

REPORTS FROM BODIES CREATED BY GENERAL CONVENTION, REPORTING TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THROUGH
COUNCIL TO GENERAL CONVENTION
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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SUMMARY OF WORK

At the 74th General Convention, the Executive Council Committee on Criminal Justice received a four-part mandate directing it to: 1) establish a network of criminal justice resources; 2) prepare an educational program to raise the consciousness of the Church concerning this ministry; 3) gather and make available a resource inventory of programs dealing with advocacy, leadership and program delivery in the area of criminal justice; and 4) develop worship materials specific to the ministry.

This resolution was adopted, but the Committee was not funded and was able to meet only once. These tasks, however, were considered attainable even with modest resources.

As a result of the Committee's meeting, the Director of Communication was approached and agreed that a video would be produced for the purpose of heightening awareness within the Church. It was to have been ready for presentation to the Fall 2004 meeting of the House of Bishops. A staff member from the Communication Office traveled extensively and obtained footage, but the video as specified was never produced and, consequently, the Committee's members in the House of Bishops had no opportunity to advance the criminal justice cause.

Subsequently, the Chair of the Committee underwent serious emergency surgery and had to withdraw from his leadership role. No other leader stepped forward to advance the work.

By agreement, the Executive Council Committee on Criminal Justice Issues will cease to exist as an entity following the 75th General Convention, but it is hoped that this ministry will continue as an area of interest and responsibility of the Church. The Committee endorses the initiatives of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church which would make the continuation of this ministry possible under the auspices of the Standing Commission on National Concerns.