

1 A006: Restructure Standing Commissions and Interim Bodies of General Convention

2
3 I.1.2

4
5 Sec. 2 (a) The General Convention by Canon may establish Standing Commissions, to
6 study and draft policy proposals on major subjects considered to be of continuing concern
7 to the mission of the Church. The Canon shall specify the duties of each ~~such~~ Standing
8 Commission. Standing Commissions shall be composed of three (3) Bishops, three (3)
9 Priests and/or Deacons of this Church and six (6) Lay Persons, who shall be confirmed
10 adult communicants of this Church in good standing. Priests, Deacons and Lay Persons
11 are not required to be ~~members of the House of Deputies~~ to General Convention.
12

13 (b) The terms of all members of Standing Commissions shall be equal to the interval
14 between the regular meeting of the General Convention preceding their appointment and
15 the adjournment of the second succeeding regular meeting of the General Convention,
16 and such terms shall be rotated so that, as near as may be, the term of one half of the
17 members shall expire at the conclusion of each regular meeting of the General
18 Convention. The term of a member shall become vacant in the event of two absences
19 from meetings of the Commission occurring in the interval between successive regular
20 meetings of the General Convention unless excused by the Commission for good cause.
21

22 (c) The Presiding Bishop shall appoint the Episcopal members, and the ~~President of the~~
23 ~~House of Deputies~~ Presiding Deputy the Lay and other Clerical members, of ~~such each~~
24 Commissions as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the General Convention, but
25 not later than ninety (90) days ~~following the close of General Convention~~ after
26 adjournment. Episcopal members appointed after the adjournment of any General
27 Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected shall be appointed by the Presiding
28 Bishop-elect. Vacancies shall be filled in similar manner; ~~P~~rovided, however, that
29 vacancies occurring within one year of the next regular General Convention shall not be
30 filled unless ~~s~~o requested by the Commission.
31

32 (d) The Presiding Bishop and the ~~President of the House of Deputies~~ Presiding Deputy
33 ~~shall~~ may jointly appoint members of the Executive Council as liaison persons to ~~provide~~
34 ~~for~~ facilitate communication between the Executive Council and each Commission and
35 the coordination of the work of each Commission and the committees of the Executive
36 Council. Notice of such appointments shall be given to the ~~Secretaries of both Houses~~
37 Secretary of General Convention. ~~Such appointed~~ These liaison persons shall not be
38 members of the Commission and but shall have ~~voice but not vote~~ seat and voice. The
39 reasonable expenses thereof shall be provided for by the Executive Council. Each ~~such~~
40 Commission shall ~~have a member of the Presiding Bishop's staff appointed by the~~
41 ~~Presiding Bishop to assist in its work~~ staff support from the Domestic and Foreign
42 Missionary Society designated by the Executive Officer of General Convention. Each
43 ~~such~~ Commission shall ~~have the power to~~ may constitute committees; from among
44 members or non-members of the Commission, and, subject to the Commission's budget,
45 engage the services of consultants and coordinators necessary to the carrying on of its
46 work.

- 47 (e) The Presiding Bishop and the ~~President of the House of Deputies~~ Presiding Deputy
 48 shall be members ex officio of every Commission ~~with the right, but no obligation, to~~
 49 ~~attend meetings, and with seat and vote in the deliberations thereof, and shall receive~~
 50 ~~their minutes and an annual report of their activities; Provided, that the said presiding~~
 51 ~~officers~~ , or may appoint personal representatives to attend any meeting in their stead,
 52 but without vote.
 53
- 54 (f) The Executive Officer of the General Convention shall, not later than one hundred and
 55 twenty (120) days following the meeting of the General Convention, notify the members
 56 of the ~~respective Houses~~ General Convention of the Commission appointments ~~upon~~
 57 ~~Commissions and the~~ their duty to present Reports to the next Convention and shall
 58 schedule an organizational meeting for each Commission.. One year prior to the
 59 opening day of the Convention, the Executive Officer of the General Convention shall
 60 remind the Chairs and Secretaries of all Commissions of this duty.
 61
- 62 (g) Every Commission ~~appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House~~
 63 ~~of Deputies, and when convened shall be organized by electing a chair, vice chair and~~
 64 ~~secretary. In the event that the Commission is not convened as above provided within six~~
 65 ~~months from the date of adjournment of each Convention, one third of the members may~~
 66 ~~take such action as shall be necessary to convene the Commission. After the Commission~~
 67 ~~shall have been convened, and its officers chosen, the Chair or, in the absence of the~~
 68 ~~Chair or in the Chair's inability or refusal to act, the Vice Chair shall be empowered to~~
 69 ~~call a meeting and fix the time and place and shall do so upon signed request of one third~~
 70 ~~of the members~~ shall elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary.
 71
- 72 (h) ~~It shall be the privilege of either House to~~ The General Convention may refer a
 73 relevant matter to a Commission any matter related to the subject for which it was
 74 appointed for its consideration; but neither House shall have the power, without the
 75 consent of the other, to instruct may not direct the Commission as to any particular
 76 line of action to reach any particular conclusion.
 77
- 78 (i) ~~It shall be the duty of each~~ A Commission to shall give timely and appropriate
 79 notice ~~in to the Church press of issues before it and of~~ the time and place, and agendas
 80 of meetings; ~~at which such issues are to be considered, together with~~ and instructions as
 81 ~~to the manner in which~~ on how members of the Church may address their views to such
 82 Commission.
 83
- 84 (j) Every Commission shall prepare a Rreport, which, together with any minority Rreport,
 85 shall be sent, not later than 150 days prior to the opening day of each Convention, to the
 86 Executive Officer of the General Convention, who shall ~~print and~~ distribute the same, as
 87 ~~far as practicable,~~ to all members of said the Convention.
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92

93 (k) The Report of every Commission presented at the General Convention shall:
 94 (1) Set forth the names of its original members, any changes in membership, the
 95 names of all those who concur in and all those who dissent from, its
 96 recommendations, ~~and shall~~
 97 ~~further state, if less than a majority of its entire membership sign the Report, their~~
 98 ~~authority for presenting it.~~
 99 (2) Summarize the work of the Commission, including the various matters
 100 studied, the recommendations for action by the General Convention and drafts of
 101 Resolutions
 102 proposed for adoption to implement the recommendations of the Commission.
 103 (3) Include a detailed report of all receipts and expenditures, including moneys
 104 received from any source whatsoever, ~~during the preceding interval since the last~~
 105 ~~meeting of the~~
 106 ~~General Convention~~, and if it recommends that it be continued, the estimated
 107 requirements for the ensuing interval until the next regular meeting of the General
 108 Convention.

109
 110 (l) Every Commission, as a condition precedent to the presentation and reception of any
 111 ~~Report in either House to General Convention~~, in which such Commission proposes the
 112 adoption of any Resolution, shall, by vote, authorize a member or members of ~~that House~~
 113 General Convention, who, if possible, shall be a member of the Commission, with such
 114 limitations as the Commission may impose, to accept or reject, on behalf of the
 115 Commission, any amendments proposed ~~in such House by General Convention~~ to any
 116 such Resolution; ~~Provided~~, however, that no such amendment may change the substance
 117 of the proposal, but shall be primarily for the purpose of correcting errors. The name of
 118 the member or members of ~~the particular House~~ General Convention upon whom such
 119 authority has been conferred, and the limitations of authority, shall be communicated in
 120 writing to the Presiding Officers of ~~such House~~ General Convention not later than the
 121 presentation of such ~~Report in that House to the General Convention~~. ~~The application of~~
 122 ~~this Rule in either House may be suspended, in any particular case, by the majority vote~~
 123 ~~of the members of such House.~~

124
 125 ~~(m) Every Commission whose Report requests expenditure out of the funds of the~~
 126 ~~General Convention (except for the printing of the Report) shall present to the Joint~~
 127 ~~Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance its written request, on or before~~
 128 ~~the first business day of the session. Resolutions requiring additional expenditures shall~~
 129 ~~be immediately referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and~~
 130 ~~Finance. No resolution involving such expenditures shall be considered unless so~~
 131 ~~presented and until after report of the Joint Standing Committee on Program,~~
 132 ~~Budget, and Finance.~~

133
 134 ~~(n)~~ There shall be the following Standing Commissions:
 135 (1) ~~A Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns.~~
 136 ~~It shall be the duty of the Commission to develop recommendations and strategies~~
 137 ~~regarding common ministry opportunities and concerns with other Provinces of the~~
 138 ~~Anglican Communion as to the work of this Church and the Anglican Communion~~

139 on issues of international peace with justice and to make recommendations pertaining
 140 thereto to the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council and the General Convention.

141 ~~(2) A Standing Commission for Small Congregations. It shall be the duty of the~~
 142 ~~Commission to identify and recommend to General Convention policies, priorities,~~
 143 ~~and opportunities to affirm and strengthen the health and development of small~~
 144 ~~congregations.~~ (3) A Standing Commission on Governance, Constitution and Canons. It
 145 shall be the duty of the Commission to:

146 (i) Review such proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons as may be
 147 submitted to the Commission, placing each such proposed amendment in proper
 148 Constitutional or Canonical form including all amendments necessary to effect the
 149 proposed change. The Commission shall express its views with respect to the
 150 substance of any such proposal only to the proponent thereof; Provided, however,
 151 that no member of the Commission shall, by reason of membership, be deemed to
 152 be disabled from expressing, before a Legislative Committee or on the floor of the
 153 ~~House of membership~~ General Convention, personal views with respect to the
 154 substance of any such proposed amendment.

155 (ii) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons
 156 with respect to their internal consistency and clarity, and on the basis of such a
 157 review propose to the General Convention such technical amendments to the
 158 Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or
 159 desirable in order to achieve such consistency and clarity without altering the
 160 substance of any Constitutional and Canonical provisions; Provided, however,
 161 that the Commission shall propose, for the consideration of the appropriate
 162 Legislative Committees of the ~~two Houses~~ General Convention, such amendments
 163 to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are
 164 technically desirable but involve a substantive alteration of a Constitutional or
 165 Canonical provision.

166 (iii) On the basis of such review suggest to the ~~Executive Council and the~~
 167 Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society such amendments to ~~their respective~~ its
 168 ~~By-laws~~ as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order
 169 to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.

170 (iv) Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the authorized
 171 "Annotated Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant
 172 Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as The
 173 Episcopal Church" to reflect actions of General Convention which amend the
 174 Constitution and Canons and, in the discretion of the Commission, develop other
 175 materials which are appropriate to the purpose of the "Annotated Constitution and
 176 Canons," and facilitate the publication of this document and related materials. The
 177 Commission may provide or support forums to promote commentary, discussion,
 178 and understanding of the Constitution and Canons.

179 (v) Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the
 180 General Convention.

181

182 ~~(4) A Standing Commission on the Mission and Evangelism of The Episcopal Church. It~~
 183 ~~shall be the duty of the Commission to identify, study and consider policies, priorities and~~
 184 ~~concerns as to the effectiveness of The Episcopal Church in advancing, within this~~

185 Church's jurisdictions, God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each
 186 other in Christ, including patterns and directions for evangelism, Church planting,
 187 leadership development, and ministries that engage the diversity of the Church's
 188 membership and the communities it serves, and to make recommendations to
 189 General Convention.

190

191 ~~(5) A Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. It shall be the~~
 192 ~~duty of the Commission to recommend to the General Convention a comprehensive and~~
 193 ~~coordinated policy and strategy on relations between this Church and other Churches, and~~
 194 ~~this Church and other religions, and to make recommendations to General Convention~~
 195 ~~concerning inter-Church cooperation and unity, and interreligious dialogue and action.~~

196

197 (62) A Standing Commission on Theology, Liturgy and Music. The Custodian of the
 198 Book of Common Prayer shall be a member ex officio with voice, but without vote. It
 199 shall be the duty of the Commission to:

200 (i) Discharge such duties as shall be assigned to it by the General Convention as

201 to policies and strategies concerning the common worship of

202 ii) Collect, collate and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions
 203 of the Book of Common Prayer.

204 (iii) Cause to be prepared and to present to the General Convention
 205 recommendations

206 concerning the Lectionary, Psalter, and offices for special occasions as authorized
 207 or directed by the General Convention or House Convocation of Bishops.

208 (iv) Recommend to the General Convention authorized translations of the Holy
 209 Scripture

210 from which the Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer are to be read.

211 (v) Receive and evaluate requests for consideration of individuals or groups to be
 212 included in the Calendar of the Church year and make recommendations thereon
 213 to the General Convention for acceptance or rejection.

214 (vi) Collect, collate, and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions
 215 of The Hymnal 1982 and other musical publications regularly in use in this
 216 Church and encourage the composition of new musical materials.

217 (vii) Cause to be prepared and present to the General Convention
 218 recommendations concerning the musical settings of liturgical texts and rubrics,
 219 and norms as to liturgical music and the manner of its rendition.

220 (viii) At the direction of the General Convention, to serve the Church in matters
 221 pertaining to policies and strategies concerning Church music.

222

223 ~~(7) A Standing Commission on Ministry Development. It shall be the duty of the~~
 224 ~~Commission to:~~

225 ~~(i) Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the~~
 226 ~~affirmation,~~

227 ~~development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons (lay persons,~~
 228 ~~bishops, priests and deacons).~~

229 ~~(ii) Recommend strategies to General Convention for the development and~~
 230 ~~support of networks of individuals, diocesan Committees and commissions,~~

- 231 agencies and institutions engaged in recruitment, gifts discernment, education and
 232 training for ministry, leadership development, and deployment.
- 233 (iii) Study the needs and trends of theological education for all baptized persons,
 234 including seminary education and life-long learning, and recommend strategies to
 235 General Convention to strengthen theological education for all baptized
 236 persons.
- 237
- 238 ~~(8) A Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy. It shall be the duty of~~
 239 ~~the Commission to identify, study and theologically interpret social justice issues~~
 240 ~~facing the United States and their impact on other nations, and to develop and~~
 241 ~~recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention.~~
- 242
- 243 ~~(9) A Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development. It shall be the duty of the~~
 244 ~~Commission to recommend policies that foster within The Episcopal Church a broad~~
 245 ~~understanding of Christian stewardship, both individual and corporate. The Commission~~
 246 ~~shall recommend strategies to General Convention for stewardship, including education,~~
 247 ~~development, and planned giving, with special sensitivity to the cultural and~~
 248 ~~linguistic diversity of the Church.~~
- 249
- 250 ~~(10) A Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church. It shall be the duty of the~~
 251 ~~Commission to study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the~~
 252 ~~General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the~~
 253 ~~operation of the several Committees, Commissions, and Boards to determine the~~
 254 ~~necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and to bring about~~
 255 ~~a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new~~
 256 ~~Committee, Commission, Board or Agency, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred~~
 257 ~~to the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church for its consideration and~~
 258 ~~advice.~~
- 259
- 260 ~~(11) A Standing Commission on World Mission, whose members shall include persons~~
 261 ~~broadly representative of jurisdictions outside the United States of America, as well~~
 262 ~~as persons having direct engagement with and experience in world mission. It shall be the~~
 263 ~~duty of the Commission, to review and evaluate policies, priorities, and strategies~~
 264 ~~for global mission, and to make recommendations regarding global mission to General~~
 265 ~~Convention.~~
- 266
- 267 ~~(12) A Standing Commission on Communication and Information Technology. It shall be~~
 268 ~~the duty of the Commission to identify, study and recommend to General Convention~~
 269 ~~communication strategies, policies, priorities, and technologies to strengthen the Church's~~
 270 ~~communication of the Gospel and the mission of the Church to the world at large and to~~
 271 ~~improve information management and exchange within The Episcopal Church.~~
- 272 ~~(13) A Standing Commission on Health. It shall be the duty of the Commission to~~
 273 ~~identify and study national and international healthcare issues, practices, and policies and~~
 274 ~~the Church's healthcare ministries, and to make recommendations to General Convention.~~
- 275 ~~(14) A Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation and Education. It shall be~~
 276 ~~the duty of the Commission to develop and recommend to the General Convention~~

277 ~~comprehensive and coordinated policies for children, youth, adults, and seniors for~~
278 ~~lifelong Christian formation.~~

279

280 (n) Within 90 days of the adjournment of a General Convention and subject to
281 budgeted funds available for the purpose, the Presiding Bishop and the Presiding
282 Deputy shall review the resolutions adopted by the General Convention that provide
283 for any study or further action, and shall thereupon, in consultation with Executive
284 Council, jointly appoint such study committees and task forces as are necessary to
285 complete that work. The composition of such committees and task forces shall
286 reflect the diverse voices of the Church and a balance of the Church's orders
287 consistent with the historic polity of the Church. Those committees and task forces
288 so appointed shall expire at the beginning of the next General Convention following,
289 unless re-appointed by the Presiding Bishop and Presiding Deputy.