

## Develop Nine-Year Vision and Budget Cycle

PROPOSER

Budgetary Funding Task Force

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 722–723; Constitution & Canons: p.  
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HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION TEXT

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

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#### 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.