

STATEMENTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCH
OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE PRESIDING
BISHOP AND COUNCIL OF THE PROTESTANT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE CHURCH
THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
AND THE
COMMISSION
ON
INTER-RACIAL COOPERATION

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THE CHURCH, THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, AND THE COMMISSION ON INTER-RACIAL CO-OPERATION

The National Executive Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Presiding Bishop and Council asked the President of the South Carolina Branch to co-operate with the Committee on Inter-Racial Co-operation in securing attendance at, and an intelligent interest in, a Conference that was held in Columbia in January last. In accordance with this request the President issued a call to the members of the Executive Council to attend this meeting. A number of them did so, and afterwards made a report of that meeting and of a subsequent meeting of their own body to the Executive Council when it met in its Mid-Winter session.

In order that our women may understand, and may co-operate with, resolutions that were adopted by the Executive Council, this "Statement" is issued.

First, it is thought that you should understand what the Inter-Racial Commission is, and what it stands for. We cannot go into this matter very thoroughly, but we can give you a brief outline of the organization and purposes of the Commission.

The Commission on Inter-Racial Co-operation was organized by Southern men shortly after the close of the World War. The object of the organization is to bring about a better understanding between the races by seeking to "Focus the attention of Christian agencies upon the vital issue of race relations as they affect the Kingdom of God, particularly in the South, where there are large numbers of both white and colored people."

As a result of the organization of the above named Commission, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia in 1919—and in which our own Bishops of Mississippi and Georgia were greatly interested—State, County and Community Committees have been formed throughout the Southern States, and are in

process of formation throughout the Northern States. These Committees hold meetings and conferences from time to time, in which plans are developed and the progress and value of the work discussed.

The program of the Commission on Inter-Racial Co-operation has been endorsed by the Presiding Bishop and Council of the Church, which body has appointed an official representative on the Commission in the person of Mrs. T. W. Bicket, the widow of the late Governor of the State of North Carolina.

The Church in the Province of Sewanee has endorsed the movement and passed the following Resolutions at its last meeting, which was held in Savannah, Georgia, October 25-26-27, 1921:

“WHEREAS, it is of supreme importance for the peace and prosperity of our country that friendly relations between the white and negro races should be maintained and that every agency which has in view the promotion of such friendly relations and especially of securing justice and fair dealing to the weaker race according to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, should be encouraged.

Now therefore be it:

I. *Resolved*, That this Synod hereby expresses its belief that the Racial Relationship Commission, led by Southern men, is promoting these just and friendly relations by advocating and assisting in the organization in every community of joint committees of white and colored leaders for mutual conference and action on questions arising out of race relations.

II. *Resolved*, That the Synod endorses and approves the plans and methods of the said Race Relationship Commission and urges the Clergy and lay people of the Province to co-operate in their local communities with any effort which may be made to carry out these plans.

III. *Resolved*, That a Committee of nine be appointed by the Chair, to be known as the Committee of Race Relationships, whose duty it shall be to assist in co-operation with the Racial Relationship Commission, in the formation of such joint committees in every community and in all other practicable ways

to promote the cause of friendly relations between the white and colored people throughout the Province.

IV. *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Synod be instructed to send a copy of this preamble and resolutions to the Secretary of the Race Relationship Commission.

BISHOP FREDERICK F. REESE, Chm.

(This committee of nine will have on it a representative from each of the States included in the Synod. This Synod represents fourteen Dioceses, nine States, and had present at its meeting in Savannah 200 delegates.)"

The women assembled at the meeting of the Province of Sewanee also endorsed this movement and elected Mrs. T. W. Bicket as the Chairman of their Provincial Committee.

The Diocese of South Carolina, in session of the Council in Spartanburg in May, 1920, passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That this Council approves of and endorses the principle of the Inter-Racial committees in the interest of good order and Christian civilization and fellowship."

On January 19 and 20, 1922, a meeting of the State Inter-Racial Co-operation Committee was held in Columbia. The Churchmen present were:

The Rev. G. Croft Williams, of Columbia, Chairman.

The Rt. Rev. K. G. Finlay, D.D., of Columbia, Bishop Co-adjutor.

The Hon. R. I. Manning, of Columbia.

Mr. J. Nelson Frierson, of Columbia,

Mrs. Wm. P. Cornell, of Columbia.

Mrs. C. P. McGowan, of Charleston.

Mrs. C. W. Barron, of Columbia.

Mrs. Barron was the official representative of the Church Service League, appointed by the President; and Mrs. Cornell was asked to serve officially for the Woman's Auxiliary, by the National Executive Secretary, Miss Grace Lindley. Mrs. John D. Bell, of Columbia, is also a member of the State Committee, but was unable to be present at this meeting.

The Woman's Division of the State Committee met in an all-day session on the first day. They effected an organization

with Mrs. Louise Mayes, of Greenville, as President, and Mrs. Wm. P. Cornell as Recording Secretary. After listening to the addresses of the Secretaries of the Commission and of the State Chairman, and taking part in the Conference, the Findings Committee, of which Mrs. C. P. McGowan was Chairman, brought in the following report which was unanimously—and without discussion—adopted. It was later presented to all the women present at the Conference in public session, and still later it was presented to the men of the State Committee. By both of these bodies the report was unanimously adopted.

“Realizing that women have a great and increasing responsibility and influence in shaping the moral issues of our national life, we, the women members of the South Carolina State Committee on Racial Relations, record our acceptance of this responsibility with the accompanying opportunities and privileges of service.

“We recognize that the question of the right relation between the races is the great problem of the age and that the whole world is grappling with this issue and its solution.

“With 9,500,000 negroes in our midst, we, the white women of the South Carolina State Inter-Racial Committee, are deeply aroused to a sense of our special responsibility toward the negro race and to the part which that race must take in any successful effort to adjust the present unhappy conditions, and we earnestly purpose to co-operate in bringing about a Christian settlement of the problems that overshadow the homes of both races.

“We, therefore, wish to ‘call attention to certain conditions which effect the colored race in its relation to white people and which, if corrected, will go far toward decreasing friction and removing misunderstanding, distrust and suspicion.’

“Such results can be achieved only when the moral issues involved are squarely faced. We, therefore, declare it to be our conviction that the following outstanding evils in our national life today should be speedily remedied:

“1. Believing that the double standard of morals, in regard to race as well as sex, is a quicksand which threatens to undermine

our civilization, we appeal for the creation of a public sentiment which will no longer tolerate this condition, but which will demand protection for all womanhood.

"2. There is no crime more dangerous than that which strikes at the root of constituted authority, breaks all restraints of civilization, and substitutes mob violence and masked irresponsibility for established justice. There is no greater fallacy than that which holds up the shield of Southern womanhood in defense of the crime of lynching and burning of human beings, claiming that such acts are the outcome of Southern chivalry.

"Therefore, we utterly repudiate such sentiments and condemn such practices, and recommend that all people give themselves to a definite study of these vital matters relating to justice and righteousness, and that press, pulpit, platform and school, as well as the potent influence of the home, be used unsparingly to lead public opinion to insure justice and compel the protection and purity of both races.

"We further recommend that this group of women members of the South Carolina State Inter-Racial Committee form sub-committees on the Negro Church, School, and Home, and seek to arrive at more accurate knowledge of their needs that we may better understand our responsibility, the one to the other.

"MRS. F. LOUISE MAYES,
"MRS. C. P. MCGOWAN,
"MRS. L. E. BROWN,
"MRS. W. P. CORNELL,
"DR. JANE B. GUIGNARD,
"MRS. DUPREE CALHOUN,
"MRS. R. L. KEATON,
"MRS. C. W. BARRON,
"MRS. R. L. KIRKWOOD,
"MRS. N. G. GONZALES,
"MRS. J. D. CHAPMAN,
"MRS. RUTH DODD,
"MRS. S. W. HENRY,
"MRS. WALTER E. DUNCAN."

A part of the second day's session was devoted to "Denominational Day," in which the leaders of the various Churches present, gathered into groups their own women, in order to plan how their individual Churches should share in extending this great movement. Our Churchwomen present were as follows: Mrs. James R. Cain, President of the Church Service League; Mrs. Wm. P. Cornell, President of the Woman's Auxiliary; Mrs. Robert Hunt, Vice President of the Charleston Convocation; Miss V. T. Singleton, U. T. O. Custodian; Mrs. W. S. Poynor, Chairman of the Department of Missions and Church Extension; Mrs. John Cart, Chairman of the Department of Supply; Mrs. Thomas Hazelhurst, Chairman of the Department of Finance; Mrs. George L. Dial, Chairman of the Department of Publicity; and Mrs. D. D. Taber, Mrs. C. W. Barron, members of the Executive Council. Mrs. Arthur de Jersey was also present.

During this meeting the question was considered of what the Woman's Auxiliary of this Diocese could do to further the work and aims of the Inter-Racial Commission. Realizing that the Episcopal Church in its organization—having within itself the Negro Church, the same being under the direction and authority of the white Bishop—has a great opportunity to bring about these "friendly relations" which the Commission—and the Province of Sewanee—so greatly desire, it was felt that some method of co-operation within the Auxiliary would be advantageous to all concerned. In accordance with this thought Mrs. James R. Cain made several resolutions which she asked to have placed before the Executive Council of the Auxiliary when it met in February in Columbia. Mrs. D. D. Taber seconded these resolutions and they were unanimously adopted and subsequently presented to the Executive Council.

Realizing that whatever plans the women of the Diocese might wish to carry out in this Diocese in connection with the issue in question, could only be adopted and made effective after the consent and approval of the Bishops of the Diocese had been secured, the Executive Council deferred making its statement to the women of the Auxiliary until after its Memorial had been presented to the Bishops, in joint session

with the committee appointed to bring the resolutions of the Executive Council before the authorities of the Diocese.

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the Executive Council meetings:

"In accordance with the decision of the Episcopal section of the Inter-Racial Conference a report of the Conference was made to the Executive Council of the Woman's Auxiliary at its Mid-Winter meeting. The Council endorsed the findings of the Conference and pledged its support and co-operation to the State Committee on Inter-Racial Relations. A committee was then appointed to bring in a report as to methods whereby the Auxiliary might aid in carrying on the Inter-Racial work; the following recommendations were made:

1. That a Committee on Inter-Racial Relations be made a sub-committee of the Department of Missions and Church Extension and that a Chairman on Inter-Racial Relations be appointed in every Parish Branch of the Auxiliary.

2. That the resolutions offered by Mrs. Cain, and seconded by Mrs. Taber, to the Episcopal Church group of the State Conference on Inter-Racial Relations be adopted by this Council.

3. That the Bishops of the Diocese be asked to give their consent and aid in the carrying out of these resolutions.

4. That as soon as is practicable a Statement shall be issued by the Department of Missions and Church Extension giving an account of the Inter-Racial Conference, of the action taken on this subject at this meeting of the Council and of the Memorial presented to the Bishops regarding that action.

The Memorial which was presented to a joint audience of the Bishops in Columbia on March 9th by Mrs. Cain, Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Poynor, and Mrs. Barron, was as follows:

MEMORIAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCH OF THE
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE PRESIDING BISHOP
AND COUNCIL

To the Bishops of the Diocese of South Carolina—

The Rt. Rev. W. A. Guerry, D.D.

The Rt. Rev. K. G. Finlay, D.D.

Believing that the time has come when the leaders in both races should make every effort to promote mutual sympathy

and forbearance between the white and negro peoples in the United States and to secure a clearer understanding of the inter-racial problems, in order that the white and black may develop side by side in progress and prosperity without engendering a bitterness of feeling or fostering an antagonism which would prove disastrous to both, *and*

Believing that the inception of such a movement should come from within the South where the problems are most acute and where the possibilities of mutual understanding are increased by long years of association, *and*

Believing that the peculiar problems and situations involved can be successfully handled only by the Christian people of both races and realizing that our Church, because of its relation to the Negro Church, has at once an unusual opportunity and an unusual responsibility in this respect; *Therefore*

We, the Executive Council of the South Carolina Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Presiding Bishop and Council, do petition that you give your consent to the carrying out of the following resolutions adopted at the Mid-Winter and the special meetings of this Council:

1. That the Colored Woman's Auxiliary be invited to unite with the White Woman's Auxiliary in forming a Joint Committee for conferential purposes only; said committee to consist of ten members, five from each of the two Auxiliaries, and to meet not less than twice a year at times and places to be determined upon by them.
2. That the sanction and aid of the Bishops of the Diocese be secured for the carrying out of these resolutions in order that they may be put into effect as soon as practicable, the first meeting of the Committee to be called by Bishop Guerry at such time and place as he shall designate.

(Signed)

MRS. W. P. CORNELL, President.

MRS. F. N. CHALLEN, Vice-President Greenville Convocation.

MRS. W. BAILEY, Vice-President Columbia Convocation.

MRS. R. HUNT, Vice-President Charleston Convocation.
MRS. H. L. FORBES, Secretary.
MRS. T. H. HAZELHURST, Treasurer.
MISS V. T. SINGLETON, U. T. O. Custodian.
MRS. JOHN CART, Secretary Supply.
MRS. D. D. TABER, C. S. S. L. Representative.
MRS. M. B. HUTCHINSON, Educational Secretary.
MRS. W. S. POYNOR, Chair. Dept. of Missions and Church Extension.
MRS. J. D. BELL, Chair. Dept. Christian Social Service.
MRS. GEO. L. DIAL, Chair. Dept. of Publicity.
MRS. K. G. FINLAY, Chair. Dept. of Nation-Wide Campaign.
MISS M. A. HANCKEL, Executive Council Member.
MRS. LEWIS W. PARKER, Executive Council Member.
MRS. JAMES R. CAIN, Executive Council Member.

(The following members were not present at the second meeting, but they have expressed their concurrence in the action taken: Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Challen, Mrs. Cart, Mrs. Hazelhurst.)

After a full discussion of the subject both Bishops gave their full consent to the carrying out of the plans of the Council as indicated in the Memorial, provided the endorsement of the Annual Convention of the Auxiliary is secured.

The Executive Council outlined the strength, the duties, and the times of meeting of the Conferential Committee if such be established, as follows:

The Committee shall consist of ten members, five from the white Auxiliary and five from the colored Auxiliary; the five members from the white Auxiliary shall be the President or her appointee, and four members from the membership at large elected by the Executive Council.

The reports of the findings of this Committee shall be made through the Department of Missions and Church Extension and all necessary expenses shall be financed by this department. The first meeting of the Committee shall be called by Bishop Guerry at such time and place as he may select; it shall then organize itself, and thereafter meet not less than twice a year,

at such times and places as it may designate. The purpose of the Committee is to provide for such interchange of plans, methods and reports of progress, as may be mutually helpful; and to arrange for such co-operation between the two Auxiliaries as may serve to aid each in its separate development and growth in the Diocese.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Inter-Racial Relations has not yet been appointed, but any information that is desired relative to this proposed work of the Woman's Auxiliary may be secured through Mrs. W. S. Poynor, of Florence, the Chairman of the Department of Missions and Church Extension.

When a Chairman for this Committee is secured her name will be announced through the "Diocese."

