

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-B020  
**TITLE:** Add Thurgood Marshall to Liturgical Calendar  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane  
**COMMITTEE:** Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-C016      Refer a Resolution on Including Thurgood Marshall in Book of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*  
(Referred)

**Indirectly Related:**

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-C016  
**Title:** Refer a Resolution on Including Thurgood Marshall in Book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Referred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention include Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the book of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, using the date of May 17, the decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, to be a day to commemorate the Christian witness of Justice Marshall; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the following propers be considered for that feast day:*

**Eternal and Ever-Gracious God, you blessed your servant Thurgood with special gifts of grace and courage to understand and speak the truth as it has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ. Grant that by his example we may also know you and seek to realize that we are all your children, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, whom you sent to teach us to love one another; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Amos 5:10-15, 21-24**

**Psalm 34:15-22**

**I Corinthians 13:1-13**

**Matthew 23:1-11**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 470.

**13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music: HB**

B020

TOPIC/TITLE: Church Calendar: Add Thurgood Marshall to Liturgical Calendar

PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention call upon  
2 the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to reverse its decision and to add  
3 Supreme Justice Thurgood Marshall to the liturgical Calendar of this Church at this time.  
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**EXPLANATION:**

Thurgood Marshall has been called by many the most important African American of the twentieth century. His leadership of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund was instrumental in the court victories which finally broke the back of segregation and led to the gradual, and not yet complete, improvement of race relations in the United States. Perhaps his signal court victory was the Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas decision by the Supreme Court in 1953, which marked the end of legal segregation of school systems. His service as Solicitor General and then as Supreme Court Justice concluded his distinguished career. Justice Marshall's life and ministry set the stage for and actually represented the way the court system was used to break down segregation. The nation was turned toward more peaceful desegregation largely because of Thurgood Marshall and people like him. At this time, when reparations for slavery are being discussed, when the United States has elected its first President of color, and when racial reconciliation remains a high priority for this Church, it is appropriate to honor the life, ministry and memory of this exemplary man by including him in the Calendar of this Church.

*Endorser(s):* The Rt. Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, The Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton