

Standing Commission on Ministry Development

“A” Resolutions Submitted to for the 77th General Convention

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Titles may be changed by General Convention Office.

Resolutions Submitted to General Convention Office

RESOLUTION A _____ Reconciliation or Dissolution of an Episcopal Relationship

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

Sec. 9. Reconciliation or Dissolution of the Episcopal Relationship

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

(b) When within a Diocese serious and sustained disagreement or dissension exists between or among any of the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, or between or among any of these and the Standing Committee or Diocesan Convention, such that the disagreement or dissension imperils their relationship or otherwise seriously compromises the diocese's faithfulness to God's mission, any one or more of them may petition the Presiding Bishop to convene the Reconciliation Council to intervene and assist in resolving the disagreement or dissension. A Standing Committee's decision to file a petition must be supported by a resolution adopted by a vote of two-thirds of all members of the Standing Committee, and which designates not fewer than three and not more than five members of the Standing Committee to act on behalf of the Committee, which number shall include both orders and may not include the Chancellor or any Vice or Deputy Chancellor. A Diocesan Convention's decision to file a petition must be supported by a resolution adopted by a vote taken in the same manner the Convention uses in electing a bishop, at an annual or special meeting of the Convention and which designates not fewer than three and not more than five Convention delegates to act on behalf of the Convention, which number shall include both orders and may not include the Chancellor or any Vice or Deputy Chancellor. The petition shall be in writing and shall include sufficient information to inform the Reconciliation Council and the parties involved of the nature, causes, and specifics of the disagreement or dissension, and the steps previously taken to resolve the disagreement or dissension.

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

(d) Promptly, but no later than forty-five days from the date the petition is received by the Presiding Bishop, the Reconciliation Council shall direct that all appropriate pastoral steps are taken to facilitate a resolution of the disagreement or dissension in every informal way, and may appoint a consultant for administrative and other appropriate support services, or provide for mediation between or among

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the parties, or both. The parties, following the recommendations of the Reconciliation Council, shall labor in good faith that they may be reconciled or reach a mutual decision for dissolution.

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

- (1.) That any Bishop who is a party undergo such examination and assessment as may be determined by the Reconciliation Council. The results of the examinations and assessments shall be made available to those examined and to the Reconciliation Council.
- (2.) That where the Standing Committee is a party its members undergo such examination and assessment as may be determined by the Reconciliation Council. The results of the examinations and assessments shall be made available to those examined and to the Reconciliation Council.
- (3.) Any other investigation, examination, assessment and reporting in the course of the reconciliation process as the Reconciliation Council determines to be consistent with the good order of the Church, the results of which shall be reported fully to the Reconciliation Council.

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

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

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

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

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

(h) If the Reconciliation Council has discerned that notwithstanding concerted and sustained efforts, sufficient progress has not been made toward reconciliation and that there is no good cause to warrant additional reconciliation efforts, it shall so notify the parties and in the notice explain the reasons for this decision. The Reconciliation Council shall then promptly, but no later than 60 days following delivery of the notice, deliberate and issue a judgment resolving the disagreement or dissension. The judgment shall be in writing, shall explain the reasons for its provisions, and may order the dissolution of the relationship between a Bishop and the Diocese by 1) the removal of a Bishop, 2) the removal of some or all members of the Standing Committee, 3) the removal of both a Bishop and some or all members of the Standing Committee 4) the restriction of the ministry of a Bishop, and 5) any other action that is appropriate under the circumstances. In order to issue a judgment, the Reconciliation Council must find both (i) that notwithstanding the taking of all reasonable efforts, the disagreement or dissension is irreconcilable under the circumstances of the imperfection of the human condition and (ii) that the Diocese's faithfulness to God's mission is gravely compromised by the irreconcilable disagreement or dissension.

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

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

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

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

(m) For good cause, the Reconciliation Council may extend or shorten the time periods specified in this Canon, for the good order of the Church, provided that progress in the reconciliation or

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dissolution process is not unduly impaired. All parties shall be notified in writing of the length of any change to a time period.

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

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

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

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

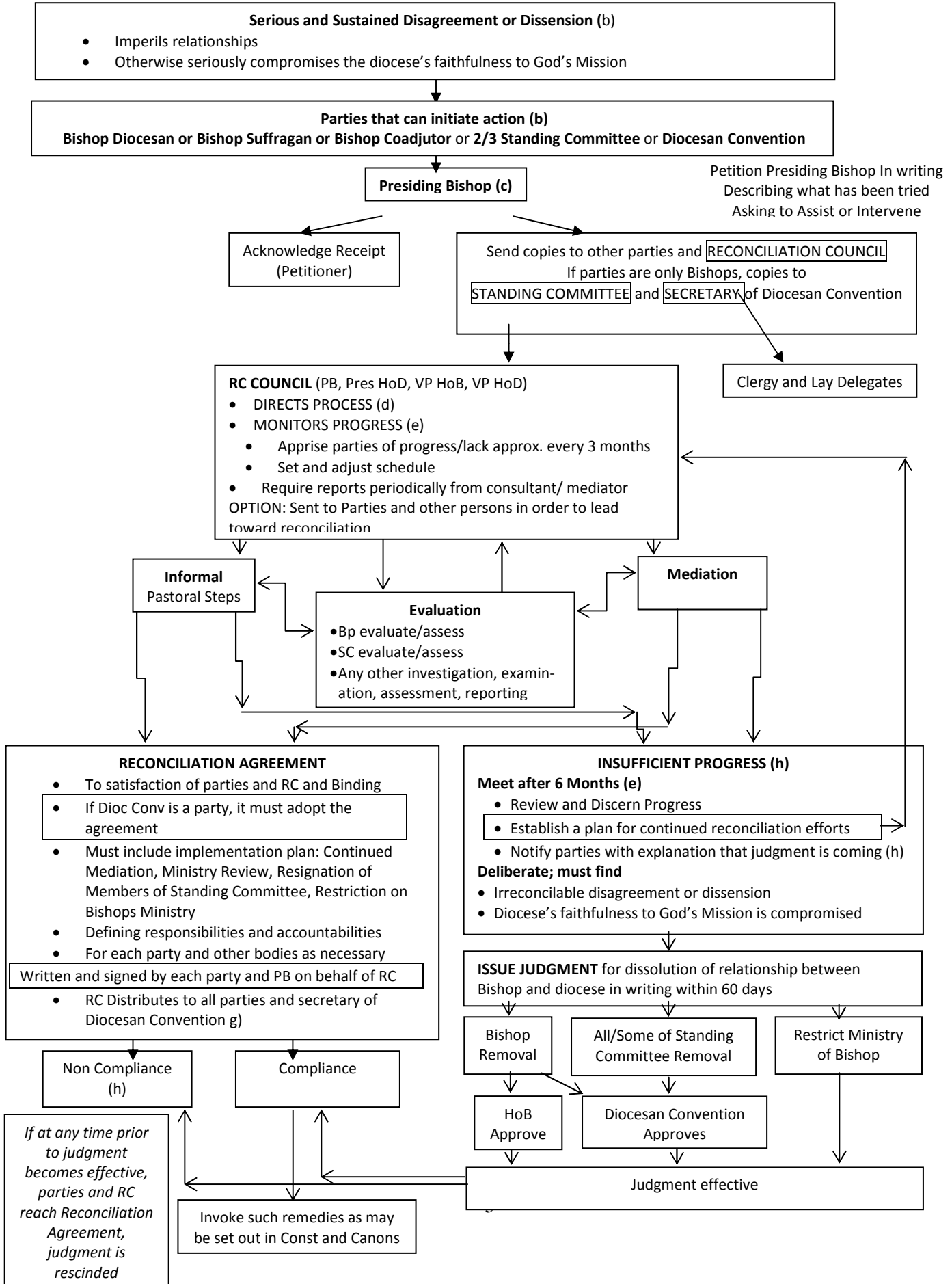
(s) The Reconciliation Council may adopt rules, procedures and guidelines for its governance and procedures, consistent with this Canon and the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$105,000 for the 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 GC 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.

B014 – Reconciliation or Dissolution of Episcopal Relationship



RESOLUTION A _____ Impairment Of A Member Of The Clergy

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that Title III, Canon 9 be amended by adding a new Section 14 as follows:

Section 14. Impairment of a Member of the Clergy

- a. If, in the Bishop's judgment, there is sufficient reason to believe that the ministry of a member of the clergy serving a congregation of the diocese is severely impaired by physical, mental or substance abuse-related causes, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to raise this concern with the member of the clergy and the bishop may require a medical and/or psychological assessment.
- b. Should an assessment indicate that treatment is necessary, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to provide assistance in making that treatment possible.
- c. Should the Bishop, after laboring to assist the member of the clergy in securing treatment, have reason to believe that the impairment continues to cause distress in the congregation, the bishop shall consult with the vestry to enlist their help on resolution of the matter; and if, in the Bishop's judgment, the matter is not resolved, then to present this concern to the Standing Committee and request that an independent assessment be made of the relationship of the member of the clergy and the congregation.
- d. Should that assessment indicate that the parish is sufficiently threatened by the impairment of the clergy and should the Standing Committee concur by a 2/3 vote with this assessment, the Standing Committee shall recommend a course of action to the bishop, which may include that the pastoral relationship of the priest and congregation be terminated, according to the provisions Section 13.d.6 through Section h.

RESOLUTION A _____ Theological Education: Ministry Formation

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention affirm that baptism is the source of all ministry and that ordained ministry education takes place within the context of preparing all for ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention directs the SCMD to convene ministry education and formation providers, including to the deans, faculty, alumni/ae, and students of the eleven Episcopal seminaries and of the divinity schools of colleges and universities that have significant numbers of Episcopalian students and/or Anglican studies programs; representatives of the Association of Theological Schools; leaders and students of diocesan ministry schools, especially those that provide total and team ministry training programs; Living Stones Partnership; National Association of Christian Education Directors; provincial and diocesan Commissions on Ministry; the House of Bishops Theological Education Committee; the General Board of Examining Chaplains; those knowledgeable about the emergent church movement; representatives of Episcopal camp and conference centers; Episcopal chaplains; diocesan deployment officers; Diversity Social and Environmental Ministries (DSE); and the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, in a series of regional consultations to generate a shared vision of theological education and formation for ordained ministry and to identify exemplary models for the formation, education, and evaluation of ordained ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the SCMD report to the 78th General Convention its findings and recommendations; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$210,000 for the hiring of a project manager, research and office expenses, and funding for regional gatherings necessary for the implementation of this Resolution in this triennium.

EXPLANATION

The SCMD 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 SCMD 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. The SCMD believes 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 our ecumenical colleagues in the Lutheran Church (ELCA) and the Methodist Church, both of which have very different perspectives on and resources for theological education and formation for ordained ministry.

The SCMD 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 SCMD 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.

RESOLUTION A _____: Furthering the Ministry of all the Baptized

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that the 77th General Convention commend the use of the *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* to all provinces, dioceses and congregations to advance the empowerment of laity as full partners in ministry, and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct that communications department of the Episcopal Church post the *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* in English and with appropriate translations on The Episcopal Church websites to be readily accessible to all provinces, dioceses, congregations and individuals, and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society staff to research and add resources to *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized* including resources in appropriate languages, and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention direct that the SCMD annually monitor the updating of the *Liberating Ministry: A Resource for All the Baptized*.

EXPLANATION

In 1976, the 65th General Convention passed Resolution D005 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, our 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 our Baptismal Covenant.

The online availability of *Liberating Ministry...* complements our 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.

RESOLUTION A _____ Budget Appropriate for the Standing Commission on Ministry Development

Resolved, that the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation from the Canonical budget of the General Convention of \$60,000 for the meeting expenses of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development during the 2012–2014 triennium.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission on Ministry Development is proud of its innovative use of Adobe Connect which enabled committee members to meet more regularly for less cost than would have been feasible if gathering physically.

The \$60,000 budget allocated to the SCMD for the 2009-2012 triennium 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 this 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, we expect to expend the entire \$60,000 in the next triennium.