

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D071  
**Title:** Recognize Interim Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti  
**Proposer:** Fortunato, The Rev. Susan  
**Topic:** Dioceses, Structure

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

1988-B021 Approve a Three-year Trial Period of Autonomy for the Diocese of Haiti

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

1997-C010 Approve a Period of Experimentation for the Church in the Caribbean Region  
1994-C039 On the Topic of the Caribbean Dioceses (Rejected)

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D071 - Recognize Interim Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Fortunato, The Rev. Susan

**Endorsed by:** Cañas, Ms. Wendy, Swanson, The Rev. Kirstin

**Supported by:** The Rev. Dr. Pierre-Andre Duvert, The Rev. Sam Owen, The Rev. Lisa Mason, The Rev. Nathanael Saint-Pierre

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Directs an Interim Body:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** Yes

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 03 - Governance & Structure

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:**

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention recognize the interim Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti as the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop provide support to the interim Standing Committee in appointing a Provisional Bishop to provide oversight and healing, and to conduct an election for a Diocesan Bishop

## Explanation

The Episcopal Church has been present in Haiti since the 1860s. The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is a part of Province II and has the largest membership of any diocese in The Episcopal Church.

In 2019, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin retired. There has still not been an election of a successor. Since 2019, the Standing Committee has been the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese of Haiti.

In 2022, several diocesan officials, including members of the Standing Committee were arrested for arms trafficking. The Standing Committee was accused of misusing the tax exemption of the Diocese. The Haitian government threatened to revoke the religious privileges held by the Diocese.

In response to those events, a group of senior clerics elected an interim Standing Committee to avoid the revocation of privileges. The Haitian government has recognized the interim Standing Committee. The interim Standing Committee has not been officially recognized by The Episcopal Church.

The canons have no provision for dealing with this situation and the political events in Haiti. This situation requires extraordinary intervention by the General Convention.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-B021  
**Title:** Approve a Three-year Trial Period of Autonomy for the Diocese of Haiti  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 69th General Convention approve the request from the Diocese of Haiti for the necessary authorization to begin the trial period, beginning January 1, 1989, for three years, leading toward autonomy and the beginning of the development of a formal agreement between PECUSA and the Diocese of Haiti; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 69th General Convention support the decision of the Diocese of Haiti to participate in the formation of a Caribbean regional organization composed of the Dioceses of Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, to be a new province within the Anglican Communion.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 671.