be it further
 24 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing
 25 Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of
 26 \$210,000 for the hiring of a project manager, research and office expenses, and
 27 funding for regional gatherings necessary for the implementation of this
 28 Resolution in this triennium.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Ministry Development recommends that during the next triennium, The Episcopal Church undertake an invitational, consultative process to address the challenges and uncover the opportunities of the “mixed economy of

theological education” for ordained ministry.

The Commission recommends the convening of regional consultations: (i) to generate a shared vision of theological education and formation for ordained ministry, and (ii) to identify exemplary models for the formation, education and evaluation of ordained ministry, believing that the Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC) ministry grids will serve as a good basis for starting the conversation.

This process should include the voices and perspectives of all stakeholders listed in the resolution. There also is merit in consulting with ecumenical colleagues in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Methodist Church, both of which have very different perspectives on and resources for theological education and formation for ordained ministry.

The Standing Commission on Ministry Development recommends that this work be organized and led by a project manager funded by The Episcopal Church during the next triennium. Ideally, a project manager would have an office and technological and other resources to survey and gather data from key individuals and then to convene at least five regional consultations with representatives of each of the stakeholder groups at each of the regional consultations. The Commission recommends that these consultations focus on dialogue and conversation rather than presentations, with participants working in small group sessions to share information and brainstorm paths forward.

Furthering the Ministry of all the Baptized

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 494–495; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
 2 commend the use of *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* to all
 3 provinces, dioceses and congregations to advance the empowerment of laity as
 4 full partners in ministry; and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct that Office of
 6 Communications department of The Episcopal Church post *Liberating Ministry:*
 7 *A Resource for All the Baptized* in English and with appropriate translations on
 8 The Episcopal Church website to be readily accessible to all provinces, dioceses,
 9 congregations and individuals; and be it further
 10 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct the staff of the Domestic and
 11 Foreign Missionary Society to research and add resources to *Liberating*
 12 *Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized*, including resources in appropriate
 13 languages; and be it further
 14 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct that the Standing Commission
 15 on Ministry Development to annually monitor the updating of *Liberating*
 16 *Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized*.

EXPLANATION

The 65th General Convention passed Resolution 1976-DO05 entitled “Establish a Study Committee on Total Ministry.” This committee’s study was to include consideration of the possibility for certification of laity for specialized training and skills and, further, for the recognition of their accomplishment in ministry. During the ensuing 36 years, the Church’s vision of the ministry of the laity has evolved from associating lay ministry solely with the worship functions of the Church, to a more complete understanding of the vocation of laity as lived out in the world. The Church continues to develop resources for all its ministers as we seek to live fully into the Baptismal Covenant. The online availability of *Liberating Ministry* complements mandate to “(use) current technology and a vibrant, contemporary communications network.” This strategy is a cost-effective method of distributing and sharing ministry resources. It also is a way to encourage and support collaboration among provinces, dioceses, congregations and individuals.

Fund the Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 496; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing
- 2 Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation from
- 3 the Canonical budget of the General Convention of \$60,000 for the meeting
- 4 expenses of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development during the
- 5 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Ministry Development is proud of its innovative use of Adobe Connect, which enabled commission members to meet more regularly for less cost than would have been feasible if gathering physically. The \$60,000 budget allocated for the 2010–2012 triennium allowed the full Commission to meet physically three times and via Adobe Connect web conference fifteen times. The four subcommittees also met regularly using Adobe Connect, and two of the four subcommittees (pastoral and ordained) met physically. While the Commission projects to complete its work in the triennium with a balance remaining (estimated to be \$10,000–\$15,000), the subcommittees have requested additional in-person subcommittee meetings to be more effective in their work. As such, the expectation is to expend the entire \$60,000 in the next triennium.

Develop a Multimedia-Based Evangelism Guide

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 502; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 12 - Evangelism

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General
 2 Convention direct the appropriate Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society staff
 3 office to design and develop a multimedia Evangelism Guide to assist dioceses
 4 and local congregations as they participate in evangelism with groups who are
 5 under-represented in the domestic church; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the guide include details about, but not be limited to: asset-based
 7 congregational development, tools for building relationships and an evangelism-
 8 focused church culture, the traditions and uses of storytelling, community
 9 organizing tools for connecting with the local community, and the history of the
 10 ethnic ministries in this Church; and be it further
 11 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing
 12 Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of
 13 \$30,000 for the implementation of this Resolution during the 2013–2015
 14 triennium, including creation and distribution of the guide.

EXPLANATION

Luke 5:4-6: “When he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.”

As the Episcopal Church seeks to engage God’s mission, congregations and dioceses must pursue evangelism and mission that honors their unique community contexts, in partnership with populations who are under-represented in the local congregations, dioceses and throughout The Episcopal Church. This guide will set forth culturally, socially appropriate methods of evangelism to widen the Church’s reach.

It is expected that the ethnic missionaries of the Diversity, Social and Environment Team of The Episcopal Church Center will spearhead this effort in cooperation with other offices, including but not limited to Christian Formation and Young Adults & Campus Ministries.

Amend Canon III.8.5(g)(5)

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 502–503; Constitution & Canons: p. 80

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon III.8.5(g)(5) is hereby
- 2 amended to read as follows:
- 3 (5) Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary
- 4 experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ~~ministry~~
- 5 *skills training and cultural competencies with the following domestic*
- 6 *ethnicities/cultures: people of Asian descent, people of African descent, people of*
- 7 *indigenous/Native American descent, people of Latino/Hispanic descent, young*
- 8 *people and sexual minorities.* Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the
- 9 ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one’s first
- 10 language.
- 11 And be it further
- 12 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention challenge seminaries to develop at
- 13 least one course or partner with another organization to provide students with
- 14 cross-cultural training and competency; and be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, That each seminary in The Episcopal Church submit a report to the
- 16 Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church
- 17 each year beginning in 2013 to document their work in this area.

EXPLANATION

Luke 10:2: “And Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Recent studies prove that the fastest-growing congregations in the Episcopal Church are those that intentionally invite and welcome other ethnicities and cultures to experience God’s love. And yet, clergy and seminarians report that there is little adequate preparation around the canonical area “Contemporary Society.” Seminaries can and should highlight cultural exposure and language acquisition, but appropriate formation for ordained leadership today must also include cross-cultural training. With this background, leaders can help communities to truly engage the cultures that will soon make up the majority of our mission field.

A072

TOPIC: CANONS

Add Canon III.8(5)(h)(5)

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 503; Constitution & Canons: p. 80

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that Canon III.8.5(h) is hereby
2 amended to add subsection 5:
3 *(5) the practice of ministry development and evangelism.*
4 And be it further
5 *Resolved*, That preparation for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, as
6 well as preparation for people who serve as lay pastoral leaders (lay leaders of
7 congregational teams), include achieving competency in the leadership arts of
8 ministry development and evangelism, either by participating in training(s) or
9 completing coursework that addresses the following skills: 1) understanding
10 differences in cultural contexts, 2) storytelling as a practice for evangelism and
11 community-building, 3) growing and facilitating the leadership of all God's
12 people, 4) building teams of lay leaders, 5) identifying leaders and their passions
13 and calling forth gifts, 6) building capacity in nonprofit organizations, and 7)
14 engaging God's mission in the local community and in the world; and be it
15 further
16 *Resolved*, That the College for Bishops provide training in ministry development
17 and evangelism, addressing the above skill areas, within the triennium ending in
18 2015.

EXPLANATION

Ephesians 4:11-12: "So Christ gave [some] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Whether they are based in a conventional ministry or an innovative one, today's church leaders simply have to be adept at building relationships, sharing faith stories, creating networks, understanding cultural context, growing the people's leadership and facilitating teams. Too many leaders enter ministry and discover they have little capacity in these critical areas.

The acquisition of these skills has been part of basic training for ministry developers, church starters and community organizers for decades, and it is now essential that they be incorporated into the training of those who lead our congregations and dioceses.

While there is no single Episcopal program for acquiring these skills, the following resources are recommended:

- 1) Public Narrative (New Organizing Institute),

- 2) Faith-Based Community Organizing (Industrial Areas Foundation, Gamaliel Network, PICO Network),
- 3) Total Ministry (Living Stones Partnership),
- 4) Circle Leadership (Indigenous Theological Training Institute),
- 5) Asset-Based Community Development (Asset-Based Community Development Institute), and
- 6) Facilitative Leadership (Interaction Institute for Social Change).

- 1) <http://neworganizing.com>,
- 2) <http://www.industrialareasfoundation.org>, <http://www.gamaliel.org>, <http://www.piconetwork.org>,
- 3) <http://www.livingstonespartnership.net>,
- 4) <http://www.indigenoustheologicaltraininginstitute.org>,
- 5) <http://www.abcdinstitute.org>, and
- 6) <http://interactioninstitute.org>.

Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 504–505; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 12 - Evangelism

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
2 establish the Mission Enterprise Fund, to be administered by the Executive
3 Council Standing Committee on Local Ministry and Mission, with \$1 million for
4 the 2013–2015 triennium; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That Diocesan Standing Committees and Bishops partner to create
6 "Mission Enterprise Zones," defined as a geographic area, as a group of
7 congregations or as an entire diocese committed to mission and evangelism that
8 engages under-represented groups, including young people, people of color, poor
9 and working-class people, people with a high-school diploma or less, and/or
10 people with little or no church background or involvement; and be it further
11 *Resolved*, That a Diocese may apply for a matching grant of up to \$20,000 from
12 the Mission Enterprise Fund, to facilitate the development of the Mission
13 Enterprise Zone; and be it further
14 *Resolved*, That congregational leaders in Mission Enterprise Zones participate in
15 trainings around anti-racism, cross-cultural community development, and
16 ministry development and evangelism, in order to gain the skills to effectively
17 build relationships with groups currently under-represented in The Episcopal
18 Church but growing throughout our domestic mission field; and be it further
19 *Resolved*, That each Mission Enterprise Zone feature a strategic plan to start or
20 redevelop a congregation that is intentionally multi-cultural, incorporating the
21 presence and leadership of under-represented generations, socio-economic
22 groups, races, ethnicities and/or languages; and be it further
23 *Resolved*, That for the period between the 77th and 78th General Conventions,
24 these enterprise zones be created and be granted greater freedom as authorized
25 by the Bishop in consultation with diocesan leadership regarding the designation
26 of "congregation" status, traditional formation for and use of ordained
27 leadership, and the use of authorized texts for principle worship gatherings; and
28 be it further
29 *Resolved*, That diocesan leaders report to the Standing Commission on the
30 Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church the results of their efforts,
31 including a description of the Mission Enterprise Zone and the process for
32 creating the zone, the number and nature of new faith communities created, the
33 number and demographic profiles of people associated with these communities,

34 and the ministries established within the zone; and be it further
35 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The
36 Episcopal Church compile and reflect on these accounts and use them to fulfill
37 the request of the Executive Council to help the Church "create a canonical
38 process to incorporate new faith community models into our existing structures"
39 by the 78th General Convention; and be it further
40 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing
41 Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of
42 \$1,000,000 to implement this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.” Romans 12:4-6

Many local leaders have taken up the challenge to engage in mission in creative, culturally sensitive ways. They report that they need greater flexibility and permission, in collaboration with diocesan leaders, in order to pursue God’s mission appropriately. The action this resolution proposes would offer that flexibility.

Structures are important and necessary, but they must be flexible enough not to inhibit the proclamation of the gospel by faithful Episcopal communities, and they have to be re-evaluated as mission conditions on the ground shift. By creating these stations for mission enterprise, and then studying them, we will know what structures to create to recognize and encourage the growth of new and redeveloped faith communities.

In addition to the Mission Enterprise Fund, the dioceses will have access to resources available locally and from the Episcopal Church Center, to include but not be limited to research and demographic information, resources for evangelism, church planting and redevelopment, anti-racism, and ministry in different cultural contexts.

Identify and Deploy Lay Evangelists

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 505–506; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 12 - Evangelism

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 challenge each diocese, in accordance with Canon III.3.1(a) and Canon III.4.9, to
- 3 develop a plan to identify, train and use the gifts of lay Evangelists in local
- 4 settings; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention challenge each diocese to license the
- 6 number of Evangelists equal to one quarter of the number of congregations in the
- 7 diocese by 2015; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That General Convention challenge each diocese to develop local
- 9 evangelism training resources that match the cultural settings within which
- 10 members will share the good news in word and deed.

EXPLANATION

Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

By using the gifts of Spirit-filled, passionate, trained and licensed “evangelists” as seed planters, we trust that more members will grow as evangelists and thus grow our communities of faith into the fullness of the Body of Christ. Many people have the natural gift for evangelism, and with greater training and careful identification and strategic deployment, they can become the leaders who draw us all into this essential ministry.

Restructure General Convention and Church Governance

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 506–507; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, there shall be a Task Force of the
2 General Convention on Missional Structure and Strategy, the composition of
3 which shall be at the discretion of the Presiding Bishop and the President of the
4 House of Deputies and the members of which shall be appointed jointly thereby
5 not later than 90 days following the adjournment of this 77th General
6 Convention. The Task Force shall be charged with presenting a plan to the
7 Church for reforming its structures, governance, administration, and staff to
8 facilitate this Church’s faithful engagement in Christ’s mission in a way that
9 maximizes the resources available for that mission at all levels of this Church;
10 and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, While acknowledging the historical legislative function of General
12 Convention, serious consideration should be given to, but not limited by, more
13 mission-focused models of General Convention that include the following: 1)
14 Simplifying the structure of General Convention governance (e.g. unicameral
15 legislature); 2) Training for evangelism, church planting, congregational
16 development, storytelling and community formation; 3) Sharing of best practices
17 and facilitating grass roots networks; 4) Catalyzing spiritual revival and renewal
18 of the church; 5) Increasing the capacity to impact the host community in the
19 Name of Jesus Christ; and be it further
- 20 *Resolved*, The Task Force shall endeavor to issue its report and recommendations
21 along with resolutions necessary to implement them, including proposed
22 amendments to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, so that they might
23 be considered by a special General Convention prior to the convening of the 78th
24 General Convention in 2015, but in any event, not later than February 1, 2015;
25 and be it further
- 26 *Resolved*, The General Convention requests the Joint Standing Committee on
27 Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for
28 the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

“Jesus proclaimed in the synagogue, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

The administrative and governance structures of The Episcopal Church have grown over the years so that they now comprise approximately 47% of the church-wide budget and sometimes hinder rather than further this Church's engagement in God's mission. Reform is urgently needed to facilitate this Church's strategic engagement in mission and allow it to more fully live into its identity as the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in a world that has changed dramatically but is filled with extraordinary missional opportunity—if we are focused on meeting it.

Strengthen Small Congregations

PROPOSER

Standing Commission for Small Congregations

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 514–515; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 11 - Small Congregations

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Standing Commission for
2 Small Congregations in partnership with the Office of Congregational Vitality
3 publish information about effective ministry practices for small congregations
4 currently in use and being developed in small congregations and dioceses; and be
5 it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations collaborate
7 with other Commissions, Committees, Agencies, Boards, networks, and
8 organizations throughout the Church (such as Living Stones, the Domestic
9 Missionary Partnership, Ministry Developer’s Collaborative, Native American
10 and other ethnic specific ministries, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Rural
11 Ministry Network, Center for Baptismal Living, Church Deployment Office) about
12 issues and concerns related to the strengthening of small congregations; and be it
13 further
14 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations continue
15 strategic discussions with the Church Pension Fund regarding compensation and
16 benefit issues for participating ordained and non-ordained persons serving small
17 congregations; and be it further
18 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations be an active
19 participant in current and future conversations throughout the Church related to
20 Seminary education and other vehicles of life-long Christian Formation for
21 ordained and non-ordained leaders serving small congregations; and be it further
22 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission for Small Congregations plan with the
23 General Convention Office to make the mission, ministry and vitality of small
24 congregations a major emphasis of the 78th General Convention; and that a
25 budget of \$25,000 be allotted for this.

EXPLANATION

Model Prisoner Ministry

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 519–520; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General
 2 Convention commit to the Biblical call to "proclaim release to the captives" and to
 3 set the prisoners free," and be it further
 4 *Resolved*, that justice must be done for victims and offenders alike; and be it
 5 further
 6 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church is firmly committed to a system of justice
 7 that seeks to provide prisoners with assistance both before and after their release,
 8 including alternatives to prison where appropriate, and programs in prison
 9 offering offenders the chance to learn job skills and complete education; and be it
 10 further
 11 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church seek to address the concern of prisons built
 12 in remote areas resulting in further separation of families thus making the
 13 situation for juvenile offenders particularly difficult; and be it further
 14 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church develops a social statement on prison
 15 reform and The Death Penalty; and be it further
 16 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church commit the sum of \$100,000 to develop
 17 and implement a model program based on the above resolve in this Resolution, in
 18 partnership with interested others, at an appropriate penal facility in the United
 19 States; and be it further
 20 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recognize and express its gratitude to the
 21 many ministries of the church, including those of prison chaplains, volunteers,
 22 parishes and dioceses that work to support prisoners and their families; and be it
 23 further
 24 *Resolved*, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
 25 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$100,000 for the
 26 implementation of this Resolution.

EXPLANATION

The commission discussed extensively its past financial issues and to what facilities, federal, state, temporary or permanent these finances should apply and whether the Bishop Suffragan for Federal Prisons should be asked to create a model that can be replicated at the state level. Based on this discussion it was decided that the requested amounts should remain the same.

The Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy recognizes that the funding requested in the last General Convention was not available and may not be in the next Triennium. However, as Federal, State and local governments cut back on the incarceration of non-violent prisoners the need for a model program will be critical. That program could bring together public and private partnerships already working in the areas of addiction, domestic violence, health care, child welfare, employment and poverty. The call to ministry could be made by this General Convention for a gathering of individuals interested in developing the model and moving it forward. Those answering could be brought together electronically. The cost could be held to a minimum and once the model was developed funding could come from many sources.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 520–521; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church urge all dioceses to adopt the following statement:
- 3 Personal history is a fundamental human right and knowledge of one’s entire
- 4 parentage should be assumed as part of a person’s natural property.
- 5 And be it further;
- 6 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention urge all dioceses to adopt the
- 7 following statement: That all state legislatures be urged to establish procedures
- 8 that would enable adoptees (upon reaching legal age) to secure current
- 9 information regarding their historical heritage, medical history, and genetic
- 10 derivation without the necessity of court action.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has had little formal conversation on issues related to the advances in genetic engineering, and their impact upon our daily lives. At the 76th General Convention, such an opportunity was missed as a similar resolution to this was submitted. Though the resolution passed for debate, it did not get out of legislative committee in time for consideration by General Convention. The Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy believes that a general debate is timely and of increasing importance to the wider Church. It is of note that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in its 2011 Churchwide Assembly received a social statement paper on Genetics.

Adoptees in the United States are not necessarily granted knowledge of their parentage because state law in forty eight states seals their original birth certificate. There are no laws that protect the identity history of children born using artificial reproductive technology. Sperm, egg, and/or embryo donations may not be disclosed to the children so conceived. Similar concerns exist for children born of surrogacy parenting.

Theological grounds for knowledge of one’s origins maybe seen in scripture: a) Old Testament scriptural testimony is structured around genealogical narratives; b) the theological concept of adoption witnessed by Paul incorporates knowledge of one’s origins; c) Jesus’ birth narratives incorporate genealogies; d) the concept of fatherhood is retained in the New Testament. Furthermore, Church history has testified to the importance of blood line in canon law. The theological concept that a person may become a “child of God” by the “Will of God” does not negate other origin narratives, but fulfills them. Narrative theology emphasizes the importance of the human narrative on personal and social levels.

The Episcopal Church has also declared in Resolution 1982-Do82 that state legislatures be urged to establish procedures that would enable adoptees, upon reaching legal age, to secure current information regarding their

historical heritage, medical history and genetic derivation without the necessity of court action and with sufficient safeguards provided for the protection of all parties in the adoptive triangle: the adoptee, the adoptive parents, and the biological parents.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 521–522; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, That the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
2 Convention, in light of its call to "promote a culture of nonviolence which values
3 love, compassion, and justice, and rejects violence as a means of solving
4 problems" (General Convention Resolution 2000-D022, "Support the UN's
5 Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence") and its call "That each
6 congregation of the Episcopal Church become a model for peacemaking in our
7 violent society by encouraging its members to commit themselves to nonviolent
8 and peaceable behavior in their relationships with others" (General Convention
9 Resolution 2000-A058, "Encourage Congregations to Adopt a 'Pledge of
10 Nonviolence'"), express its concern about recent attacks on public, peaceful
11 political activists and their organizations who speak out on human rights issues
12 which may conflict with foreign policy of the United States government; and be it
13 further
14 *Resolved*, That the General Convention express its concern of the use of the
15 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (1996), the Patriot Act, and the
16 Supreme Court decision, "Holder vs. Humanitarian Law Project" (June 2010),
17 which allowed the FBI to issue Grand Jury subpoenas to twenty-three peace and
18 anti-war activists in the Fall of 2010 by citing federal law that they provided
19 material support or resources to designated foreign terrorist organizations; and
20 be it further
21 *Resolved*, That the General Convention express its concern that these FBI Grand
22 Jury subpoenas have a chilling effect on God's call to peacemaking; and be it
23 further
24 *Resolved*, That the General Convention express its concern that these FBI Grand
25 Jury subpoenas have unduly impacted the Arab, Palestinian and Muslim
26 communities of the United States; and be it further
27 *Resolved*, That the General Convention commend those Episcopal congregations
28 for their work on interfaith bridge building, especially between Christian and
29 Muslim communities; and be it further
30 *Resolved*, that the Secretary of General Convention send this resolution to
31 President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder.

EXPLANATION

American government surveillance and oppression of people who challenge United States policy has a long history, including FBI surveillance of civil rights movement leaders: Martin Luther King, Jr., in particular, and Puerto Rican independence advocates. Anthony D. Prince wrote in *The People's Tribune*, "the harassment intensified after King publically condemned the war in Vietnam, denouncing the U.S. involvement as irreconcilable with economic and social justice for American's poor...his assassination came on the heels of an internal FBI report that labeled King a 'direct threat to American security.'" The FBI's surveillance program, which became known as COINTELPRO, targeted not only Martin Luther King, Jr. but also the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement and many other individuals and organizations. Since September 11, 2001, the Bush and Obama administrations have brought Palestinian, Arab and Muslim activists before Grand Juries, including Dr. Abdelhaleem Ashqar, Dr. Sami al-Arian, and Ghassan Elashi of the Holy Land Foundation. Most recently on September 23, 2011, ten Muslim students who had been arrested for protesting Ambassador Michael Oren's February 8, 2010 speech at the University of California at Irvine, were found guilty of misdemeanor charges and were sentenced to 56 hours of community service and three years' probation, to be reduced to one year after the completion of the community service. In late July 2011, FBI training material which contained bigoted and inflammatory views on Muslims came to light.

In the fall of 2010, twenty-three anti-war and peace activists, including Columbian and Palestinian solidarity workers, have been subpoenaed by the FBI as part of what the United States government is calling an investigation into "material support" for groups the United States Department of State has declared "foreign terrorist organizations." The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 created this new category of prohibited activity, namely "material support." Five years later, as one result of September 11, Congress approved the USA Patriot Act which broadened the provisions of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. Then in June 2010 the Supreme Court's decision, "Holder vs. Humanitarian Law Project," according to the Center for Constitutional Rights "marks the first time that the Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment permits Congress to make pure speech advocating lawful, non-violent activity-human rights advocacy and peacemaking a crime." In summary, the Center for Constitutional Rights contends that "these material support provisions violate the First Amendment as they criminalize activities like distribution of literature, engaging in political advocacy, participating in peace conferences, training in human rights advocacy, and donating cash and humanitarian assistance, even when this type of support is intended only to promote lawful and non-violent activities." (1) In early October 2010, seventeen organizations and ninety-six individuals signed the "Chicago Faith Community Statement on FBI Raids and Grand Jury." It reads in part:

"We are people of faith and conscience who condemn the recent FBI raids in Chicago as a violation of the constitutional rights of the people and organizations raided. They are a dangerous step to further criminalize dissent. The FBI raids chisel away and bypass fundamental constitutional rights by hauling activists before grand juries under the guise of national security. An overly broad definition of "material support for terrorism" in the June 2010 US Supreme Court ruling concerns us as people of faith who continue to be actively engaged in humanitarian work and peacemaking...we believe that peacemaking is a sacred commandment...we refuse to remain silent in the face of the latest efforts of the FBI to chill dissent against war by invading homes of peace activists and calling a grand jury with sweeping powers to manufacture fear. We denounce the use of fear and the far-reaching labeling of critical dissent as "terrorism" that tramples on not only our right, but our duty to dissent as people called to a moral standard of justice for all."

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 522–523; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 of the Episcopal Church commit to working towards a just and fair Internal
3 Revenue Code by adopting the following policies:
- 4 • Supporting an Internal Revenue Code that is fair to all classes of peoples and
5 that acknowledges taxing the middle and lower income classes so the higher
6 income classes can receive greater benefit is not beneficial to supporting all
7 peoples;
 - 8 • Supporting an Internal Revenue Code that Equally distributes the financial
9 burdens and benefits of income taxes;
 - 10 • Acknowledging the positive results of the poverty alleviation programs within
11 the Internal Revenue Code and fostering their continuation and expansion;
 - 12 • Supporting an Internal Revenue Code that Recognizes the greatest tax burden
13 should not be shouldered by one class of people but should be shared
14 proportionally based on wealth and income; and understand that one class of
15 people should not reap tax benefits to the detriment of others.
 - 16 • Supporting an Internal Revenue Code that supports the growth and
17 development of small businesses; and
 - 18 • Acknowledging that supporting and uplifting the poorest Americans should be
19 the greatest goal of the tax code and where we place our most concerted effort.
- 20 And be it further
- 21 *Resolved*, the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage The
22 Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations to speak on behalf of The
23 Episcopal Church’s commitment that government funds be used consistently for
24 the alleviation of the needs of the most vulnerable in our society; and that the
25 Episcopal Public Policy Network assist local Bishops, Dioceses and Public Policy
26 Networks with this issue at their federal, state and local setting.

EXPLANATION

The Internal Revenue Code (the tax code of the United States) is a conglomeration of special interest carve-outs, tax abatements for the wealthiest of the wealthy and corporate incentives. Coupled with this are small poverty alleviation programs and tax breaks for the lower and middle income. All of this together creates volumes of a code that continues to overtax some, while not taxing others their proportionate share. To completely create a new tax code is not something The Episcopal Church could do, but the Church can make sure new legislation supports a fair and just code: one that understands poverty alleviation can be done well

through tax abatements, tax breaks, and tax credits (such as Earned Income Tax Credit); one that recognizes for every tax break, there is a reduction in income to the United States, hence a reduction in programming.

These programming cuts affect the most vulnerable among us. We need to recognize that the current tax code does not serve all classes of people equally. Some are over taxed while others are under taxed; tax breaks have cost associated with them. For every dollar the United States does not receive in taxes, is a dollar not available for poverty programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) and Section 8 housing supplement. We should support a tax code that is fair to all classes of people.

Call for Reform Certain of Interest Rates

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 523–524; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 of the Episcopal Church commit to working towards usury laws that consider the
 3 following principles:
 4 • Reforming interest rates such that debts can be repaid in a timely manner
 5 without crushing the debtor;
 6 • Creating stricter usury laws which continue to establish the idea of a fair
 7 repayment schedule;
 8 • Eliminating a carve out of usury laws and other regulations for the most
 9 egregious of loans; and
 10 • Working towards a lowering of the maximum interest allowable by law to
 11 12.99%.
 12 And be it further
 13 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church encourage
 14 The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations to speak on behalf of The
 15 Episcopal Church’s commitment that interest rates and usury laws need
 16 reformation in our society; and that the Episcopal Public Policy Network assist
 17 local Bishops, Dioceses and Public Policy Networks with this issue at their
 18 federal, state and local setting.

EXPLANATION

Usury is excessive interest. Rates have been consistently going up since the creation of the United States. The founding of our country set interest rates at 6% and in the 1970s the interest rate was 10%. Now, our Nation’s legal interest rate is 39.99%. That means a credit card can charge you \$39 to borrow \$100 legally. Furthermore, loan products such as payday loans, check cashing fees, rapid refund tax return schemes and other car-title scams are exempt from usury laws, and their interest can amount to over 100%. Prohibitions against usury go back centuries, even back to the Bible. Prophets decried usury, our founding fathers decried usury. Usury laws put proportion and equity into the relationship between the lender and the borrower. It allows for repayment capacity. It allows for a production of long term wealth, instead of an economy based on the financial misfortune of others. We must reconsider our usury laws, strengthen them, and allow interest rates that help the debtor be able to repay and the creditor continue to be able to lend.

Call for Reform of Mortgage Lending Practices

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 524; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 of the Episcopal Church commit to working towards reformation of the mortgage
 3 lending industry by supporting legislation that adheres to the following
 4 principles:
- 5 • Fair-lending community reinvestment policies;
 - 6 • Micro-financing and micro-lending;
 - 7 • Programs to enable homeowners to repay their loans in a just way, and allow
 8 them to stay in their communities;
 - 9 • Transparency in the banking industry, in their consumer lending policies and
 10 practices; loan servicing policies and debt buying and selling practices;
 - 11 • Reject residential lending modes such as sub-prime loans, negative
 12 amortization loans, adjustable rate mortgages, mortgages with balloon payments
 13 and mortgages that only the interest is paid for a period of time; and
 - 14 • Reject tax payer support for banking models that do not comply with the above
 15 principles.
- 16 And be it further
- 17 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church encourage
 18 The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations to speak on behalf of The
 19 Episcopal Church's reformation of the mortgage industry; and that the Episcopal
 20 Public Policy Network assist local Bishops, Dioceses and Public Policy Networks
 21 with this issue at their federal, state and local setting.

EXPLANATION

The mortgage industry is a disaster. Corporate responsibility has been replaced with greed. Lending institutions, knowing they would not be the ultimate owner of the note (mortgage), lent money with wild abandon. Though this has been reigned in, and the pendulum has swung to the other side, it still leaves many current homeowners holding untenable and impossible mortgages. Home Affordable Modification Program and others like it are attempting to fix the wrongs of the past decades. Unfortunately, it is not enough. Lending institutions are still refusing to modify outrageous loans, and communities have more abandoned and foreclosed properties than lived in properties. In some areas, homes are foreclosed upon before one ever sees a Judge. We need more. We need better repayment programs, programs that force banks to come to the negotiation table with real solutions for loan modifications. We need lending institutions to understand that decimating communities so their bottom line looks better is not the answer. We need to regulate lending institutions, making their policies transparent and their practices acknowledge the most vulnerable. We need to think beyond traditional lending, to look for alternatives such as micro-lending and financing and

community reinvestment models that are effective.

Advocate for Reforming Credit Reporting

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 524–525; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 of the Episcopal Church commit to working towards reformation of the credit
3 reporting industry by supporting legislation that adheres to the following
4 principles:
5 • Calling for reform of the credit reporting industry such that reports are
6 accurate, fair and used only for the actual benefit of the user;
7 • Regulating the Credit Reporting industry, so as to require transparent and
8 uniform policies for credit data, reporting and scoring;
9 • Supporting reform of the industry such that there is an elimination of
10 information that has little relevance to future likelihood of repayment and
11 allowing utilization of reports only for specific purposes; and
12 • Requiring accountability from this industry.
13 And be it further
14 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church encourage
15 The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations to speak on behalf of The
16 Episcopal Church’s reformation of the credit reporting industry; and that the
17 Episcopal Public Policy Network assist local Bishops, Dioceses, and Public Policy
18 Networks with this issue at their federal, state and local setting.

EXPLANATION

Credit reports can make or break a person. They are utilized for loans, credit card, employment, housing and even bank accounts. A poor credit rating can mean homelessness to a family trying to rent, or joblessness to someone trying to work. Credit scoring is kept hidden to the average consumer. Challenging a credit report is difficult, at best, and usually near impossible. This must stop. Everyone has a credit score, and everyone at some point will need that score for their future. Errors in credit reporting are not just common but the norm. We must ensure that this industry does not continue to progress without regulation. It is currently under regulated and, in some matters not regulated at all. It has for too long been allowed to operate without standards or policies. To ask this industry to be accountable for its errors, omissions and information is but a small step in requiring this much utilized industry to reform.

A084

TOPIC: STEWARDSHIP

Establish Episcopal Credit Union

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 525; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 call upon the Executive Council to authorize the establishment of an Episcopal
- 3 Credit Union, using existing models like the Federal Credit Union in L.A. and the
- 4 Chattahoochee Federal Credit Union, that will serve to resource domestic efforts
- 5 and provide banking in local and marginalized communities; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the funds of the Economic Justice Loan Fund be incorporated into
- 7 this credit union; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Executive Council report to the Standing Commission on
- 9 Social Justice and Public Policy on or before August 1st, 2014, for enabling
- 10 resolutions needed for the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

Asset Based Community Development

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 525–526; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church encourage local congregations to participate in the
- 3 alleviation of domestic poverty through local actions of service as well as
- 4 advocacy for the poor, the marginalized, and the disenfranchised in their
- 5 communities; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention invite congregations to partner with
- 7 one another across social and economic boundaries in order to share resources
- 8 and to engage congregants in the opportunities for service, witness and
- 9 empowerment; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention encourage congregations to use the
- 11 tools of Asset Based Community Development in our work to alleviate domestic
- 12 poverty.

EXPLANATION

Increasing disparities in the United States between communities of wealth and communities of poverty raise important questions for The Episcopal Church as we experience a breakdown of our society into separate and unequal parts. The Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy seeks to foster a common mission that seeks to serve all people in their communities. The biblical tradition has a long witness that people with resources are called to respond to those in our communities who are in need, and called to distribute these resources according to need not greed. Similarly, the biblical witness calls upon the people of God to foster communities that are self-sustaining, nurtured, and dependent upon the presence of God. We are called to recognize that all our assets are from God and that we are called to be stewards of these assets for the good of all. Asset Based Community Development seeks to identify the assets already existing in the community and build from there rather than outsiders seeing a perceived need and imposing their plans on the community.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 526; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That The Episcopal Church
2 recognized at the 76th General Convention the pressing challenges to those living
3 in poverty and the working poor throughout this nation and call for new and
4 innovative strategies to address issues related to nutrition, employment,
5 childcare, education, health care, environment and housing, as well as equal
6 protection under law and cultural affirmations; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church commends the community development
8 initiative in Native People's communities in the past triennium, recognizing that
9 Native People live in some of the poorest counties in the United States
10 experiencing increasing disparities in income, economic security, health and
11 health care, and quality of life; and be it further
12 *Resolved*, That this development initiative emerging from the visions and voices
13 of the local Native People's communities, address community development
14 opportunities using asset-based community development models, identify key
15 federal, state, and local advocacy issues and access the abundant human and
16 financial resources of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
17 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend
18 the work begun by the Office of Social and Economic Justice and the Office of
19 Lifelong Christian Formation and the Office of Native and Indigenous Ministries
20 in sponsoring asset based community development training held regionally
21 throughout The Episcopal Church hearing the voices of people living in poverty
22 and the working poor who are members of our Episcopal congregations and
23 institutions; and be it further
24 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend
25 the strategic plan that establishes domestic development programs for The
26 Episcopal Church in the 2013–2015 triennium and beyond; and be it further
27 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$300,000 per
29 annum in the 2013–2015 triennium for the implementation of this Resolution.

EXPLANATION

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 527; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*
2 , the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention of the
3 Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public
4 Policy, working with the Mission Program Office, to hold three or more regional
5 hearings during the next triennium to explore the significance of this disparity of
6 wealth, its influence on the Church's ability to worship and serve in local
7 communities, to shape and form the mission of the Church; and be it further
8 Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy
9 report the results of these hearings to the 78th General Convention, with
10 guidelines for how to proceed forward as a Missional Church; and be it further
11 *Resolved*
12 , That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
13 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 to
14 implement this Resolution.

EXPLANATION

Studies reveal that Americans have little idea that the wealth distribution is as concentrated as it is. Similarly, there is a critical need for education within The Episcopal Church about how to respond to the incredible disparity of wealth distribution.

This increasing disparity of wealth has a significant impact on our congregational life as well as on the vitality of The Episcopal Church, impacting both our spiritual and common life and forcing congregations in neighborhoods of declining wealth to undertake major cutbacks or even to close their ministry.

The situation is evidenced by a loss of many local communities of their ability to maintain self-sustaining congregations, and is particularly severe in our African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Indigenous and other ethnic communities, making it difficult for us to sustain institutions in our communities.

Set Expectations for Steward Leaders

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 529–530; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 adopt the following expectations for steward leaders in The Episcopal Church:

3 **Proposed Expectations for Steward Leaders in the Episcopal Church**

4 **Trusting in God’s Abundance, we will...**

5 **Proclaim a Theology of Abundance and Spirituality of Money**

6 • Articulate and share clearly a personal stewardship story as it relates to money,
7 resources, and relationships, and model this practice in community as an
8 example to others;

9 • Foster a climate that invites others to explore the freedom to be faithful with
10 their money, resources, and relationships;

11 • Articulate an eternal understanding of financial stewardship to include annual
12 giving, major giving and planned giving;

13 • Live publicly the holy habits of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath
14 time, and weekly corporate worship; and

15 • Practice the basic principles of personal and corporate financial management
16 leading to a healthy relationship with money as integral to our faith in God.

17 **Teach Biblical and Theological Principles of Stewardship**

18 • Listen to and interpret scripture and tradition with an ear for stewardship
19 themes;

20 • Speak and preach prophetically, boldly, and regularly about stewardship;

21 • Engage in individual and corporate study of scripture related the theology of
22 stewardship;

23 • Raise awareness of the history of stewardship in the life of local congregations
24 and the wider church, including the faithful gifts of those who have gone before;
25 and

26 • Build up and empower others in these expectations of steward leaders.

27 **Engage and Critique Culture**

28 • Have an informed theological position about social, ecological and economic
29 justice;

30 • Speak to the vision of a divine economy (oikonomia) and the ways it is in
31 tension with our global economy;

32 • Articulate the tension between the current consumer culture and following
33 Christ; and

- 34 • Gather and empower groups of people to inspire action around common
35 missions and goals.
- 36 **Embrace the Interconnected Relationships between all Persons and**
37 **Creation**
- 38 • Understand our central call to steward the well-being of the entire created
39 order;
- 40 • Speak to the impact of our lifestyles on all of God’s Creation;
- 41 • Discern and enable the unique gifts of people to build up the Kingdom of God;
42 and
- 43 • Utilize diverse approaches to stewardship based on generational and cultural
44 differences.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development proposes this resolution designed to begin a conversation on what might be the expectations for lay and ordained persons in the area of stewardship. They can serve as a model for steward leaders as they look for ways to improve their skills and as a set of goals to work towards. It starts with biblical principles which reveal, in the New Covenant, a changed perspective of what stewardship is. Jesus, while supporting the act and practice of the tithe as a rule of life on earth, took the faithful life of a steward much further. Jesus did not ask for 10 percent, but instead 100 percent—everything. In His vision stewardship is seen as all that we are, all that we have, all of the time. In our tradition, in the sacrament of baptism, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ’s own forever. This is a total and unequivocal laying down of ourselves, our souls, and bodies, as living sacrifices. Through baptism, we enter into the household of God. The word steward comes from the Greek word “oikonomia,” which means manager, caretaker or steward of that household. These expectations were developed with a deep understanding that our call to be stewards goes significantly beyond the reality of money. However, we also recognize that this power can become easily obscured by our many machinations undertaken to “soften” the difficulty of this topic in, and on, our lives. The power of money is pervasive in our living, and the Church is in no way immune. We believe, however, the Church should be the “household” that forthrightly meets the challenge with which this power presents us. So much depends on our getting right with this power, not the least of which is the justice envisioned by our Savior for this world and the world beyond. So we propose these expectations with a balance that incorporates a more holistic approach to stewardship, including our time, our relationships, our human gifts, and God’s creation we have been given to cherish and protect, while not obscuring our very real need to confront the power of money. We propose these expectations with a deep thankfulness for all the stewards who have gone before us in this work, and knowing completely the reality that the life of a steward is the very way of life for any follower of Christ.

Holy Habits and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 531–532; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 encourage that in the great fifty days of Easter the people of The Episcopal
- 3 Church make a commitment to practice the holy habits of weekly worship, prayer,
- 4 scripture study, tithing, and honoring the Sabbath as part of the renewal of
- 5 baptismal vows; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the Office of Stewardship, The Episcopal Network for
- 7 Stewardship, and the Standing Commission on Music and Liturgy develop a
- 8 readily available liturgical resource that prayerfully invites Episcopalians to
- 9 embrace the practice of holy habits to nourish and strengthen their vows in living
- 10 out their baptismal covenant.

EXPLANATION

The early Christian community understood baptism to be about human transformation. The person receiving the sacrament of baptism was to emerge from the baptismal waters a new person in Christ with a new set of values, priorities and commitments.

Each time we renew our baptismal vows in community, we profess that we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. Dying to self is the process of conversion that allows us to mature into the full stature of Christ. St. Paul, the first great theologian of baptism, expressed its meaning in terms of a break with the old and beginning of new life in Christ. He understood well the reality of being sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ own as a summons to a lifelong covenantal relationship with God in Christ. Baptism is the radical sign of the new framework for human life. It is the sacrament that underlies the meaning of Christian practice.

The renewal of baptism vows calls us back to our true identities--son and daughters in God's household. God's household is marked by the vision of Shalom, the biblical understanding of peace, justice, health, wholeness, harmony, the condition that allows all living things to reach their potential of wholeness. The word steward comes from the Greek word *oikonomia*, which means manager or caretaker of the household. As members of God's household, we are called to steward God's vision of shalom. Our baptismal promises show us a way forward in building up God's household.

During the great fifty days of Easter, we are called to celebrate our life with Christ and to recommit ourselves to the beliefs and practices of our Baptism. In the renewal of our baptismal vows, we invite members throughout the Episcopal Church to commit to the holy habits of tithing, daily personal prayer, scripture study, Sabbath and regular corporate worship—practices that strengthen nourish, and reflect baptismal living. Holy Habits was introduced at the 2003 General Convention and approved in resolution A135 which called all members of

the Episcopal Church to be encouraged to develop a personal spiritual discipline that includes, at a minimum, the Holy Habits of tithing, daily personal prayer and study, Sabbath time, and regular corporate worship. (See further explanation of Holy Habits below).

The Commission asks that those engaged in stewardship formation of the church such as The Office of Stewardship, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music create a readily available liturgical resource to the Renewal of Vows that includes a commitment to practice the Holy Habits

Baptismal living is a communal and worshipful endeavor. The creation of an intentional prayerful pledge commitment to practice holy habits during the season in which we re-commit to the promises made in our baptism will replenish and saturate God's adopted sons and daughters with a vibrant and vital faith to continue in building up God's household.

Addendum

2003 Report to the 74th General Convention
Explanation Holy Habits

We understand God's invitation to be faithful stewards as a call to a lifelong journey of repentance, conversion, and renewed life. God calls us to grow into the imago Dei that we are created to be. Often, faithful response will require us to make choices which challenge our culture's obsessions with scarcity, self-sufficiency, and acquisitiveness.

We are called to be stewards of our faith, of Creation, of civil society, and of our lives. None of this comes naturally, it requires both faith and commitment and so, and the church has developed a number of practices and disciplines or holy habits to help us on our journey. All of these find expression in our baptismal vows.

At the center of our individual and corporate lives is the call to be stewards of the Gospel. We are called not just to live our faith in Jesus Christ, but also to proclaim that faith by word and example. This finds expression in the way we work, pray, and give.

We are entrusted with the stewardship of creation. This means we must reflect on our use of resources and on what it means to have been given the care of the whole world and charged to rule and serve all God's creatures. The Baptismal promise to strive for justice and peace impels us to be actively involved as citizens of our communities, nation, and world.

To live as Christian stewards is to be intentional in our use of all that God has given us. Certainly that includes the first fruits tithing of our material wealth as a reminder and symbol of our thankful acknowledgement of God as the gracious source of all and as a way to begin dealing with our addiction to money. It also includes the discernment, cultivation and use of our skills and abilities to further God's work in the world, the mission Dei. Because our gifts differ, and because we sometime find it difficult to recognize and develop our own God-given giftedness, our baptism grafts us into the body of Christ. We are to recognize the imago Dei within ourselves and within every human being.

One of the great stewardship challenges of our age is our stewardship of time. We live in a culture that offers nearly infinite diversions and demands that we fill every moment with activity. There is no greater need, and nothing more counter-cultural, than for us to reclaim Sabbath time. Not only is the commandment for Sabbath time the second-longest of the ten; Sabbath is part of the order of Creation it is the very culmination of Creation. As the Church and as dioceses, parishes, and individuals it is imperative that we find ways to teach

the absolute necessity of Sabbath as part of individual spiritual life and that we encourage and enable our bishops and clergy to model the balance of activity and Sabbath.

Endorse the Principle of Subsidiarity

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 536; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 embrace the principle of "subsidiarity" as embodying a fundamental truth about
- 3 effective ministry; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, that the Executive Council incorporate the principle of "subsidiarity"
- 5 into its work, governance, and actions, measuring its decisions about where and
- 6 by whom ministries will be conducted against the standard of what most
- 7 advances the common good as identified by General Convention; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, that the Executive Council, in consultation with the Standing
- 9 Commission on the Structure of the Church and other appropriate Church bodies,
- 10 undertake a thorough review and evaluation of whether current or proposed
- 11 programs, staffing, offices, office locations, including 815 Second Avenue in New
- 12 York City, provinces, and budgets are consistent with the principle of vigorously
- 13 encouraging the exercise of any given ministry by the parts of this Church most
- 14 appropriately gifted to undertake it; and be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, that the Executive Council report its research, findings, actions and
- 16 recommendations to the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution would endorse the principle of "subsidiarity" as defined within this report: "the appropriate balance between the unity of the whole and the roles and responsibility of its parts, all working toward and measured against a sense of the good of the whole," and make it the yardstick for Executive Council to measure its work against in the future. It would also require the Executive Council to evaluate the administrative parts of our structure, using the same yardstick, and to report back to the 2015 General Convention.

A091

TOPIC: BUDGET

Reduce Diocesan Apportionments

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 536–537; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to reduce
- 3 diocesan apportionments to allow more monies to remain at the diocesan, and
- 4 thus parish and regional, levels to support greater encouragement of widespread,
- 5 effective innovation.

EXPLANATION

To free up resources for more innovation in ministry at the diocesan and congregational levels, this Resolution urges a reduction in the funding formula applied to dioceses.

A092

TOPIC: GENERAL CONVENTION

Length of the 78th General Convention

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 538; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee
- 2 on Planning and Arrangements schedule the 78th General Convention for not
- 3 fewer than ten days, in accordance with the guidelines adopted in 1988.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution would direct planners for the 78th General Convention to follow the existing 1988 guidelines for scheduling General Conventions.

A093

TOPIC: GENERAL CONVENTION

Fund for the Length of the 78th General Convention

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 538; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee
- 2 on Program, Budget and Finance, consider funding in the budget for 2012–2015
- 3 for the 78th General Convention to be at least ten days.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution would press the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to provide adequate funding for the 78th General Convention to last at least 10 days.

A094

TOPIC: BUDGET

Establish Financial Assistance Fund for Deputies

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 538; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee
- 2 on Program, Budget and Finance consider establishing a fund for assistance for
- 3 deputies from dioceses with financial need, to be administered by the General
- 4 Convention Office, to ensure that in each Diocese, at least two Deputies from each
- 5 Order may attend the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

Currently a “scholarship fund” exists to help bishops from dioceses with limited resources attend the meetings of the House of Bishops. This Resolution would create a similar fund, administered by the General Convention Office, that enable such dioceses to provide broader participation by lay and clergy deputies at General Convention.

A095

TOPIC: STEWARDSHIP

Frequency of Interim Meetings of the House of Bishops

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 538; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That as a matter of stewardship for
- 2 the Church, the House of Bishops consider reducing its interim meetings to one
- 3 per year, except in exigent circumstances.

EXPLANATION

A096

TOPIC: DIVERSITY

Reduce Barriers to participation in Church Leadership and Governance

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 539; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That dioceses and congregations
- 2 explore creative ways to reduce barriers to participation in Church leadership and
- 3 governance, which barriers may include time away from home or employment, or
- 4 the need to care for family members.

EXPLANATION

It is in the best interests of congregations, dioceses and the Church for their governance and ministries to reflect the full diversity of the Church. To encourage more diverse volunteers for such positions, this Resolution urges dioceses and congregations to be conscious of what may be barriers in their contexts and to seek creative ways to overcome them.

A097

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Initial Joint-CCAB Meeting Following the 78th General Convention

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 539–540; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Committee on
- 2 Program, Budget and Finance consider funding in the budget for 2015 for an
- 3 initial joint meeting of the newly constituted CCABs following the 78th General
- 4 Convention.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution encourages adequate funding for a joint meeting in the fall of 2015 of all newly constituted Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards, for shared orientation, training and development of work plans for the ensuing triennium. Since the meeting would take place in the fall of 2015, when new members are appointed following the General Convention, the funding must be included in the budget adopted at the 2012 General Convention.

A098

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Initial Joint-CCAB Meeting Following the 77th General Convention

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 540; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Committee on
- 2 Program, Budget and Finance consider funding in the budget for 2013 for a joint
- 3 meeting of the newly constituted CCABs following the 77th General Convention
- 4 early in that year, if one has not been provided for in 2012.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution would provide funding for a joint meeting of all newly constituted Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards in early 2013, for shared orientation, training and development of work plans for the ensuing triennium. This funding will only be necessary if such a meeting has not already been scheduled for the fall of 2012, using the remaining balances in the budgets of all Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards from the current triennium.

A099

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Web-Based Mid-Triennium CCAB Meeting

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 540; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Joint Committee on
- 2 Program, Budget and Finance consider including \$5,000.00 in the 2013–2015
- 3 budget of the General Convention Office for a general mid-triennium, Web-based
- 4 meeting of no more than two representatives of each CCAB, or for one or more
- 5 such meetings of appropriate representatives of CCABs whose work implicates a
- 6 common topic, for the purpose of sharing the work each has undertaken and its
- 7 progress on that work and for further coordination and cooperation where
- 8 appropriate, with the meeting to be scheduled by the Executive Officer of General
- 9 Convention in consultation with the two presiding officers.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution requests funding for a mid-triennium cross-CCAB meeting, or meetings, so that bodies with shared or overlapping assignments may learn about and from each other's work. The Church has had good success this triennium with smaller Web-based meetings at a low cost. Also, the participants in the May 2011 Consultation on Church structural reform found it helpful to have the opportunity to exchange drafts and views with each other before the Consultation using the GCO Extranet website created for the Consultation. This Resolution therefore proposes a relatively small amount be allocated to trying similar technology for like meetings within common areas of interest in the next triennium.

Coordinate Church Reform and Restructuring

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 540–541; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That consistent with the canonical
- 2 mandate of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church, the
- 3 Commission shall encourage and coordinate the various reform and restructuring
- 4 efforts happening within the Church; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church receive
- 6 and review these various governance reform and restructuring proposals from
- 7 around the Church; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, that the Standing Commission on Structure develop a framework for
- 9 diocesan and provincial conversations regarding how to defines mission and how
- 10 a diocese's ministries and those of its congregations could be enhanced by
- 11 changes in organization of the Church and provincial staff, program focus and
- 12 delivery, revenue sharing, and any other important factors, and shall monitor and
- 13 collate the results of such conversations; and be it further
- 14 *Resolved*, that the several dioceses of the Church shall hold diocesan
- 15 conversations on this subject in 2013 and report their outcomes to SCSC; and be
- 16 it further
- 17 *Resolved*, that following the diocesan conversations, each province shall hold
- 18 further conversations among its dioceses on this subject, sharing the outcomes of
- 19 their respective conversations and considering the ways in which the province
- 20 may be a useful part of the effort to align the missional organization and enhance
- 21 ministry at the various levels of the Church, and report the outcomes of the
- 22 provincial conversations to the Commission; and be it further
- 23 *Resolved*, that the Commission report the findings of these conversations and its
- 24 recommendations to the 78th General Convention; and be it further
- 25 *Resolved*, that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance
- 26 consider adding \$25,000 to the budget of the Commission to cover the costs of
- 27 this mandate.

EXPLANATION

The canonical mandate of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church makes it the logical and proper coordinator of the various efforts around the Church to improve, restructure and reform Church governance.

A101

TOPIC: DIOCESES

Convene Consultation on Diocesan Effectiveness

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 541–542; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 request that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church convene a
- 3 consultation on the effectiveness of dioceses, with a focus on the potential for re-
- 4 aligning dioceses to maximize their effective witness and ministry; and be it
- 5 further
- 6 *Resolved*, that the Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider
- 7 including in the 2013–2015 budget \$25,000 to fund such consultation.

EXPLANATION

While there are provisions in the Constitution which enable dioceses to divide and combine, the Commission feels that it would be productive to call for a consultation for dioceses seeking to improve effectiveness and stewardship of resources. Even though the consultation would be open to all dioceses, its focus would be on dioceses which might benefit from considering separating from, combining with, or realigning their boundaries with one or more other dioceses. There are currently some diocesan re-alignment efforts in progress and the Commission encourages them, but seeks to enable additional discussions along those lines. The issues of dividing or combining dioceses are complex and emotional. The consultation the Commission recommends would offer resources to help dioceses identify potential structural changes which could increase their effectiveness and vitality.

Amend Article V of the Constitution

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 542–544; Constitution & Canons: p. 5–6

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; not yet reviewed; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
2 Convention amend Article V of the Constitution to read as follows:

3 **ARTICLE V**

4 **Sec. 1.** A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General
5 Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe
6 by ~~General Canon or Canons~~, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the
7 junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by
8 the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in
9 Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and
10 Laity of the unorganized area called by the Bishop for that purpose; or, with the
11 approval of the Bishop, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when
12 it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing
13 Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the
14 Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~
15 Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese. In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be
16 vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is
17 filled. After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly
18 adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to
19 the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the
20 Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of
21 this Church, ~~such~~ the new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General
22 Convention.

23 **Sec. 2.** In case one Diocese shall be divided into two or more Dioceses, the
24 Bishop of the Diocese divided, ~~if there be one~~, at least thirty days before such
25 division, shall select the Diocese in which the Bishop will continue in jurisdiction.
26 The Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, subsequently and before the effective date
27 of the division, shall select the Diocese in which the Bishop Coadjutor shall
28 continue in jurisdiction, and, if it not be the Diocese selected by the Bishop, shall
29 become the Bishop thereof.

30 **Sec. 3.** In case a Diocese shall be formed out of parts of two or more Dioceses,
31 each of the Bishops and Bishops Coadjutor of the several Dioceses out of which
32 the new Diocese has been formed shall be entitled, in order of seniority of
33 ~~consecration~~ ordination to the episcopate, to the choice between the Bishop's

34 Diocese and the new Diocese so formed. In the case the new Diocese shall not be
35 so chosen, it shall have the right to choose its own Bishop.

36 **Sec. 4.** Whenever a new Diocese is formed and erected out of an existing
37 Diocese, it shall be subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese out of
38 which it was formed, except as local circumstances may prevent, until ~~the same~~
39 ~~be altered in accordance with such~~ the convention of the new diocese adopts its
40 own Constitution and Canons ~~by the Convention of the new Diocese.~~

41 Whenever a Diocese is formed out of two or more existing Dioceses, it shall be
42 subject to the Constitution and Canons of that one of the said existing Dioceses to
43 which the greater number of Members of the Clergy shall have belonged prior to
44 the erection of ~~such~~ the new Diocese, except as local circumstances may prevent,
45 until ~~the same be altered in accordance with such~~ convention of the new Diocese
46 adopts its own Constitution and Canons ~~adopted by the Convention of the new~~
47 ~~Diocese.~~

48 **Sec. 5.** No new Diocese shall be formed unless it shall contain at least ~~six~~ fifteen
49 Parishes and at least ~~six~~ fifteen ~~Presbyters~~ Priests who have been for at least one
50 year canonically resident within the bounds of such new Diocese, regularly settled
51 in a Parish or Congregation and qualified to vote for a Bishop. Nor shall such new
52 Diocese be formed if thereby any existing Diocese shall be so reduced as to
53 contain fewer than ~~twelve~~ fifteen Parishes and ~~twelve~~ fifteen ~~Presbyters~~ Priests
54 who have been residing therein and settled and qualified as above provided.

55 **Sec. 6.** By mutual agreement between the Conventions of two adjoining
56 Dioceses, consented to by the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese, a portion
57 of the territory of one of said Dioceses may be ceded to the other Diocese, such
58 cession to be considered complete upon approval thereof by (a) if within one
59 hundred twenty days before a meeting of the General Convention, the General
60 Convention or (b) if not within one hundred twenty days before a meeting of the
61 General Convention, by a majority of Bishops having jurisdiction ~~in the United~~
62 ~~States,~~ and of the Standing Committees of the Dioceses, in accordance with the
63 Canons of this Church. Thereupon the part of the territory so ceded shall become
64 a part of the Diocese accepting the same. The provisions of Section 3 of this
65 Article V shall not apply in such case, and the Bishop and Bishop Coadjutor, if
66 any, of the Diocese ceding such territory shall continue in their jurisdiction over
67 the remainder of such Diocese, and the Bishop and Bishop Coadjutor, if any, of
68 the Diocese accepting cession of such territory shall continue in jurisdiction over
69 such Diocese and shall have jurisdiction in that part of the territory of the other
70 Diocese that has been so ceded and accepted.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution amends Article V, Sec.1, to allow the Ecclesiastical Authority, which could be the Bishop Diocesan or, in the absence of one, the Standing Committee, to participate in the diocese's approval of a plan to form a new diocese by joining two or more dioceses or parts of them. It also proposes two other substantive changes and several non-substantive ones. The amendment in Sec. 5 would increase the number of parishes and canonically resident priests required to form a new diocese in an effort to ensure that the affected dioceses will have the resources to function effectively and sustainably. The amendment to Section 6 introduces a standard by which to determine whether the proposed change needs to be presented to General Convention or to Bishops and Standing Committees for the Church's approval. Currently both alternatives are provided

without a consistent means to determine which should be used. The standard proposed is the same as for consents to elections of Bishops. The other amendments are non-substantive, designed to make the language of this Article consistent with the usage more recently adopted in other revisions to articles and canons.

A103

TOPIC: DISCIPLINE

Study Title IV Disciplinary Canons

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 544–545; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That appropriate staff from the
- 2 Global Partnerships department of the Episcopal Church Center assist the
- 3 Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, in consultation with
- 4 appropriate persons in the affected dioceses, in evaluating the applicability of
- 5 Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church in each diocese or convocation
- 6 not subject to the laws of the United States, so that the Commission may make
- 7 recommendations to the 78th General Convention regarding ways to amend Title
- 8 IV or to assist those dioceses to harmonize their diocesan canons with the
- 9 foundational principles embodied in Title IV, and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, that the Joint Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider
- 11 adding \$100,000 to the budget of the Global Partnerships department to support
- 12 the necessary international consultations.

EXPLANATION

The 76th General Convention charged the Commission to investigate this issue and report back to a future General Convention. The Commission concluded that an adequate exploration of the challenges and appropriate accommodations in this international legal puzzle requires the expertise of the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, aided by experts in the local laws potentially in conflict with The Church's foundational documents. An especially important context is the discipline canons of Title IV, where local legal differences may make fulfilling the intent of these canons difficult and put the integrity of the Church at risk as well. Additional budgetary resources are necessary to enable a full consideration of the contexts in the breadth of countries involved, including adequate opportunities for consultation with knowledgeable representatives.

A104

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.4.3(a)

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 546; Constitution & Canons: p. 32

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.4.3(a) be amended to
2 read as follows:
3 **Sec. 3 (a)** The Presiding Bishop shall be *ex officio* the Chair and President.
4 However, at the first meeting of the Executive Council following the adjournment
5 of any General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected if it occurs
6 before the commencement of the term of the newly elected Presiding Bishop, the
7 Presiding Bishop-elect shall be *ex officio* the Chair and President. The Chair and
8 President shall be the chief executive officer of the Executive Council and as such
9 the Chair and President shall have ultimate responsibility for the oversight of the
10 work of the Executive Council in the implementation of the ministry and mission
11 of the Church as may be committed to the Executive Council by the General
12 Convention.

EXPLANATION

In 2000, an amendment to Canon I.4.3(a) passed, providing that the Presiding Bishop-elect would preside at an Executive Council meeting scheduled between the election and the beginning of the new Presiding Bishop's term. The rationale was that this provision would allow the incoming Presiding Bishop to participate in making appointments for the reorganization of the Executive Council occasioned by election of a new class of members at the preceding General Convention. However, this provision creates a canonically irregular and undesirable situation by allowing a person who has not taken office to exercise the responsibilities of that office while the incumbent is still serving in all other capacities. It has not been used since its enactment, because the first Executive Council meeting after the 2006 General Convention was scheduled after the investiture of the new Presiding Bishop. If in the future the Council is concerned about who will preside at its first meeting after the electing Convention, it can avoid the problem as it did in 2006, by scheduling that meeting after the investiture.

In the Commission's consultations with Bishop Griswold and Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori, both felt that having to be the Chair and President of the Executive Council prior to their investitures would have been an unwelcome burden, distracting them from the important work of transitioning from their dioceses to their new position. Both recognized the importance of having time to properly close out their ministries in their respective dioceses and to prepare themselves spiritually and mentally for their new responsibilities, as well as beginning to learn the details of operation at the Church Center. Having to preside would have greatly compressed the learning curve for them when the retiring Presiding Bishop was in the best position to continue working with staff and the other officers to set the agenda for a meeting if it occurred before they had taken office. Having the retiring Presiding Bishop exercise a familiar responsibility could also be seen as aiding continuity in the work of Executive Council at an important juncture, given that the first meeting after a

General Convention is the meeting at which a newly elected class of Council members also is introduced and oriented to the work of the Council. Consultation between the outgoing Presiding Bishop and the newly elected one in preparation for this meeting is not only possible without this provision, but has been the practice from before the provision's adoption.

A105

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.2.1

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 547–548; Constitution & Canons: p. 26–27

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That Canon I.2.1 be amended by
2 adding a new subsection (e), with succeeding subsections to be re-lettered as
3 necessary, to read as follows:
4 **(e)** *The Joint Nominating Committee shall develop and manage a process for*
5 *soliciting and identifying qualified nominees for the office of Presiding Bishop*
6 *and for providing the nominees to the General Convention at which a Presiding*
7 *Bishop is to be elected. The process shall include (1) providing the names of not*
8 *fewer than three members of the House of Bishops for consideration by the*
9 *House of Bishops and the House of Deputies in the choice of a Presiding Bishop;*
10 *(2) establishing a timely process for any bishop or deputy to express the intent*
11 *to nominate any other member of the House of Bishops from the floor at the*
12 *time the Joint Nominating Committee presents its nominees to the joint session*
13 *of the two Houses, and for each Bishop so nominated to be included in the*
14 *information distributed about the nominees; (3) providing pastoral care for*
15 *each nominee bishop and his or her family and diocese; and (4) determining*
16 *and providing for transition assistance to the Presiding Bishop and the*
17 *Presiding Bishop-elect.*

EXPLANATION

The current language of Canon I.2.1 only directs the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop to bring forward names to the electing convention. In the last several elections, the Joint Nominating Committee has found it necessary to deal with other related issues as well, such as the need for advance notice of who might be nominated from the floor so that the necessary background checks can be performed ahead of time and to assure that floor nominees have equal access to whatever introductory process is used for the Committee's nominees. After the last election, the Joint Nominating Committee recommended that the canon should be amended to specify who is to be responsible for seeing that these other important aspects of the process are properly attended to. The Commission sees the Joint Nominating Committee as the logical entity to oversee or coordinate these tasks which are integral to providing the Church and the nominees with a fair and respectful process.

A106

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.9

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 548; Constitution & Canons: p.
44-46

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o6 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.9 be amended by
- 2 adding a new subsection 12 to read as follows:
- 3 Sec. 12. The President of each Province shall annually submit to the Executive
- 4 Council a written report on the ministries, programs and other work of the
- 5 Province, including a description in reasonable detail of how funds appropriated
- 6 by the General Convention have been used, and shall report on their work to the
- 7 Executive Council, on the date and in the form specified by the Executive Council.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes to enhance the connection between the Provinces and the General Convention by formalizing Provincial accountability for being critical vehicles for the mission and ministry of the Church as they expend funds appropriated by the General Convention. Annual reporting to Executive Council is a simple, direct and logical means of achieving this end, allowing each province flexibility to continue to meet the specific needs of its dioceses, while underscoring its responsibility to the General Convention as well.

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 548–550; Constitution & Canons: p.
21–22

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.1.5 be revised to read
2 as follows:

3 Sec. 5 (a) The ~~Secretary of the General Convention shall, *ex officio*, be House of~~
4 ~~Deputies, upon the nomination of the House of Bishops, shall elect a Presbyter, to~~
5 ~~be known as the Registrar of the General Convention, whose duty it shall be to~~
6 receive all Journals, files, papers, reports, and other documents or articles that
7 are, or shall become, the property of either House of the General Convention, and
8 to transmit the same to the Archives of the Church as prescribed by the Archivist.

9 (b) It shall also be the duty of the said Registrar to maintain suitable records of
10 the ordinations and consecrations of all the Bishops of this Church, designating
11 accurately the time and place of the same, with the names of the consecrating
12 Bishops, and of others

13 present and assisting; to have the same authenticated in the fullest manner
14 practicable; and to take care for the similar record and authentication of all future
15 ordinations, ~~and consecrations and installations of Bishops in this Church; and to~~
16 ~~transmit the same to the Archives of the Church when and as prescribed by the~~
17 ~~Archivist.~~ Due notice of the time and place of such ordinations and consecrations
18 shall be given by the Presiding Bishop to the Registrar; and thereupon it shall be
19 the duty of the Registrar to attend such ordinations and consecrations, either in
20 person or by appointing a clergy or lay deputy Registrar.

21 (c) The Registrar shall prepare, in such form as the House of Bishops shall
22 prescribe, the Letters of Ordination and Consecration in duplicate, shall have the
23 same immediately signed and sealed by the ordaining and consecrating Bishops,
24 and by such other Bishops
25 assisting as may be practicable, shall deliver to the newly consecrated Bishop one
26 of the said Letters, shall carefully file and retain the other, and shall make a
27 minute thereof in the official records.

28 (d) The Registrar shall also be Historiographer, unless in any case the House of
29 Bishops shall make a separate nomination; and in this event the House of
30 Deputies shall confirm the nomination.

31 (e) The necessary expenses incurred under this Section shall be paid by the
32 Treasurer of the General Convention.

33 (f) It shall be the duty of the secretaries of both Houses to deliver to the Registrar

34 the minutes of both Houses, together with the Journals, files, papers, reports,
35 electronic records, and all other records of either House in a manner prescribed
36 by the Archivist.
37 The minutes of both Houses shall remain filed until after the adjournment of the
38 first General Convention following that at which such minutes shall have been
39 taken; Provided, however, that any part of such minutes, for any reason
40 unpublished in the Journal, shall remain filed in the Archives. The Secretary of
41 the House of Deputies shall also deliver to the Registrar, as prescribed by the
42 Archivist, when not otherwise expressly directed, all the Journals, files, papers,
43 reports, and other published, unpublished or electronic documents specified in
44 Canon I.6. The Secretaries shall require the Registrar to give them receipts for the
45 Journals and other records. The Registrar shall transmit the records of the
46 secretaries of both Houses to the Archivist of the Church.
47 (g) In the case of a vacancy in the office of Registrar, the Presiding Bishop shall
48 appoint a Registrar, who shall hold office until the next General Convention.

EXPLANATION

Canon I.1.5 establishes the office of Registrar of the General Convention and spells out the Registrar's duties. The duties include compiling and delivering to the Archives all records generated by both Houses at General Convention (I.1.5(a)); maintaining accurate records of the ordinations and consecrations of all bishops of the Church and attending them (either in person or by deputy) (I.1.5(b)); preparing the Letters of Ordination and Consecration used at ordinations and consecrations of bishops (I.1.5(c)); and serving as Historiographer of the General Convention (unless, as is the norm, a different person is chosen by the House of Bishops and confirmed by the House of Deputies)(I.1.5(d)).

According to information from the Archives, the office of Registrar of the General Convention had been held by the Secretary of the General Convention from its inception in 1853 until 1997, when a vacancy in the office was filled by the Canon to the Presiding Bishop, appointed by the Presiding Bishop pursuant to Canon I.1.5(g). Since then, the Canon to the Presiding Bishop has been performing the Registrar's duties related to ordinations and consecrations of bishops, while the Secretary of the General Convention has been performing the Registrar's duties related to the records of the two Houses of General Convention. The Commission has examined this practice and believes that the Church should revert to the prior longstanding practice where all the duties are carried out by the same individual. Further, the Commission has concluded that the office should be held by the Secretary of the General Convention, ex officio. The Secretary has the staff resources to fulfill the clerical tasks involved. Moreover, the Secretary is an officer of the General Convention, elected by both houses, and at consecrations of bishops represents the other orders of ministry. The Secretary's presence is a sign that consecrations are not a function solely of a particular diocese, nor of the House of Bishops, but of the entire Church.

The Commission understands that this change has the support of the incumbent Secretary, the two previous Secretaries and the Archivist. The Commission discussed the proposal with Charles Robinson, current Canon to the Presiding Bishop, who was agreeable to the proposal, stressing that while it is necessary and important for him to attend ordinations and consecrations, to assist the Presiding Bishop and to build relationships with Diocesan leaders, holding the office of Registrar is not critical to these non-canonical functions. The Commission worked closely with the Secretary Straub and Archivist Duffy in researching and drafting the proposed revisions to these canons.

Inserting "installation" in Section 5(b) of the canon covers a bishop who is translating from one episcopal office

(e.g., Bishop Suffragan) to another (Bishop Diocesan). Technically, there is no “ordination,” nor is there a second consecration to the office of bishop, so the service is often thought of as an installation or seating. The insertion is recommended by the Archivist and the Registrar in order to assure that complete records of such installations are maintained by the Registrar and filed with the Archivist.

The Commission studied the canonical requirement that the Registrar be a priest, and found no compelling reason for the provision, particularly when the Secretary is not required to be a priest. Finally, the Commission believes it would be wise to specify that where the Registrar is unable to attend an ordination and consecration of a bishop, he or she may appoint a clergy or lay Deputy Registrar.

A108

TOPIC: COURTESY

Episcopal Partnerships for Global Mission

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 555; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 21 - Privilege and Courtesy

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church recognizes and commends the work of the Episcopal
- 3 Partnership for Global Mission as a gathering for disparate theological views on
- 4 mission to come together for dialogue, as a network for sharing a wide variety of
- 5 perspectives on world mission, for its work in establishing standards for sending
- 6 and receiving missionaries and as a forum for theological reflection on mission.
- 7 As EPGM disbands and turns its work over to future mission networks, The
- 8 Episcopal Church commends its significant contribution to the life of the Church.

EXPLANATION

A109

TOPIC: BUDGET

Covenant Relationship Funding

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 555; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church, in honoring its financial and other commitments
- 3 undertaken as part of its covenant and bilateral agreements with other provinces
- 4 and dioceses of the Anglican Communion, will not reduce those financial
- 5 commitments in any general, percentage-based reduction of the budget of the
- 6 General Convention; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, that if these covenant and bilateral agreements permit, and if financial
- 8 exigencies require a reduction in funding by the General Convention or Executive
- 9 Council, consultation and notice of any reductions will be made immediately to
- 10 our covenant or bilateral partners, as well as the members of the covenant or
- 11 bilateral committees; and be it further
- 12 *Resolved*, that the policy of The Episcopal Church is to honor fully our financial
- 13 commitments under our covenant or bilateral agreements.

EXPLANATION

Until the past triennium, The Episcopal Church has always fully honored its financial commitments as stated in its covenant and bilateral agreements with other provinces and dioceses of the Anglican Communion (Liberia, IARCA, Brazil, Philippines and Mexico.) In several instances, our mission partners were not informed of reductions and were surprised by unilateral actions of The Episcopal Church. Such actions, without consultation and in apparent violation of some of the agreements, may damage our relationships with our mission partners.

This resolution reaffirms our commitments, and makes clear that our policy is to meet our financial commitments fully, and, in those extraordinary circumstances when a reduction may be required, that we will consult and inform our partners about such actions.

Covenant Committee Gathering

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 556; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church endorse an event hosted by the Standing Commission
- 3 on World Mission for all Covenant Committees and the Bi-Lateral Committee to
- 4 be held early in 2013; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That representatives of Episcopal Church agencies and other resource
- 6 people including the Treasurer, attend to provide services and information to the
- 7 Covenant Committee partners, assisting the committees in redeveloping their
- 8 covenants and financial plans; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, funding in the amount of \$30,000 be set aside to host this conference.
- 10 Recognizing that additional outside funding also be required to help offset the
- 11 cost.

EXPLANATION

Historically, the first consultation on autonomy was hosted by the Standing Commission on World Mission. (We note this because it is not unprecedented to hold this type of event.) This event allows dioceses/provinces the resources they need to work towards autonomy and breaks down some of the paternal ties. During this triennium, representatives of the committees met with the Standing Commission on World Mission and found this time together to be fruitful. Therefore, this gathering will continue the work of the Standing Commission on World Mission and the committees into the next triennium. This meeting was approved at the last General Convention, but was not funded and therefore was not held. The Commission continues to believe that this meeting would continue to develop our relationships and further support the development and autonomy of our Covenant Partners and has sought out additional financial support to match the funds from the budget to hold this conference.

Update Covenant Committee Term Limits

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 556–557; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 of the Episcopal Church direct that its representation on covenant committees
3 consist of one bishop appointed by the Presiding Bishop and one priest, deacon,
4 or layperson appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; that terms for
5 these members shall be nine years, rotated so that one of the two shall be
6 appointed at the start of the triennium; that there also be one member from the
7 Standing Commission on World Mission and one liaison from the Executive
8 Council selected from those bodies for three-year terms with an additional three
9 years while he/she is serving on that body to the committees; and be it further
10 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention prohibit any person from serving as
11 a representative of The Episcopal Church to a covenant committee for more than
12 nine consecutive years; and be it further
13 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct its covenant committee
14 representatives to prepare a report after each of their meetings which will include
15 the minutes of the meeting, provide an update on the use of any funds of The
16 Episcopal Church, outline any future projects that were planned, and describe
17 any policy recommendations that were raised by members of the delegation; and
18 be it further
19 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct its covenant committee
20 representatives to file their report with the Standing Commission on World
21 Mission, the Executive Council Standing Committee on World Mission, and the
22 Mission Partnerships Center at the Episcopal Church Center within sixty days of
23 the adjournment of each meeting; and be it further
24 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the
25 Standing Commission on World Mission to include in its future triennial reports
26 an update on covenant committee work, along with any resolutions related to
27 covenant committee work.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church is involved in several covenant relationships with Anglican provinces and dioceses overseas. In 2006 this resolution was proposed to create term limits and rotations for The Episcopal Church representatives on Covenant Committees. Having lived through the cycle of rotations and with the input of our Covenant partners, the Standing Commission on World Mission finds that these rotations do not allow for the deep relationships to be nurtured which are necessary in the Covenant and Bi-lateral Committee work. This

resolution allows for representatives of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies to remain on the Covenant Committee while the two members rotate off. This change also allows members of Executive Council and the Standing Commission on World Mission to serve for six years or for the duration of their time on those bodies, whichever comes first. This shift would honor the need for rotation while also honoring the Church's need for deeper relationships. Additionally, this resolution reflects the proper reporting structure due to DFMS staff changes.

Joint Committee on Provincial Companionship Agreement

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 559; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church receive news of the ever-deepening relationship between
- 3 this Church and the Episcopal Church of the Philippines with joy, recommits this
- 4 Church to our partnership with our brothers and sisters in the Philippines as a
- 5 tangible expression of the baptismal relationship of mutuality and mission, and
- 6 affirms the action of the Executive Council in renewing the relationship between
- 7 the two churches as described in "A Charter Between the Episcopal Church in the
- 8 Philippines (ECP) and The Episcopal Church (TEC)" and approved by the
- 9 Executive Council during its meeting at Linthicum Heights, Maryland, June
- 10 15–17, 2011.

EXPLANATION

The Joint Committee on the Philippines Covenant (JCPC) met in Baugio, Philippines on April 5–8, 2011. The Episcopal Church was represented by JoAnn Roberts Armstead, Florence Munoz, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, and the Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls (chair). The Episcopal Church of the Philippines was represented by the Rev. Louis Yacuan, Mary Bacwaden, and the Rt. Tev. Renato Abibico (chair), with Timothy Moiket absent. The covenant between the two churches was renegotiated and the relationship between the two churches was renewed. To better reflect the mutual character of the relationship, the name of JCPC was changed to Joint Committee on Provincial Companionship.

The renewed covenant was submitted to the General Convention of the Philippines, which approved it on May 5th, 2011. Since our General Convention was not scheduled to meet until 2012, and desiring to lose not time in committing ourselves to this continued relationship, the covenant was submitted to the Executive Council meeting in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, which approved it on June 17th, 2011. Though the covenant is already in effect, it is the desire of JCPC that it be endorsed by this General Convention just as it has by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

A113

TOPIC: MISSIONARIES

Commend Work of Missionaries

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 560; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church commends the work of its missionaries around the
- 3 world that are sent and supported by parishes, dioceses and organizations within
- 4 the Episcopal Church as well as by the Mission Personnel office of the Episcopal
- 5 Church; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church continues to encourage parishes, dioceses
- 7 and organizations to participate in diverse methods of sending missionaries from
- 8 3–12 month renewable assignments as well as the traditional longer term
- 9 assignments.

EXPLANATION

A114

TOPIC: BUDGET

Increase Mission Funding

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 560; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church increase the budget for the Mission Personnel Office by
- 3 \$100,000 for 2013, \$150,000 for 2014, and \$175,000 for 2015, above and beyond
- 4 the General Convention approved budget figures for the triennium 2009–2012,
- 5 to cover the increased cost of sending missionaries from The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

Over the past five years there have been significant increases in the Mission Personnel Office program costs. These include the addition of a lay pension scheme and increases in costs of health insurance premiums, clergy pension and travel costs. Health insurance premiums have increased almost 50% in the past 6 years and the total bill for 2011 is approximately \$390,000 for 55 missionaries. It was approximately \$418,000 for 82 missionaries in 2006. Lay pension costs have added approximately \$70,000 a year to the cost of the program.

Missionary orientation is now being provided through the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries. This is an ecumenical training which includes the ELCA, Reformed Church of America, as well as denominations in Canada. The course provides a wide range and depth of training in an ecumenical setting in Toronto which we see as being mutually enriching while at the same time freeing up staff time to provide more pastoral support. The cost of this training however is higher than previous models and now costs \$2,700 Canadian plus the cost of transportation.

The cost of annual regional retreats which has proved invaluable for missionary support in the past is a program we want to provide on a regular basis at a cost of approximately \$35,000 which is higher than the \$12,000 that is currently budgeted.

With a relatively flat budget over this same time period we have seen a gradual reduction of missionaries from 82 in 2006 to 55 in November 2011. There are an increasing number of mission possibilities that we are unable to follow up on or appoint due to lack of available funds. This resolution would allow The Episcopal Church to continue to support our missionaries appropriately in spite of increased costs.

A115

TOPIC: BUDGET

Province IX Funding

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on World Mission

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 560–561; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
- 2 of The Episcopal Church, in honoring its financial and other commitments
- 3 undertaken as part of its agreements with the dioceses of Province IX, will not
- 4 reduce those financial commitments in any general, percentage-based reduction
- 5 of the budget of the General Convention; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, that if financial exigencies require a reduction in funding by the
- 7 General Convention or Executive Council, consultation and notice of any
- 8 reductions will be made immediately to the bishops of Province IX and be it
- 9 further
- 10 *Resolved*, that the policy of The Episcopal Church is to honor fully our financial
- 11 commitments to Province IX of The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

Until the past triennium, The Episcopal Church has always fully honored its financial commitments to Province IX. In several instances, our mission partners were not informed of reductions and were surprised by unilateral actions of The Episcopal Church. Such actions, without consultation may damage our relationships with our mission partners.

This resolution reaffirms our commitments, and makes clear that our policy is to meet our financial commitments fully, and, in those extraordinary circumstances when a reduction may be required, that we will consult and inform our partners about such actions.

A116

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.3, Article III

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 585; Constitution & Canons: p. 30

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.3.Article III be
2 amended to read:
3 **ARTICLE III** The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice Presidents, a
4 Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be appointed in accordance
5 with the Canons or By-Laws. The Presiding Bishop of the Church shall be the
6 President of the Society; one Vice President shall be the person who is the
7 President of the House of Deputies; and one Vice President shall be the person
8 who is the ~~executive director~~*Chief Operating Officer*; the Treasurer shall be the
9 person who is the *Chief* Financial Officer of the Executive Council; and the
10 Secretary shall be the person who is the Secretary of the Executive Council, and
11 shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned by the By-
12 Laws. The other officers of the Society shall be such as are provided for by the By-
13 Laws of the Society. The tenure of office, compensation, powers, and duties of the
14 officers of the Society shall be such as are prescribed by the Canons and by the
15 By-laws of the Society not inconsistent therewith.

EXPLANATION

Cleans up the language from the intended revisions in 1997.

A117

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.4.1(c)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 585; Constitution & Canons: p. 30–31

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that Title I.4.1(c) be amended to
2 read:
3 (c) The Executive Council shall be composed (a) of twenty members elected by
4 the General Convention, of whom four shall be Bishops, four shall be Presbyters
5 or Deacons, and twelve shall be Lay Persons who are confirmed adult
6 communicants in good standing (two Bishops, two Presbyters or Deacons, and six
7 Lay Persons to be elected by each subsequent regular meeting of the General
8 Convention); (b) of eighteen members elected by the Provincial Synods; (c) of the
9 following *ex officio*s members: the Presiding Bishop and the President of the
10 House of Deputies; and (d) the ~~Vice-President~~ *Chief Operating Officer*, the
11 Secretary, ~~and the Treasurer of the Executive Council~~ *General Convention and*
12 *the Chief Financial Officer*, who shall have seat and voice but no vote. Each
13 Province shall be entitled to be represented by one Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon
14 canonically resident in a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province
15 and by one Lay Person who is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing
16 of a Diocese which is a constituent member of the Province, and the terms of the
17 representatives of each Province shall be so rotated that two persons shall not be
18 simultaneously elected for equal terms.

EXPLANATION

Cleans up the language from the intended revisions in 1997.

A118

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.4.3(d)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 586; Constitution & Canons: p. 32

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.4.3(d) be amended as
- 2 follows:
- 3 The ~~Presiding Bishop~~ *Presiding Bishop* shall appoint, with the advice and consent
- 4 of a majority of the Executive Council, an ~~executive director~~ *Chief Operating*
- 5 *Officer*, who shall be an adult confirmed communicant in good standing or a
- 6 member of the clergy of this Church in good standing ~~who shall be the chief~~
- 7 ~~operating officer and~~ who shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Presiding Bishop~~
- 8 *Chair of the Executive Council* and be accountable to the ~~Presiding Bishop~~ *Chair*
- 9 *of the Executive Council*. If a vacancy should occur in the office of the ~~executive~~
- 10 ~~director~~ *Chief Operating Officer*, a successor shall be appointed in like manner.

EXPLANATION

Cleans up the language from the intended revisions of 1997.

A119

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.1.13

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 586; Constitution & Canons: p. 24

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.1.13 be amended as
2 follows:
3 **Sec. 13. (a)** There shall be an Executive Office of the General Convention, to be
4 headed by a General Convention Executive Officer to be appointed jointly by the
5 Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies *with the advice and*
6 *consent of the Executive Council. The Executive Officer shall report to and serve*
7 *at the pleasure of the Executive Council.*
8 **(b)** The Executive Office of the General Convention shall include the functions of
9 the Secretary and the Treasurer of the General Convention and those of the
10 Manager of the General Convention and, if the several positions are filled by
11 different persons, such officers shall serve under the general supervision of the
12 General Convention Executive Officer, who shall also coordinate the work of the
13 Committees, Commissions, Boards and Agencies funded by the General
14 Convention Expense Budget.

EXPLANATION

Currently there is no provision for the Executive Officer to be removed. There needs to be a mechanism to remove this officer.

A120

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.1.1(b)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 586–587; Constitution & Canons: p.
11–12

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.1.1(b) be amended as
2 follows:

3 **(b)** There shall be a President and a Vice-President of the House of Deputies,
4 who shall perform the duties normally appropriate to their respective offices or
5 specified in these Canons. They shall be elected not later than the seventh day of
6 each regular meeting of the General Convention in the manner herein set forth.
7 The House of Deputies shall elect from its membership, by a majority of separate
8 ballots, a President and a Vice-President, who shall be of different orders. Such
9 officers shall take office at the adjournment of the regular meeting at which they
10 are elected, and shall continue in office until the adjournment of the following
11 regular meeting of the General Convention. They shall be and remain *ex officio*
12 members of the House during their term of office. No person elected President or
13 Vice-President shall be eligible for more than three consecutive full terms in each
14 respective office. In case of resignation, death, absence, or inability, of the
15 President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the office until ~~a new~~
16 ~~President is elected.~~ *the adjournment of the next meeting of the General*
17 *Convention. In case of resignation, death, absence, or inability of the Vice-*
18 *President, the President shall appoint a Deputy of the opposite order, upon the*
19 *advice and consent of the lay and clerical members of the Executive Council,*
20 *who shall serve until the adjournment of the next meeting of the General*
21 *Convention.* The President shall be authorized to appoint an Advisory Council for
22 consultation and advice in the performance of the duties of the office. The
23 President may also appoint a Chancellor to the President, a confirmed adult
24 communicant of the Church in good standing who is learned in both ecclesiastical
25 and secular law, to serve so long as the President may desire, as counselor in
26 matters relating to the discharge of the responsibilities of that office.

EXPLANATION

Currently there is no provision to fill the office of the Vice-President of the House of Deputies in the case of a vacancy. For the good order of the House of Deputies, it is important that both offices (President and Vice-President) be filled.

Amend Canon I.4.3(g)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 587–588; Constitution & Canons: p.
33

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.4.3(g) is amended as
2 follows:
3 **(g)** Upon joint nomination of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Executive Council
4 shall elect a Joint Audit Committee of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign
5 Missionary Society. The Committee shall be composed of 6 members, one of
6 whom shall be a member of the Executive Council's ~~Committee on~~
7 ~~Administration & Finance~~ *Standing Committee with primary responsibility for*
8 *financial matters*, one from the membership of the Joint Standing Committee on
9 Program, Budget and Finance, and the remaining four shall be members of the
10 Church-at-large, having experience in general business practices. The members
11 shall serve for a term of three years beginning on January 1 following a regular
12 meeting of the General Convention or immediately following their appointment,
13 whichever comes later, and continue until a successor is appointed, and may
14 serve two consecutive terms, after which a full triennium must elapse before
15 being eligible for re-election. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Council shall designate
16 the Chair of the Committee from among its members. The Audit Committee shall
17 regularly review the financial statements relating to all funds under the
18 management or control of the Council and the Society and shall report thereon at
19 least annually to the Council and the Society. Upon recommendation of the Audit
20 Committee, the Executive Council shall employ on behalf of the Council and the
21 Society an independent Certified Public Accountant firm to audit annually all
22 accounts under the management or control of the Council and Society. After
23 receipt of the annual audit, the Audit Committee shall recommend to the Council
24 and Society what action to take as to any matters identified in the annual audit
25 and accompanying management letter. The operations of the Audit Committee
26 shall be set out in an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee shall
27 review, at least annually, the Committee's Charter and recommend any changes
28 to the Executive Council for approval.

EXPLANATION

Executive Council no longer has a Joint Standing Committee on Administration and Finance and may choose to modify its committee names in the future. This provides that flexibility and maintains the spirit of the resolution that a finance committee member be appointed to the audit committee.

A122

TOPIC: BUDGET

Financial Oversight and Budgeting Process

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 588; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o6 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to review, and
- 3 recommend revisions to, Canons and the Joint Rules of Order regarding the
- 4 financial oversight and budgeting processes of the Domestic and Foreign
- 5 Missionary Society and The Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION

A123

TOPIC: CANONS

Amend Canon I.4.3(e)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 588; Constitution & Canons: p. 32

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 06 - Structure

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, The Canon I.4.3(e) be amended to
- 2 read:
- 3 (e) Upon joint nomination of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Executive Council
- 4 shall appoint a *Chief* Financial Officer of the Executive Council, who may, but
- 5 need not, be the same person as the Treasurer of the General Convention and
- 6 who shall report and be accountable to the Chair of Executive Council and shall
- 7 serve at the pleasure of the Chair of the Executive Council. If a vacancy should
- 8 occur in that office, a successor shall be appointed in like manner.

EXPLANATION

The term currently used is “Chief Financial Officer.”

A124

TOPIC: RULES OF ORDER (JT.)

Amend Joint Rule 10(a)

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 588; Constitution & Canons: p. 210

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 03 - Rules of Order

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

N/A; N/A; not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Joint Rule 10(a) be
2 amended as follows:
3 10. (a) There shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and
4 Finance, consisting of 27 persons being members of the General Convention (one
5 Bishop, and two members of the House of Deputies, either Lay or Clerical, from
6 each Province), who shall be appointed not later than the fifteenth day of
7 December following each regular Meeting of the General Convention, the Bishops
8 to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop, the Deputies by the President of the
9 House of Deputies.
10 The Secretary and the Treasurer of the General Convention and the Treasurer
11 *Chief Financial Officer* of the Executive Council shall be members *ex officio*,
12 without vote.
13 The Joint Standing Committee may appoint advisers, from time to time, as its
14 funds warrant, to assist the Joint Standing Committee with its work.

EXPLANATION

The term currently used is "Chief Financial Officer."

Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 588–589; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing the work against the sin
- 3 of racism in all of its forms; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That a culture, expectation, and practice of anti-racism permeate the
- 5 life of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all
- 7 teams of the DFMS, monitored and networked by a staff officer; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all
- 9 volunteers participating in the governance structures of The Episcopal Church;
- 10 and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That anti-racism training oversight and implementation be carried out
- 12 on provincial and diocesan levels; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That all dioceses and provinces initiate anti-racism training if they
- 14 have not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an
- 15 ongoing basis; and be it further
- 16 *Resolved*, That dioceses and provinces use "Seeing the Face of God in Each
- 17 Other" as a primary resource for developing a common language and core
- 18 principles along with other existing or newly developed resources to dismantle
- 19 and eradicate structures of racism and the oppressions they foster, both
- 20 internally and externally, and integrate the practices of anti-racism into their
- 21 ongoing life; and be it further
- 22 *Resolved*, That the provinces report annually to the Executive Council on the
- 23 progress being made in fulfillment of this resolution; and be it further
- 24 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing
- 25 Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of
- 26 \$180,000 to be distributed and used by the Provinces for the implementation of
- 27 this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

Since 1976, the General Convention has repeatedly called for the Church to work to end racism. Furthermore, anti-racism awareness is an ongoing process in the life of individuals and the Church and is grounded in the Baptismal Covenant. Pastoral letters from the House of Bishops in 1994 and 2006 have also clearly addressed the need for Churchwide focus on the elimination of racism.

The 76th General Convention identified “Alleviating Injustice” as one of its Mission Priorities, and the report of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism to that convention revealed the following:

- 77 of 100 dioceses offered anti-racism training;
- only 38 dioceses had anti-racism committees;
- there were just 60 certified trainers, meaning persons able to serve their own diocese and others, from a goal of having trainers in every diocese; and
- 23 dioceses had not offered any training.

The report of the Committee on Anti-Racism to this convention identifies “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other” as the primary anti-racism training manual of The Episcopal Church, to be supplemented with other appropriate existing or newly developed resources.

The underpinning of racism affects the dynamics of the ministry of The Episcopal Church, and anti-racism work should be a top priority as stated in a history of General Convention Resolutions: 2003□A010, 2006□C011, and 2009□A142. Local mission cannot thrive in the absence of greater understanding, training, and practice of anti-racist, multi-cultural, and anti-oppression principles by both our laity and clergy. Racial justice seeks to eliminate oppressive systems and to honor the value and quality of all races, ethnicities, and cultures. An understanding and appreciation of the wide diversity of perspective and experience present in God’s creation is increasingly felt as a critical component of transformation, both as individuals and as community. The Church in all the above-cited resolutions has noted the systemic inequalities and injustice that exists in our societies and in the Church.

The Churchwide Ministries Survey, a report received by the Executive Council in October 2011, was designed to inform the priorities for the 2013–2015 budget process and was directed to a select group of Church leaders (bishops, Executive Council, and CCAB members) revealed a continued emphasis on the importance of anti-racism work on both the Churchwide and local (congregational, diocesan, and provincial) levels.

Currently, there is no provision for the training of Anti-Racism Trainers to do the work mandated by the General Convention, or to monitor anti-racism efforts or adherence to General Convention-approved guidelines and curriculum.

Consideration of the Anglican Covenant

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 590; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 77th General Convention
- 2 express its profound gratitude to those who so faithfully worked at producing the
- 3 Anglican Covenant; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church commit itself to continued participation in
- 5 the wider councils of the Anglican Communion and to continued dialogue with
- 6 our brothers and sisters in other provinces to deepen understanding and to
- 7 ensure the continued integrity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church recommit itself to dialogue with the several
- 9 provinces when adopting innovations that may be seen as threatening to the
- 10 unity of the Communion; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church is unable to adopt the Anglican Covenant in
- 12 its present form.

EXPLANATION

A127

TOPIC: RACISM

Recommit to Being Anti-Racists for the Next Three Triennia (Until 2018)

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 594; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, That The Episcopal Church
- 2 recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing to work against the sin
- 3 of racism; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That due to the challenges presented by budgetary constraints and lack
- 5 of a dedicated staff member, anti-racism training oversight and implementation
- 6 be carried out on provincial and diocesan levels; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That all dioceses and provinces receive anti-racism training if they have
- 8 not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an ongoing
- 9 basis; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, That dioceses and provinces use existing programs and ministries, or
- 11 develop new programs and ministries, to dismantle and eradicate structures or
- 12 racism, both internally and externally, and integrate the practices of anti-racism
- 13 into their ongoing life.

EXPLANATION

Given the changes occasioned by the 2009 budget cuts, this resolution is offered to affirm the Church's commitment to Anti-Racism work, and to recognize that this work will have to be accomplished in different ways.

Direct Dioceses to Examine Impact of Doctrine of Discovery

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 594; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, That that the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in the
- 2 spirit of our Baptismal Covenant and in being inclusive, direct all dioceses to
- 3 examine the impact the Doctrine of Discovery, as adopted at the 76th General
- 4 Convention, has had on all people, especially on persons of color, including racial
- 5 discrimination, racial profiling and other acts of oppression.

EXPLANATION

The Anti-Racism Committee believes that this Resolution must be extended from 2009-D035 to address all people of color who have experienced and continue to experience oppression because of policies and practices grounded the Doctrine of Discovery. That doctrine sanctioned the slave trade in Africa, and the New World, the killing of Indigenous people in the Americas, the forcible placement of Native children in residential schools where they were forbidden to speak their own languages, and were physically, emotionally and sexually abused, the taking of Native lands and the overall attempt to destroy Indigenous cultures. We further recognize that the Doctrine of Discovery has served as the catalyst for racial discrimination toward all people of color: African American, Asians, Hispanics, Native American, Middle Eastern, and immigrant peoples. By developing the histories and stories of racial and ethnic groups, all dioceses can identify and confront the sin of racism against all marginalized races, ethnicities, cultures and classes.

A129

TOPIC: BUDGET

Increase Aid for Ministry with Native Peoples

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 609; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance to consider
- 3 increasing by 20% the base budget support awarded at the 76th General
- 4 Convention to each of the four "aided dioceses" (South Dakota, North Dakota,
- 5 Alaska, Navajoland) for ministry with Native Peoples for the 2013–2015 triennial
- 6 budget.

EXPLANATION

An increase is necessary due to increased costs of the denominational health insurance program and travel expenses in these vast geographic areas in order to continue “to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom” (Five Marks of Mission, #1) and “to teach baptize and nurture new believers” (Five Marks of Mission, #2) in these dioceses encompassing some of the poorest counties and reservations in the United States where unemployment rates of 50-80% are not uncommon.

A130

TOPIC: BUDGET

Increase Program Budget of Office of Native Ministries

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 609; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance to consider
- 3 increasing by 20% the Program Budget of the Office of Native Ministries awarded
- 4 at the 76th General Convention 2009 in the 2013–2015 triennial budget.

EXPLANATION

In order to “teach, baptize and nurture new believers” (Five Marks of Mission, #2) in Indigenous communities, including those of Province IX, an increase is necessary to provide adequate culturally relevant resources.

Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 610; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 expresses its solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the world and supports the
 3 rights of Indigenous Peoples to live in and retain their traditional lands and
 4 territories, to maintain their languages and enrich their cultures, and to ensure
 5 that their traditions are strengthened and passed on for generations to come; and
 6 be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention urges the governments and nation
 8 states of the world to dismantle the legal structures and policies based on the
 9 Doctrine of Discovery and dominance; and be it further
- 10 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention requests the governments and
 11 nation states of the world to ensure that their policies, regulations, and laws that
 12 affect Indigenous Peoples conform to the United Nations Declaration on the
 13 Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further
- 14 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention calls upon the governments and
 15 nation states of the world to empower and enable Indigenous Peoples to identify
 16 their own aspirations and issues of concern and fully involve them, after
 17 sufficient and prior consultation, in creating and implementing solutions that
 18 recognize and respect the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples to exercise self-
 19 determination and self-governance; and be it further
- 20 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions,
 21 dioceses, and corporate offices of The Episcopal Church, with the aid of resources
 22 such as "Exposing the Doctrine of Discovery," to reflect upon their history and to
 23 encourage them to support Indigenous Peoples in their ongoing efforts to
 24 exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights, to continue to
 25 raise awareness about the issues facing Indigenous Peoples, and to develop
 26 advocacy campaigns to support the rights, aspirations, and needs of Indigenous
 27 Peoples; and be it further
- 28 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions,
 29 dioceses, and corporate offices of The Episcopal Church to support continued use
 30 and development of theological reflections by Indigenous Peoples, with guidance
 31 from the Office of Indigenous Ministries, Indigenous Theological Training
 32 Institute, local Schools for Ministry and seminaries, which promote Indigenous
 33 visions of full, good, and abundant life and which strengthen their own spiritual
 34 and theological reflections.

EXPLANATION

In 2009, the 76th General Convention repudiated and denounced the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and as a violation of the inherent human rights that all individuals and peoples have received from God. “Exposing the Doctrine of Discovery: A Call to Healing and Hope” includes resources developed by and available through the Office of Indigenous Ministry. In order “to seek to transform unjust structures of society” (Five Marks of Mission, #4), and “to teach, baptize and nurture new believers” (Five Marks of Mission, #3), the Executive Council’s Committee on Indigenous Ministries urges the adoption of the resolution above.

Dismantling of the Effects of the Doctrine of Discovery

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 610–611; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 calls upon congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of The
- 3 Episcopal Church to participate in the dismantling of the effects of the Doctrine
- 4 of Discovery by advocating for protection of the sacred sites of Indigenous
- 5 Peoples, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and
- 6 Repatriation Act of 1990, vigilance in reporting violations, and awareness of
- 7 culturally sensitive areas that may be affected by church activities and expansion.

EXPLANATION

The 76th General Convention passed Resolution 2009-A152, which directed the Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries to study and assess the preservation of burial sites and other sacred places of Indigenous Peoples in the countries that comprise The Episcopal Church.

In 2007, the United Nation Declaration on Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples was passed. The UN Declaration states in Article 11 “Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.” In Article 12, the declaration reads that “Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.”

Even as these types of declarations that are meant to empower Indigenous Peoples and extend their right to protect cultural and grave sites, and even as specific laws are passed by the United States government (i.e. the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990), these efforts have not ended the destruction of culturally sensitive heritage areas and burial grounds.

A133

TOPIC: BUDGET

Financial Support for the Indigenous Theological Training Institute

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 611; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 15 - Education

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, The House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 requests the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to
- 3 consider a budget allocation of \$142,000 for each year of the triennium for a total
- 4 of \$426,000 for support of the Indigenous Theological Training Institute.

EXPLANATION

The Indigenous Theological training Institute (ITTI), founded in 1994 to improve theological training and leadership development in Native communities, has not received an increase in funding in 16 years. The ITTI was founded to respond to a lack of training and education for both lay and ordained leaders in Native American communities. The ITTI has continued to provide canonically appropriate training and education. The first goal of the Indigenous Theological Training Institute is to strengthen the cultural appropriateness of theological training for indigenous people in The Episcopal Church. We will accomplish this goal by entering into partnership with existing theological training programs to provide culturally appropriate theological education at the community level, as well as regional and national training events. ITTI's second goal is to assist in proclaiming the Gospel by increasing the number of lay and ordained ministers in Native Communities. We will accomplish this goal by awarding scholarships for Indigenous people attending accredited seminaries, other training programs, and other existing diocesan programs. ITTI's third goal is to educate the circle of the entire Episcopal Church to our unique ministry, spirituality and theological training. We will accomplish this by continuing to publish the First People's Theological Journal, and by providing other forms of communication and media sources.

Refocus the Mission of the Jubilee Advisory Committee for Poverty Alleviation

PROPOSER

Executive Council Jubilee Ministries Advisory Committee

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 617–618; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Executive Council Jubilee Advisory Committee be renamed as
 2 the Executive Council Advisory Committee on Poverty Alleviation to reflect the
 3 realities of organizational changes implemented in the Mission Program Office of
 4 the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society since its initial establishment in
 5 January, 2000; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the Committee shall be an advisory committee charged with
 7 engaging the Church in the needs and issues affecting the alleviation of poverty
 8 and oppression among those served through the congregations, institutions,
 9 dioceses and corporate offices of the Episcopal Church. That the responsibilities
 10 of the Advisory Committee on Poverty Alleviation shall include: Serving as a
 11 council of advice to the Officer of Social and Economic Justice; Working with the
 12 Office of Social and Economic Development on such matters as training,
 13 education, program and network development; Promoting all aspects of Jubilee
 14 Ministry to the Church at large as established by General Convention resolution
 15 1982-A080 and its subsequent years of development; Providing a forum for
 16 partnership and collaboration with Episcopal affiliates engaged in ministries of
 17 service and/or advocacy on behalf of poor and oppressed people such as
 18 Episcopal Community Services in America, National Episcopal Health Ministries,
 19 and Churches in Metropolitan Areas; Advocating at every level of the Church
 20 nationally and internationally for the alleviation of poverty and oppression, while
 21 promoting an emphasis on programs that respect human dignity and empower
 22 people who have been historically marginalized in their local contexts to act, such
 23 as Asset Based Community Development and Congregation Based Organizing;
 24 Advocating for opportunities to direct economic assets of congregations,
 25 institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of the Episcopal Church towards
 26 programs focused on the alleviation of poverty and oppression; and Producing
 27 the Blue Book Report on Poverty Alleviation in collaboration with the Officer of
 28 Social and Economic Justice for inclusion with the Executive Council's Blue Book
 29 Report;
 30 and it further
 31 *Resolved*, That the Committee shall consist of nine–twelve members, including
 32 the chair, to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop. At least one member of the

33 Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council and act as liaison between
34 the Committee and the Executive Council, at least one member of the Committee
35 shall be a member of the House of Bishops, and at least three members of the
36 Committee shall be Diocesan Jubilee Officers. Four other members may be
37 persons actively engaged in ministry among poor and oppressed people. The
38 Presiding Bishop is encouraged to appoint persons who are broadly
39 representative of the Church with respect to orders, geographical location and
40 Province, age, sex, ethnic background and experience. Each member of the
41 Committee shall be appointed for a three-year term and no member shall serve
42 more than three consecutive partial or full terms. The Committee shall meet at
43 least once annually in a location that provides access to direct conversation with
44 people who are suffering under the burden of poverty or oppression for the sake
45 of identifying with their struggle and being blessed to learn from them in ways
46 that will inform their planning; and be it further
47 *Resolved*, That the Committee shall regularly report to the Executive Council
48 through the Director of the Mission Program Office or the Director's appointed
49 representative.

EXPLANATION

Focus Mission Funding on Alleviating Poverty and Injustice

PROPOSER

Executive Council Jubilee Ministries Advisory Committee

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 618–619; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 re-affirm its commitment to the Jubilee Ministry Grants program as a continuing
- 3 line item in the church’s budget at a minimum funding level of \$100,000.00 per
- 4 annum during the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention re-affirm its commitment to Poverty
- 6 Alleviation through locally defined community development initiatives in Native
- 7 People’s communities and that it expand the Church’s capacity to encourage and
- 8 respond to local initiatives focused on the alleviation of poverty among other
- 9 populations of poor and oppressed people by adding a line item in the church’s
- 10 budget at a minimum funding level of \$300,000 per annum during the 2013-
- 11 2015 triennium; and be it further
- 12 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention re-affirm its commitment to summer
- 13 camp programs for children of parents who are incarcerated as a line item in the
- 14 church’s budget at a minimum funding level of \$50,000 per annum; and be it
- 15 further
- 16 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 17 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$450,000 per
- 18 annum for the implementation of this Resolution.

EXPLANATION

Through Jubilee Ministry, the Church has long committed itself to a joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people wherever they are found to meet basic human needs and to build a just society. Continuing today, the over 600 Jubilee Ministries that have been designated by bishops and affirmed by acts of the Executive Council hold up before the congregations, institutions, dioceses, and offices of the Episcopal Church our commitment putting faith into action. Jubilee Ministry granting funds, though modest when dispersed across the church, assist dioceses with local network support and development while also allowing targeted strategies for ministry as indentified by Diocesan Jubilee officers to be encouraged such as the Health and Nutrition grants focused on strategic responses to food deserts.

The introduction of Asset Based Community Development and culturally based community healing as offered by the White Bison Movement is leading to locally defined community development initiatives among and by Native Peoples. Though nascent in its introduction, there are palpable signs of hope and encouragement emerging in local communities as Native Peoples begin to imagine and articulate lives lived in harmony with their creator and among one another. Their witness may very well become a symbol of hope that guides the

larger Episcopal Church community into a new future filled with abundant possibilities as a people of faith who are willing to place their complete trust in God as they care for one another. Likewise, the experience of listening is bringing us, as the Church, into a more vulnerable relationship with those among whom God has placed us to serve. Expanding the opportunities for listening to more communities in need of hope is an invitation to encounter the breadth and depth of healing God is offering us as a people of faith in search of our own healing.

Summer Camp programs designed for Children of Incarcerated Parents are programs that transform the lives of staff, volunteer and child alike. No one engaged in these ministries leave unaffected by their experience of the other in their midst. There are no more clear opportunities before the Church today where we can be more intimately affected by the offerings we make than when we make those offerings on behalf of children who have never been able to imagine a future that did not include incarceration as an inevitable step ahead of them. Through these summer camp programs we are able to liberate children as prisoners of their own captivity by offering them affirmation and the possibility of hope filled futures. While these camp programs cost many thousands of dollars to run, the modest \$1,000-2,000 grants these funds provide affirm our partnership with them in practical ways that can be leveraged by matching funds they can attract.

Taken as a whole this funding for mission supports the following Mission Priorities:

- (1) Networking the members of the Body of Christ: (a) Establishing and supporting collaborative efforts within and among dioceses and congregations to promote vibrant ministry in service to God's mission
Alleviating Poverty and Injustice; (b) Addressing, domestically and abroad, the challenges and consequences of a failing global economy; (c) Advocating for and working to provide education, healthcare, employment, housing, and equal rights for all of God's beloved.
- (3) Claiming our Identity: (a) Exploring and discovering who we are as The Episcopal Church, within the comprehensive reality of our complex culture and in relationship to others; (c) Telling Christ's story and our story, utilizing current technology and a vibrant contemporary communications network.
- (4) Growing Congregations and the Next Generations of Faith: (b) Making Evangelists of all communicants; (c) Teaching and developing the spiritual discipline of giving; (d) Supporting congregational vitality and development, with particular attention to immigrant, indigenous, and underserved populations.
- (5) Strengthening Governance and Foundations for Ministry: (b) Moving from programmatic structures to ministry structures.

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 621–622; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 15 - Education

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 affirms that there is no inherent contradiction between holding and practicing the
3 Christian faith and practicing or utilizing the outcomes of modern science and
4 medicine; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That this Convention affirms that certain characteristics of faith, most
6 explicitly the tenet that reason and tradition are essential to extending our
7 understanding of God’s Creation, are mirrored in science; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That in God’s physical universe, the proper practice of science cannot
9 and does not automatically lead its practitioners or others to lose faith in God, or
10 to be led into beliefs that contradict the existence of God; and be it further
11 *Resolved*, That the methods of modern science, when applied to a search for
12 truth, contribute to our understanding of God’s Creation such that we should use
13 scientific information, after diligence as to its acceptance among scientific peers
14 in relevant disciplines, to inform and augment our understanding of God’s
15 Creation, and to aid the Church in developing Christian programs and policies
16 consistent with our faith and our understanding of God’s Creation and our
17 stewardship of it; and be it further
18 *Resolved*, That this Convention encourages the dioceses and the parishes of The
19 Episcopal Church to establish Christian education programs pertinent to this
20 complementary relationship between science and faith, using the Catechism of
21 Creation compiled by the Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology
22 and Faith.

EXPLANATION

In recent years, a number of clergy and Christian educators have been seeking guidance on the relationship between science and faith in the Episcopal Church. This resolution clearly spells out the Episcopal Church believes that there is no contradiction between being a person of faith and a person of science. The passing of this resolution will become a useful tool for Christian education and formation programs in the Episcopal Church

In matters of faith, Episcopalians appeal to Scripture, Tradition, and Reason, sometimes called the “three-legged stool” of Anglicanism. This is parallel to the basic process of scientific tradition (See Kuhn 1962; LaTour 1988; and Callon 2004). In science, reason is the careful and thorough use of theory and data collection to offer up the best possible explanation for corporeal and related phenomena in God’s Creation. The traditions of

science are incorporated into its body through training at colleges, universities, research institutions and laboratories through the use of techniques, practices and beliefs consistent with those methods that have produced the best science in the past. Although there is no “scripture” in science, we may observe that the “text” of science is the phenomena to which it applies itself to understand, that part of the universe which exists in physical form as an extant body of God’s glory.

The scientist makes his or her explanation of the universe in much the same way as St. Paul does when he asserts that “we see through a glass darkly”. Science is an on-going process of observations of the natural world, formation of hypotheses, and testing of hypotheses through empirical evidence to form theories. Similarly, in Christian doctrinal development, our doctrines must be able to stand the test of time and the information we obtain through appeal to Scripture, Tradition and Reason. Sound Christian doctrines must be able to demonstrate “chronic vigor” (John Henry Newman, *Essays on the Development of Christian Doctrines*).

Both faith in God’s creation and a scientifically based understanding of the cosmos are needed for the Church to discern and develop doctrines, liturgy and advice surrounding creation and science. Therefore, we encourage the study of the Catechism of Creation to enrich our Church in this aspect of our faith development.

A137

TOPIC: FAMILY PLANNING

Strengthening Families

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 628; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 urge health insurance providers used by churches, dioceses and other church-
- 3 related agencies to provide insurance options that provide coverage for infertility
- 4 treatment. And be it further,
- 5 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention reaffirm resolution 2000-Co42
- 6 ("Urge Executive Council and Dioceses to Support Maternity/Paternity Leave for
- 7 Clergy").

EXPLANATION

Infertility is a medical condition, just like heart disease or diabetes. About one in eight couples of childbearing age is infertile, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Insurance coverage, when it exists, varies widely. Fifteen states (including Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas and West Virginia) require that insurance plans cover infertility treatments, but in those states where that coverage is limited, and in those where there is no required coverage, infertility treatment and assisted reproductive therapies can be cost-prohibitive for families.

The frontline of treatment for infertility is infertility medication, but even this low-tech option can be expensive, averaging \$1,500 per cycle. If more potent drugs are used the cost can easily double. When other procedures become necessary, the cost can go up to \$10,000–\$12,000 on average for each treatment. The overall cost can become staggering.

By urging church insurance carriers to provide this coverage the church can be a powerful partner in assisting to strengthen families.

Resolution 2009-A166, "Parental Leave," urged dioceses and congregations to establish policies, but stopped short of providing guidelines about coverage. Without these guidelines, churches are free to establish policies that include minimal, or even no, coverage. By reaffirming resolution 2000-Co42, we at least ensure a minimum level of paid parental leave.

Legislation covering support for adoption, 2000-D104 ("Affirm Adoption and Support Legislation on Adoption Counseling") has already been addressed by General Convention, and for this reason alone was not part of this "Strengthening Families" resolution.

Ending Statelessness Discrimination Against Women

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 628–629; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction
- 3 of Statelessness and assert the right of every human being to a nationality by
- 4 urging States to work to end statelessness which affects millions of people across
- 5 the world; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church urge the United States Government and the
- 7 international community to work to end discriminatory practices that leave
- 8 women and children vulnerable to statelessness, including efforts to ensure
- 9 equality between women and men in nationality laws and access to
- 10 documentation, the promotion of birth registration as a basic step toward the
- 11 protection of children and the prevention of statelessness, and greater efforts in
- 12 the identification of stateless persons to be able to start addressing their needs.

EXPLANATION

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and provides States a unique opportunity to take concrete steps to reaffirm the right of every human being to a nationality. A stateless person is a person who is not considered to be a citizen of any state. The lack of citizenship is a barrier to access to the most basic rights. There are approximately 15 million stateless people around the world, and they are in every continent. Citizenship is considered to be the fundamental right, the “right to have rights.” The lack of citizenship can be a barrier to exercising basic rights and accessing basic protections. It is also a barrier to participate in civic and political life (inability to vote, hold public office). Citizenship is necessary to exit and enter a country freely, but also in many countries to obtain housing, health care, employment, and education. Significant numbers of women around the world have no citizenship of any country. Their statelessness means that no government protects their rights.

“Gender discrimination in nationality means that a woman can lose her right to citizenship by virtue of marriage because she has to denounce her nationality when she gets married. And women often cannot pass on their citizenship to their children. As a result of being stateless, refugee women and girls are also frequently unable to obtain passports, to travel freely, or acquire jobs in the formal sector. This puts them at risk of using smugglers to remove themselves from difficult situations or in hopes of supporting themselves and their families.” (Ada Williams Prince, Senior Advocacy Officer, Women’s Refugee Commission, December, 2009)

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 629–630; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 affirm the Letter to the Churches of the Anglican Communion from the Primates
- 3 of the Anglican Communion following their Primates Meeting in Dublin, Ireland,
- 4 January 24–30, 2011, concerning gender-based violence, including endorsing
- 5 and implementing the actions put forth in the statement; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That parishes and dioceses be encouraged to participate in annual
- 7 awareness campaigns about gender violence; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That the Department of Global Partnership identify and disseminate
- 9 resources about gender violence and promote their use by dioceses and parishes.

EXPLANATION

As a church we cannot forget our commitment to Millennium Development Goal 3 (‘Promote gender equality and empower women’). We commend the Primates for their willingness to speak about issues of gender violence, and we urge members of the church to use program materials such as the “16 days Against Gender Violence” of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and other resources to continue to raise awareness of these issues.

A Letter to the Churches of the Anglican Communion from the Primates of the Anglican Communion following their Primates’ Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, between 24th and 30th January, 2011

During our meeting we discussed the nature and prevalence of gender based violence. Building on consideration of the issue during the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) conference of bishops in 2010, we shared stories of violence against women and girls from both the southern and northern hemispheres, including an account of unremitting sexual violence against women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a legacy of conflict, and of domestic and many other forms of abuse in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. We acknowledged with grief that gender based violence is a global phenomenon and that all but a very small percentage of such violence is perpetrated by men against women, with devastating effects on individuals, families and society.

In considering the pervasive nature of violence against women and girls, our churches must accept responsibility for our own part in perpetuating oppressive attitudes towards women. In penitence and faith we must move forward in such a way that our churches truly become a living witness to our belief that both women and men are made in the image of God. To think and behave in ways that do not live out this belief but disempower and marginalise, is to mar the divine image and therefore to offend humanity and God.

In recent years we have seen a growing resolve in the Anglican Communion to engage with the eradication of

gender based violence. In 2009 the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) resolved to support the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and encouraged all Provinces to participate in programmes and events that promote the rights and welfare of women, particularly as expressed in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. The ACC also called on the churches to take appropriate steps to assist the healing of indigenous families, including the protection of women and children from violence and human trafficking. The bishops gathered at the Lambeth Conferences of 1998 and 2008 considered violence within and beyond the Church and asked the churches to engage in raising public awareness about the victimisation and exploitation of women and children. We noted that several of the official Anglican Networks have raised violence against women and girls as a priority issue for their own memberships and for the broader Communion. We were heartened to know that there is an increasing amount of work being undertaken in the Communion as churches engage with awareness raising, advocacy, changing attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence, the care and reintegration into society of victims/survivors of violence, and work with perpetrators of violence. We thank God for these efforts and rejoice in them, and we commit to strengthening our mission and ministry in these areas.

To this end we have asked the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, in association with the Networks and the Anglican Alliance, to continue to map activities already responding to gender based violence, and to identify theological and practical resources and consider how these might be made broadly available for reference and adaptation in other local contexts.

As individual Primates we are committed, in each of our Provinces, to raise the profile of Millennium Development Goal 3 ('Promote gender equality and empower women'); to affirm and pray for God's blessing on initiatives already in place in our dioceses and parishes in response to violence against women and girls; to gather other church and faith leaders together to discern what we might say and do together; and to attend to the training of clergy and pastors so that they are aware of the nature and dynamics of gendered violence and how certain attitudes and behaviours can be challenged and transformed. We are also committed to ensuring the development and accessibility of local, contextual and accessible resources, including liturgies, for example, for 25 November which is the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women as well as White Ribbon Day, and the first day of the global '16 Days Activism for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. Furthermore, through teaching and example, we will work with our young people so that our boys and girls, young men and young women, are enabled to honour themselves and one another as human beings cherished equally by God, and empowered to be agents of change among their peers.

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 630; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Office of Government Relations to partner with international and
- 3 domestic efforts to encourage and advocate for legislation, programs, services
- 4 and advocacy related to improving maternal health and infant development; and
- 5 be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church take action to support and foster maternal
- 7 and infant health and development, which addresses the mission priority of
- 8 Alleviating Poverty and Injustice established at the 76th General Convention, in
- 9 dioceses, across the Church, and throughout the Communion.

EXPLANATION

The Center for Disease Control, in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente, has published extensive research showing the relationship about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) scores. Adverse Childhood Experiences include abuse (emotional, physical and sexual), neglect (emotional and physical), and household dysfunction (domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness). Their conclusions show that the higher a person's ACE score, the more likely they are to develop social, emotional and cognitive impairment, adoption of health-risk behaviors, disease, disability and social problems and even early death.

By supporting programs and legislation that provide services to pregnant women and their children, the Church is addressing, domestically and abroad, the challenges and consequences of a failing global economy and is advocating for and working to provide health care and education for all of God's beloved. The Church should be in the forefront in taking an active position against child abuse, neglect and household dysfunction that are shown to lead to adverse health conditions as adults. In addition, despite some improved health care conditions in some aspects of maternal and infant health care and development in the United States, the cost of pregnancy, birth and infant development continues to rise and continues to be underserved in other parts of the world. For example, under-nutrition contributes to the death of 3.5 million children under the age of five each year and the physical and economic suffering of millions more. The Episcopal Church needs to support fair and just practices, including programs and services, for women and children in the United States and in the world.

In addition to supporting fair and just practices, including programs and services, the Church is also providing important support to dioceses regarding healthy family development, community programs and initiatives, and legislative efforts. This will provide the Church a network of providers and knowledge to effectively care for prenatal families and maternal and infant health. In supporting women and families, the Church becomes a stronger and healthier organization by fostering healthy family development.

A141

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund Meetings of the Council of Episcopal Women's Organizations

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 630; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 09 - National and International Concerns

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 provide \$15,000 for the annual meeting (\$5,000 in 2013, \$5,000 in 2014, \$5000
- 3 in 2015) of the Council of Episcopal Women's Organizations.

EXPLANATION

When the Office of Women's Ministries was de-funded in 2009 all program monies ceased to exist. While the Committee on the Status of women has worked hard to fulfill its mandate without this direct staff support, critical meetings such as that of the CEWO (that bring volunteer women's organizations together for collaboration and networking) are in danger of ceasing altogether. The cost of each annual meeting exceeds \$10,000, and must be borne by groups and individuals who do not have access to financial resources.

Study Expansion of Canonical Residency

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 631; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 direct Executive Council, the Standing Commission on Ministry Development
 3 and the Office of Transition Ministry to study the need and merits of granting
 4 canonical residency to priests called to different and creative ministries in
 5 another diocese; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct Executive Council, the
 7 Standing Commission on Ministry Development and the Office of Transition
 8 Ministry to work cooperatively with the Standing Commission on Constitution
 9 and Canons to propose to the 78th General Convention language for changing
 10 Canon III.9.4(d) to include priests called to different and creative ministries in
 11 another diocese.

EXPLANATION

As The Episcopal Church in the 21st century responds to a rapidly changing society by encouraging new, creative models of ordained ministry, the need to amend the current canon addressing canonical residency becomes increasingly urgent. For clergy, canonical residence is defined by ordination and Letters Dimissory. Under Canon III.9.4(d), only a priest who is accepting a cure in a congregation is assured, barring any credible concerns, canonical residence in a new Diocese through a Letter Dimissory. Because our Church is seeking to engage in a wider range of models for ministry, change in Canon III.9.4(d) is needed to include extra-parochial clergy. The benefits will be threefold: First, granting canonical residency to extra-parochial clergy will strengthen the bonds of pastoral care and accountability between Bishops or Standing Committees and the clergy who exercise ministry in their dioceses. Second, such change will ensure that all clergy engaged in active ministry may participate fully and fairly in the Church's leadership and decision-making. With canonical residency, extra-parochial clergy will be fully present in the dioceses in which they minister, including being able to vote in diocesan conventions, serve on the diocese's Standing Committee and other bodies, and stand for election as a deputy to General Convention. Finally, changing Canon III.9.4(d) will move the Church towards greater justice. Policies for accepting Letters Dimissory for clergy who are not heading a parish vary widely across dioceses. This lack of protection has led to unequal, discriminatory standing for associate and assisting clergy, clergy who minister as hospital, school and prison chaplains, ordained seminary professors, clergy who work in social service agencies or advocacy organizations, interim and non-stipendiary clergy, and other clergy in non-parochial vocations who live and work in dioceses far away from where they were ordained. In all, the Church needs to begin a serious conversation about strengthening the interrelationship between the Church's governance and all ordained ministries and about welcoming the leadership and perspectives of priests active in different and creative ministries.

A143

TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY

Develop a Search Toolkit

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 631; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 direct the Office for Transition Ministries, the Office of Pastoral Development and
- 3 the Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women to develop and
- 4 distribute a Search Toolkit for church leadership discernment committees and
- 5 female clergy applicants. And be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That \$5,000 be budgeted for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

As the church continues to develop and change in the 21st century, we must give attention to the continuing issue of gender inequality in the deployment and vocational paths of clergy. As addressed in the Called to Serve (CTS) study, these persistent inequalities are not attributable to age, age at time of ordination, years ordained or other variables. Even after isolating for such variables, two parallel tracks emerge in the vocational lives of men and women with men securing the most senior church positions (deans, rectors of program and corporate sized parishes, cathedral deans, and bishops) and in every position garnering greater compensation (on average) than their women counterparts. We must thoroughly examine the factors contributing to this phenomenon and begin to address them.

The process by which a congregation or diocese calls new clergy seems a likely place to begin this effort. This process of discernment is one of the few times in which a church or diocese is evaluating itself, challenging its understanding of leadership and vision, and ultimately making a prayerful decision about new leadership. In an effort to educate and support parishes in an attempt to redress the concerns raised in the CTS study, we recommend the development of a new resource, a Search Toolkit. The toolkit would have two purposes: First, it would assist women applicants. From CTS, we have also learned that women are less likely than their male counterparts to have received mentoring and support. The kit would provide helpful information along the lines of that gained from mentoring relationships (resume-writing, preparation for interviews, etc.). Second, it would assist church leadership discernment committees (search committees, vestries, episcopal election committees). The kit would educate those who make selection decisions about the “care and feeding of clergy/bishops” as well as addressing the impact of discriminatory hiring practices (marital status, racism, ageism, non-traditional career paths).

Monitor Women and Other Underrepresented Groups

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 631–632; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
 2 request the Office of Pastoral Development to work with other offices to monitor
 3 the ratio of female to male candidates, nominees, and electees to episcopal
 4 offices, as well as other underrepresented groups (such as racial and ethnic
 5 minorities), and to report annually to the Executive Council; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct the Office of Pastoral
 7 Development to work with other offices in analyzing existing data on episcopal
 8 transition processes, Called to Serve survey findings, and other relevant research
 9 to determine and recommend steps to help improve the ratio of episcopal electees
 10 who are female or members of other underrepresented groups, and to report
 11 appropriate recommendations to the 78th General Convention; and be it further
 12 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention direct the Office of Pastoral
 13 Development to advise dioceses moving toward or in the midst of episcopal
 14 transitions about the extent to which the process is affected by gender, racial and
 15 other cultural bias that can perpetuate discrimination, and to work with these
 16 dioceses to develop steps that ensure the elimination of this bias.

EXPLANATION

While The Episcopal Church has experienced impressive milestones in the ministry of women, including the election of women to the highest offices in the Church, the percentage of women in the House of Bishops has not increased correspondingly in relation to either the percentage of priests who are female or the percentage of women overall in the Church. As of September 2011, only five of the Church's 110 dioceses and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe had a woman serving or elected to serve as diocesan or provisional bishop. Including the Presiding Bishop, only 12 women were active in episcopal ministry, and two of these were soon to retire. The reason for the underrepresentation of women in the House of Bishops is not a lack of candidates in episcopal elections. The number of women reaching the finals in episcopal elections indeed has been rising, and in 2010, half of episcopal elections included women as finalists. Although episcopal elections involve many factors, the significantly low ratio of women elected to the episcopate in dioceses where they have been finalists suggests a number of questions: Could aspects of the pre-election transition process, or the election processes themselves, have a disparate effect on who ultimately is elected? Are those involved in the search and nominating process more open to excellence in candidates without regard to gender or other demographic differences than the electing delegates? Does the search and transition process encourage the strongest candidates, female or male, to enter discernment? Analysis of existing and future data on candidates in episcopal elections can help answer such questions, identify potential steps for lessening the gender gap in

election results, and diversify the spiritual and skilled leadership in the Church for the future.

A145

TOPIC: ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Continue Dialogue in the Anglican Communion

PROPOSER

Executive Council

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 637; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / o8 - World Mission

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 77th General Convention
- 2 express its profound gratitude to those who so faithfully worked at producing the
- 3 Anglican Covenant; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church commit itself to continued participation in
- 5 the wider councils of the Anglican Communion and to continued dialogue with
- 6 our brothers and sisters in other provinces to deepen understanding and to
- 7 insure the continued integrity of the Anglican Communion; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church recommit itself to dialogue with the several
- 9 provinces when adopting innovations which may be seen as threatening to the
- 10 unity of the Communion; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church is unable to adopt the Anglican Covenant in
- 12 its present form.

EXPLANATION

A146

TOPIC: BUDGET

Budget Appropriation for The Archives of the Episcopal Church

PROPOSER

Board of the Archives of the Episcopal Church

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 680; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That in accordance with Title I,
2 Canon 5, Section 4, the 77th General Convention appropriate approximately
3 \$2,140,945 for salaries and benefits for the staff of The Archives of the Episcopal
4 Church for the triennium 2013-2015; the allocation of these funds within the
5 Canonical budget shall be determined by the Joint Standing Committee on
6 Program, Budget and Finance; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, in accordance with Title I, Canon 5, Section 4, That the 77th General
8 Convention appropriate \$861,027 for operations, site and facility, and
9 information services expenses of The Archives of the Episcopal Church for the
10 triennium 2013-2015; the allocation of these funds within the Canonical budget
11 shall be determined by the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and
12 Finance; and be it further
13 *Resolved*, That there be appropriated from the Canonical budget of General
14 Convention \$33,000 for meetings and expenses of the Board of the Archives of
15 the Episcopal Church for the triennium 2013-2015; and be it further
16 *Resolved*, That the recommendation of the Episcopal Archives Strategy
17 Committee of Executive Council to designate \$730,000 for regional fundraising
18 and administrative support for a new Archives facility be appropriated with
19 oversight by the Board of Archives in coordination with the DFMS development
20 office and management.

EXPLANATION

A147

TOPIC: STRUCTURE

Continue Forward Movement

PROPOSER

Forward Movement Publications Executive Committee

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 705; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Presiding Bishop be
- 2 authorized to continue Forward Movement under her supervision and to appoint
- 3 a Board of Directors as may be required to maintain its work.

EXPLANATION

Special Committee to Consider Standards for Formation and Ordination

PROPOSER

General Board of Examining Chaplains

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 708; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Standing
 2 Commission on Ministry Development establish a committee to initiate and
 3 coordinate a Churchwide conversation regarding what essential learnings
 4 (knowledge and skills) The Episcopal Church expects its candidates for priest and
 5 deacon to have at the time of ordination, and to develop a process that will
 6 engage a wide range of participants in writing sets of appropriate standards in the
 7 respective areas of study set out in the canons to guide those people assisting in
 8 the formation of ordinands and in assessing their proficiency (priests) or
 9 competence (deacons) in the several areas of study specified in the canons, and
 10 shall report its recommendations through the Standing Commission on Ministry
 11 Development to the 78th General Convention. The committee shall consist of 13
 12 persons who have demonstrated a commitment to theological education,
 13 reflecting the diversity of The Episcopal Church, including two representatives
 14 each of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the General Board of
 15 Examining Chaplains, diocesan training programs, and Commissions on
 16 Ministry; three representatives of accredited seminaries, 2 from Episcopal
 17 seminaries and 1 from a seminary with an Episcopal/ Anglican studies program;
 18 and two at large members. The final composition of the committee shall include
 19 at least two bishops, priests, deacons, and lay persons. Two persons for whom
 20 English is not their first language should also be on the committee; and be it
 21 further
 22 *Resolved*, that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance
 23 consider adding \$45,000 to the budget of the Standing Commission on Ministry
 24 Development for the work of this committee.

EXPLANATION

Good theological education and formation is critical for the ministry and mission of all members of The Episcopal Church. A central part of this educational endeavor is the preparation of candidates for ordination as deacons and priests. Although the normative process for formation of priests in the 20th century was a three-year seminary program, reading for orders had long been an accepted path to ordination. In the 1970's when The Episcopal Church first approved local training of priests for service in remote and isolated communities, dioceses began developing their own formation programs for both priests and deacons. In the last twenty years diocesan training programs have become quite common and the latest amendment to the canon on ordination to the priesthood no longer distinguishes candidates based on where they come from or are expected to serve

(see Canon III.8); neither does it prescribe any particular type of formation program. As a result, the persons who are now ordained in The Episcopal Church both represent and have experienced a great diversity of formation programs (diocesan, Episcopal seminaries, non-Episcopal seminaries, and mixtures thereof).

This resolution arises out of the GBEC's belief that, because of the many ways theological education is provided, The Episcopal Church needs common standards, which would include agreed upon definitions of what it means to be "proficient" and "competent" as described in the national canons. This concern for consistent standards is not new. In 1970, as ordination opportunities were being expanded, the General Convention created the General Board of Examining Chaplains in response to a concern among the bishops that approval of candidates for ordination was completely dependent on inconsistent diocesan processes, as well as a concern among ordinands that they were at the mercy of potentially idiosyncratic diocesan processes. In both cases the wider church had no assurance of a minimum standard of preparation. The GBEC was charged with preparing, administering and assessing an annual General Ordination Examination to attempt to ensure consistency of readiness among all those being ordained. Today the GBEC's task is complicated by the diversity both of candidates for ordination and of their formation programs. More significantly, because fewer ordinands are seeking seminary training, the usefulness of the GOE as a tool for achieving consistency of education and training may be diluted.

Given the many styles of learning and preparation for ordination, The Episcopal Church must face the question of how to fulfill its need and desire for consistency in baseline proficiency and how to fairly assess the results of different modes of preparation. The GBEC has important information and experience to contribute to this conversation, but it is not a policy making group. The issues raised in this resolution fall squarely within the mandate of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development. The conversation needs to extend very broadly throughout the church, with the other constituencies identified in the resolution included in the conversation. Indeed the committee's members need to be conduits, enabling many constituencies to have voices in this critically important work affecting the ministry and mission of the whole church. For example, it is particularly important to be intentional in seeking out the concerns of non-domestic dioceses so that the standards and definitions adopted can be equally useful to them. Extra funding in SCMD's budget will be required to do the thorough and wide-ranging job envisioned for this committee.

A149

TOPIC: BUDGET

Fund the Board for Transition Ministry

PROPOSER

Board for Transition Ministry

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 714; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 14 - Ministry

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance
- 2 consider an allocation of \$34,200 for the Board for Transition Ministry for the
- 3 Triennium Budget 2012-2015.

EXPLANATION

Develop Nine-Year Vision and Budget Cycle

PROPOSER

Budgetary Funding Task Force

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 722–723; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General
2 Convention of The Episcopal Church receive and endorse the Report of the
3 Budgetary Funding Task Force, in particular the Task Force’s acknowledgement
4 that adequate funding of the budget of The Episcopal Church depends on (1) a
5 compelling statement of our identity as a church, (2) a clearly articulated
6 common vision of our participation in God’s mission, and (3) a pervasive
7 accountability of church structures to that identity and common vision so that
8 stewardship and mission are linked; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That steps must be taken to make these three goals an active part of the
10 on-going life of our church; and that specific steps to be considered should
11 include:

12 • developing a common vision for mission during the triennium immediately
13 preceding the election of a Presiding Bishop for the purpose of informing the
14 nomination and election process for that office;

15 • identifying specific goals to be accomplished during the nine-year period
16 corresponding to the term of the Presiding Bishop (the Term Goals);

17 • holding a joint meeting of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops at
18 the beginning of the General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is to be
19 elected so that the goals identified for the coming Presiding Bishop’s term may be
20 addressed, amended, and ratified;

21 • developing a draft budget based on identified goals and presenting the budget of
22 The Episcopal Church in a nine-year cycle to coincide with the term of a Presiding
23 Bishop (the Term Budget);

24 • reporting on the Term Budget and progress toward accomplishing the Term
25 Goals in a written report on an annual basis to all bishops and deputies to the
26 General Convention, Standing Committees of the Dioceses, members of the
27 Executive Council, members of all other Committees, Commissions, Agencies,
28 and Boards, and posting the report for members of the Church on the website of
29 The Episcopal Church as well as reporting on it by all means available (most
30 especially including personal visits to dioceses and provinces) so as to receive the
31 widest possible circulation;

32 • reviewing the Term Budget and progress toward the Term Goals at a joint
33 meeting of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops at each General

34 Convention to encourage accountability and so that the goals may be revised as
35 needed;

- 36 • structuring the Church Center staff so as to facilitate the accomplishment of
- 37 goals over the course of the Presiding Bishop's term, with some positions
- 38 coinciding with the term of the Presiding Bishop and some being permanent in
- 39 nature; and
- 40 • conducting an in-depth review regarding the accomplishment of the Term Goals
- 41 during the last triennium of a Presiding Bishop's term; and be it further

42 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Structure and the Joint Standing
43 Committee on Program Budget and Finance develop an implementation plan for
44 a nine-year vision and budget cycle for consideration by the 78th General
45 Convention; and be it further

46 *Resolved*, That the plan include necessary canonical changes and consideration of
47 basing the asking formula on congregational normal operating income and
48 proposals for aligning organizational structures across various levels of the
49 church; and be it further

50 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
51 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the
52 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The Budgetary Funding Task Force is convinced that the issues related to funding the Church's pursuit of God's mission require a much more creative response than can be achieved by technical solutions such as adjusting the giving formula, mandatory giving standards, or sanctions. Indeed, we believe the failure to meet giving expectations by some dioceses should be understood more as a plea to be included in the work of The Episcopal Church than a negative expression. The work, as we see it, is adaptive in nature and calls for a pervasive articulation of vision formed by a shared sense of our common identity, pervasive communication of the vision, and accountability to and for the vision. The Task Force believes that a nine-year vision and budget cycle, with opportunity for evaluation and amendment at each General Convention, will encourage The Episcopal Church to adopt a long-term perspective regarding mission and goals and permit it to be able to adapt more nimbly to changing circumstances. Important to the process is the recognition that mission support is most effective at the lowest possible level, the possibility of basing the asking formula on congregational normal operating income, as well as the potential benefit of aligning organizational structures at the various levels of the church., and requests additional work toward this end be included in the budget for the next triennium so that a through discussion of specific proposals can take place at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 2015, and so that the process can inform the election of a presiding bishop at that Convention.

Response to the Call of The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation

PROPOSER

D004 Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCEBlue Book: p. 725–727; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/AHOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HD / 15 - Education

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
2 adopt the following text as A Response to the Call of The Charter for Lifelong
3 Christian Formation: A Call to Action by the Task Force on Older Adult
4 Ministries:

5 Our vision for The Episcopal Church is that each congregation will be a place
6 where people of all ages are welcomed and valued, where The Episcopal Church
7 will provide resources and assistance to its members as they go through the
8 lifelong process of aging, particularly those times of change when new callings
9 need to be discerned, and where the grace and fellowship of the local
10 congregation will surround each of its members, wherever they may be in the
11 aging process. Our vision for our Episcopal Church is that we will support
12 dioceses and congregations in their ministry with older members, and that this
13 support will be reflected in policies, worship, and training for all the ministers of
14 the church.

15 We Invite The Episcopal Church:

- 16 • To embrace older adults in all parts of the life of the Church.
- 17 • To recognize our almost universal fear of our own aging.
- 18 • To examine our own individual process of aging.
- 19 • To encourage all generations to make their own discoveries in the journey of
- 20 lifelong aging.
- 21 • To foster liturgical rites and traditions that embrace older adults.

22 We Inspire The Episcopal Church:

- 23 • To celebrate and learn from the individual, intra-cultural and inter-cultural
- 24 diversity in aging.
- 25 • To understand that spiritual discovery and discernment is a lifelong process.
- 26 • To respond to injustices toward older adults.
- 27 • To recognize that all older adults have the right to be loved, accepted and
- 28 included.

29 We Challenge The Episcopal Church to become a transforming community that:

- 30 • Includes people of all ages as participants in baptismal ministries.
- 31 • Responds to the changing culture as it relates to aging.
- 32 • Confesses that no one has the "whole truth," or completely understands the

- 33 aging process.
- 34 • Believes aging starts at birth and ends at death—it is a life process.
- 35 • Allows for ultimate freedom, individuality in aging.
- 36 • Provides a place of resource and solace for families dealing with aging.
- 37 • Understands there is a wholeness in aging, including mind, body and spirit.
- 38 This call to action is grounded in our understanding of the Baptismal Covenant
- 39 and our identity as Episcopalians. Lifelong Christian faith formation in The
- 40 Episcopal Church is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service, and love of God as
- 41 followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

EXPLANATION

This Call to Action was developed in response to a need expressed in the Church and by the 76th General Convention in D004 for additional resources and encouragement which celebrate lifelong Christian formation for older adults. Informed by our exploration and engagement with the Baptismal Covenant, the Five Marks of Mission, and the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation the prophetic voice of the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries emerged and this Call to Action reflects the urgency of the need of the Church to engage with depth and breadth the education and formation of people of all ages.

All generations working creatively, sharing wisdom and perspectives can enrich formation. The church is most especially enriched when all ages are connected in formation and there is no graduation from our work as Christians.

To assist the Church in the implementation of this Call to Action a guide to facilitate conversations and action in congregations, dioceses and provinces has been developed.

A152

TOPIC: DISCRIMINATION

Recognition and Action on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

PROPOSER

DOO4 Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 727; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 reaffirm our Baptismal Covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all
- 3 people, and respect the dignity of every human being," and recognize the urgent
- 4 need to address the critical issue of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; and be
- 5 it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That every bishop, deputy, and the people they represent live out their
- 7 baptismal promises, become informed and immediately address elder abuse,
- 8 neglect and exploitation in our communities; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, That the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries identify existing
- 10 programs including those offered by congregations, dioceses, and provinces in
- 11 order to establish a method of information sharing, examine ways that the
- 12 Church can expand ministries addressing elder abuse, neglect and exploitation,
- 13 and explore how to collaborate with other organizations on this critical issue; and
- 14 be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, That the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries produce a resource to
- 16 inform the Church regarding this critical issue, and provide ongoing training
- 17 recommendations to the 78th General Convention; and be it further
- 18 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 19 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$15,000 for the
- 20 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

By 2030, people 65 and older will comprise approximately 20% of the population in the United States. One third of The Episcopal Church is 65 and older, ranging from those with highly active lives to those who are extremely physically and cognitively challenged. As the People of God we are called to respond to these changing realities.

Elder abuse, neglect and exploitation is an under recognized problem with devastating consequences. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, for every reported incident of neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect, approximately five go unreported.

The Episcopal Church played a leadership role in the ecumenical fight against child abuse. As people of faith strive to safeguard all God's People, The Episcopal Church again has the opportunity to lead the fight against elder abuse.

The budget allocation will be supplemented by additional funding sources. Partnerships in this project will be explored; including The Episcopal Church Offices of Lifelong Christian Formation, Social and Economic Justice, and Government Relations, as well as United Thank Offering.

A153

TOPIC: STRUCTURE

Continuing the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

PROPOSER

DO04 Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 727–728; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention
2 authorize the continuation of the 12-member Task Force on Older Adult
3 Ministries to continue exploring ways in which The Episcopal Church will expand
4 ministries by, with and for older adults, serving as a catalyst for change in
5 response to the dramatic shift in culture regarding aging; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention recognize it is critical for the Church to
7 address the opportunities and challenges of aging, in means, which are proactive
8 and responsive to living out our Baptismal Covenant. While promoting and
9 celebrating the gifts aging brings to the Church, the Task Force on Older Adult
10 Ministries will serve as a prophetic voice to call upon the Church to name unjust
11 actions such as age discrimination, lack of health care, abuse, and to advocate on
12 behalf of all people systemic and governmental changes to address the
13 seriousness of aging issues; and be it further
14 *Resolved*, That in recognition of God’s good gift of aging, the Task Force on Older
15 Adult Ministries will continue to lift up the ministry and mission of people of all
16 ages so that the Church can respond in action to create transforming
17 communities of faith; and be it further
18 *Resolved*, That the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries be comprised of
19 individuals with a background in this ministry area and represent a cross section
20 of the Church, and that such a task force uniquely positioned to look at the wider
21 scope without being constituent specific; and be it further
22 *Resolved*, That the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries work collaboratively
23 with the Formation and Vocation Team of the Episcopal Church Center, the
24 Episcopal Church Office for Governmental Relations, and the Church Pension
25 Group, report annually to the Executive Council, and provide a complete written
26 report to the 78th General Convention; and be it further
27 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$36,400 for the
29 meeting expenses of this Task Force.

EXPLANATION

The numbers of older persons in our society is growing exponentially. The needs and opportunities within this age group are on a parallel course.

The work of the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries during the recent triennium has engaged these concerns and realized the need to focus this work in response to the Baptismal Covenant, the Five Marks of Mission (General Convention Resolution 2009 D027), and the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation (General Convention Resolution 2009 A082).

In response to the Five Marks of Mission the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries is calling the Church:

- To Proclaim The Good News Of The Kingdom by recognizing that aging is a gift from God, and a universal condition, and we all age.
- To Teach, Baptize, And Nurture New Believers by engaging authentic multigenerational responses to transitions in life and to empower congregations, dioceses and provinces to strengthen their mission and ministries.
- To Respond To Human Need By Loving Service with the expectation that the church will respond to older adults to create and strengthen opportunities in learning, to address human needs, to advocate for justice, fairness and equity, to acknowledge the incredible gifts that older adults share with the Church, and to insist on the full inclusion of older adults in all facets of the church's life.
- To Strive To Safeguard The Integrity Of Creation And Sustain And Renew The Life Of The Earth so generations that follow will benefit from our work and be better prepared to address ever changing societal and cultural shifts.

As the People of God, we are inextricably connected to each other. The Baptismal Covenant requires us to take on and seek to create a just and compassionate world. We are engaged in this life journey, which defines who we are as a church. There is an abundance of opportunities to engage in this work through the critical issues in health care, poverty, housing, physical, emotional and financial abuse. This is holy work, a gift from God and not a burden. We do this so that we might transform unjust structures of society.

The proposed budget accounts for a twelve member task force with three face to face meetings, three conference calls and three WebEx meetings during the triennium.

A154

TOPIC: DIVERSITY

Call to Celebrate Older Americans Month

PROPOSER

D004 Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 729; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 10 - Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 77th General Convention
- 2 of the Episcopal Church encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to
- 3 celebrate Older Americans Month by designating one Sunday in the month of
- 4 May to raise awareness of important issues related to aging and to honor God's
- 5 gift of the presence of older adults in our lives and their ministries amongst us.

EXPLANATION

Modeled after and expanding upon Older Americans Month, this is an opportunity for Episcopalians to focus on the contributions and challenges faced by our older sisters and brothers in Christ.

Continuous Cycle of Strategic Planning & Oversight

PROPOSER

Executive Council Committee on Strategic Planning

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 732–733; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / 17 - Stewardship and Development

CURRENT STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

not yet reviewed; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention,
- 2 meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, affirm the Strategic Plan as a working
- 3 document; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, that the 77th General Convention establish a Standing Commission on
- 5 Strategic Planning to support a three-year rolling strategic planning process for
- 6 The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, that the Strategic Plan be used as a model for The Episcopal Church as
- 8 a whole, not solely for the Executive Council or the Church Center staff; and be it
- 9 further
- 10 *Resolved*, that planning activities of Commissions, Committees, Agencies, and
- 11 Boards (CCABs) and the General Convention be aligned with The Episcopal
- 12 Church’s strategic planning process, and that the CCAB’s provide the Standing
- 13 Commission on Strategic Planning with their own strategic plans and updates on
- 14 an annual basis; and be it further
- 15 *Resolved*, that the General Convention urge provinces, dioceses and
- 16 congregations to use the Episcopal Church Strategic Planning Process as a model
- 17 for developing their own strategic plans, and provide plans and annual updates to
- 18 the Standing Commission on Strategic Planning; and be it further
- 19 *Resolved*, that the General Convention direct the Executive Council and Joint
- 20 Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to follow the Strategic Plan
- 21 for future financial and budgetary planning of The Episcopal Church; and be it
- 22 further
- 23 *Resolved*, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
- 24 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$70,000 per year
- 25 for the implementation of this resolution in the next triennium.

EXPLANATION