

Resolved, that the 80th General Convention recognize that all Episcopal churches frequently find themselves on the front line of suicide intervention and suicide prevention among all age groups.

Resolved, that this General Convention recognize the good work accomplished by the Department of Faith Formation, thanks to the passage of Resolution 2018 C-014.

Resolved, that Resolution 2018 C-014 be expanded to encompass training on suicide prevention for all age groups and that training be made available to all interested and able members of Episcopal congregations.

Resolved, that the individuals involved in undertaking this work remain cognizant of its relationship to other issues of serious concern to The Episcopal Church: gun violence prevention, substance use, military service, LGBTQ+, and mental health wellness.

Resolved, that as an outreach component to this expanded suicide prevention effort that all branches of The Episcopal Church including every diocese and congregation be encouraged to lobby their respective state governments to adequately fund and implement the new 988 suicide prevention hotline.

Resolved, that the Executive Council of the General Convention administer this Resolution or refer it to the appropriate body.

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$200,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Explanation:

The statistics on suicide are only slightly improved during the pandemic. Suicide remains a public health crisis as there are close to 46,000 deaths by suicide each year. Death by suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the US and the 3rd leading cause of death among 15–24-year-olds. A suicide attempt occurs every 27.5 seconds and a suicide death occurs every 11.5 minutes.

The Faith Formation Ministry of The Episcopal Church offered The Living Works 45-minute trainings that supplied a first-aid method for a person in crisis.

Soul Shop™ workshops can transform entire congregations and their communities by providing a safe environment for the ministry to those impacted by suicidal desperation. In 2017, Soul Shop became an independent organization that partners with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and LivingWorks. Soul Shop is a faith-based training in suicide prevention that equips faith leaders to minister to those impacted by suicide.

[History of Soul Shop and how we were founded — Soul Shop™ Movement \(soulshopmovement.org\)](https://soulshopmovement.org)

One of the most important yet basic kinds of information to help with this expanded and renewed focus on suicide prevention are helplines included in the textbox below:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433), 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), or 1-800-799-4889 (for the hearing impaired)
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text any opening message — for example, “Home,” “Talk,” “Blue,” or “Vet” — to 741741
- **Teen Line:** 1-800-TLC-TEEN (1-800-852-8336) or text “TEEN” to 839863
- **TrevorLifeline (LGBTQ):** 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (1-866-488-7386)

The new primary suicide helpline number 988 is an unfunded mandate that states must fund:

[As a Crisis Hotline Grows, So Do Fears It Won't Be Ready - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com)

Suicide prevention is a public health crisis. Churches are logical community intake spaces that can mobilize forces to react to those presenting suicidal desperation and provide compassion for those impacted by suicide loss.