

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A125
Title: A Resolution Extending and Furthering the Beloved Community
Proposer: Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A043 Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
2018-A207 Affirm Beloved Community as a Global Community
2018-D002 Request Funding for Racial Reconciliation Initiatives
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2015-B021 Refer a Resolution on External Funding of Convention's Interim Bodies (Referred)
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2006-A127 Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism
1979-B052 Implement an Institutional Program of Racial Justice in the Church

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

2018-A225 Encourage Ecumenical Partnerships for Beloved Community
1991-D043 Urge Dioceses to Commit to Ending Racism

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, 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](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A125 - A Resolution Extending and Furthering the Beloved Community

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$0.00

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 09 - Racial Justice & Reconciliation

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirms that striving to become the beloved community of Jesus is central to our baptismal vocation in God's mission, and every Episcopalian is called to a lifelong vocation of racial justice and equity and the dismantling of white supremacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention establishes an Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as a voluntary association of Episcopal dioceses, parishes, organizations, and individuals dedicated to the work of becoming the Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice be charged with facilitating, coordinating, encouraging, supporting, and networking The Episcopal Church's work in racial justice and equity and the dismantling of white supremacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint a Board for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice who will take all organizational and legal actions necessary to constitute and oversee said Coalition; and be it further

Resolved, That the Coalition be empowered to secure appropriate funding to support its work including, but not limited to, income (draw) of a tithe of 10 percent of the financial holdings of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Domestic and Foreign

Missionary Coalition set aside annually for the support and work of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice.

Explanation

We feel that this work should be organized through a separate, but related, new organization in The Episcopal Church for four major reasons:

1. The current corporate structure of The Episcopal Church, like other corporate structures in the United States, has been influenced and shaped by white supremacy. In order to work toward radical change in our church and world, we need new structures to birth new possibilities.
2. Further, the particular history of what became the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society as we now know it is deeply steeped in colonialism and imperialism. A new and different structure is needed to build trust and fully reckon with the ways that history has shaped our mission in all of the places The Episcopal Church exists.
3. Within our current structure, there is no space where all of the good work being done can fully come together and have a multiplying effect on the church and the world. The Presiding Officers and Racial Reconciliation staff have done momentous and groundbreaking prophetic work in developing programming and connecting groups across the church that are working to Become Beloved Community where they are — so much good work, in fact, that we believe it needs an expanded, broader coalition of groups working in solidarity.

This is lifelong work that will span generations. It can no longer be tied to the three-year funding cycle, nor just be a programmatic priority subject to changes in leadership and the mind of any one General Convention. The Coalition would be an organization that would outlast the current dictates and resolutions of the Executive Council and the General Convention.

The History of our Current Structure

The Episcopal Church, since before its founding as a church separate from the Church of England and even before there was an Anglican Communion, was inextricably bound up in economies based upon the forced labors of enslaved peoples, and the project of colonialization. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, (SPG) the venerable missionary society of the Church of England founded in 1701 to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in the American colonies, was funded by profits from sugar cane production by the SPG owned Codrington Plantation in Barbados. SPG missionaries, often revered as founding priests in many historic colonial parishes from Connecticut to the Carolinas, were directly supported by the income from the forced labor of enslaved peoples on Codrington Plantation.

The missionary activity of The Episcopal Church in the 19th and 20th centuries were similarly informed by and collaborated with white supremacist cultural assumptions basic to American colonial territorial expansion on the western frontier of North America and around the world. One of the rationales for the founding of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary

Society (DFMS) in 1821 was to provide assistance and missionary personnel for the American Colonization Society. The American Colonization Society had been formed in 1817 to send free African Americans to west Africa as an alternative to emancipation in the United States resulting in the establishment of Liberia. The DFMS profited from United States territorial expansion often agreeing to governmental initiated parity arrangements with other Christian protestant missionary organizations in order to “civilize and Christianize” Indigenous peoples from the Philippines to the western United States. While faithful individual missionaries often criticized American colonial efforts and worked to support Indigenous peoples, at the institutional and cultural level the DFMS was party to, and an agent of, American imperialism.

The Episcopal Church's foreign and domestic missionary activities, especially under the auspices of the National Council (now the Executive Council) was motivated by a “national church ideal” that sought to spread the “benefits” of white American values and cultural assumptions through good schools, good hospitals, and right ordered worship. For The Episcopal Church to become the beloved community in Jesus that we aspire to be, we need to tell the truth of how our missionary structures have benefited from white supremacy and American colonialism. And we also need to be open to new ways of organizing our participation in God's mission unencumbered by the historical manifestations of racism.

The Coalition would be funded by the annual income (draw) of a tithe of 10 percent of the financial holdings of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.[4] In addition, this resolution would give the Coalition the ability to raise money independently for the furtherance of its mission and goals.

Precedents for Separate, Related Organizations to Advance a Specific Goal

There are important precedents in The Episcopal Church for the creation of separate boards that are connected to The Episcopal Church and that have the ability to raise additional money to further a specific goal. These Boards propose policy within the guidelines of General Convention mandate, oversee operations, and report to Executive Council. The staff and assets of the entities under care are owned by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the Church's corporate entity). Records of the boards and their operating bodies are held by the Archives.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD): ERD was originally organized as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief in 1940 to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. After the war, the agency's efforts expanded to include additional humanitarian assistance, focusing mostly on disaster relief. In 2000, the Fund was renamed Episcopal Relief and Development to emphasize its disaster relief work and its increased programmatic focus on integrated community development. Two years later, Episcopal Relief and Development was incorporated as an independent, 501(c)(3) organization.

Forward Movement: In the midst of the Great Depression the Joint Commission on the Forward Movement was established in 1934 by the General Convention with the general charge to point the Church “forward.” Forward Movement's first publications came out in 1935 including the first issues of Forward Day by Day, a daily devotional guide. Authorized each triennium by the General Convention, Forward Movement Publications operates with the Presiding Bishop as its chair, and has published key ecumenical documents affecting

The Episcopal church as well as other works of historical and biographical importance. Its range of materials expanded in the period after 1986 with the closing of Seabury Press, which was the national Church's publishing company.

United Thank Offering (UTO): Established in 1889 as the United Offering by the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, the United Thank Offering (UTO) is a special fund-raising initiative within the Church. Since its inception, the UTO has been a form of grass-roots, self-organized participation by women in a leadership role that is historically intertwined with the history of women and their role in the Episcopal Church, and continues to be a vehicle for lay women's participation in Church life.

[4] Currently, DFMS controlled funds are \$413 million. A 10% (tithe) of the holdings would be \$41,300,000. A 5% draw on that tithe would be \$2,065,000. This means that there will be approximately \$2,000,000 less annually (at current levels) to support the Executive Council budget that would be set aside to fund the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice. Source: Financial Audit for 2020 and 2019, <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/07/2020-DFMS-Audit-1.pdf>.



Resolution Number: 2018-A043
Title: Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism be amended, and hereby read as follows:

“This Committee is charged with supporting and monitoring the Church’s work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at eliminating the sin of racism from the life of the Church by:

Recognizing and developing its work of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation; supporting the work of Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation; recommending best practices for dismantling racism training; collecting information from dioceses and provinces about their successes and challenges in complying with the canonical requirements and with General Convention Resolution 2000-B049 for providing anti-racism training; and sharing their findings with Executive Council on an annual basis.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 667-668.



Resolution Number: 2018-A207
Title: Affirm Beloved Community as a Global Community
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention reaffirm that “being a beloved community” means being members of a global community honoring our full name: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention affirm that in baptism we are called to companionship, which means standing with, traveling with, and sharing bread with another; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention continue to repent of colonialism and recognize that the work of mission is a Christ-centered, mutual undertaking, which is most effective when the traditional roles of “giver” and “receiver” are discarded, and the gifts of all are accepted, welcomed, and utilized; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and mission organizations to establish productive, mutual relationships with other outreach communities that have similar intent, but may not be part of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention urge dioceses, congregations, and individuals to pray regularly for specific dioceses and congregations and individuals with whom they are in companionship; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to form one-to-one relationships through social media with individuals and congregations with whom they are in companionship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 440.



Resolution Number: 2018-D002
Title: Request Funding for Racial Reconciliation Initiatives
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$5.0 million for the triennium for the implementation of additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That such monies shall be utilized exclusively to make grants to agencies and dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of such programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of Racial Reconciliation. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, speaker series, sacred conversations, Racial Reconciliation Workshops, and other activities that promote the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention directs, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council be charged with the establishment of all criteria, and procedures associated with the awarding of such grants, and that such criteria and procedures be established as soon as practical, after the conclusion of this 79th General Convention such Committee or Office that Executive Council shall designate with implementation of the grants shall have published the criteria and be ready to accept applications submitted for such grants, and that the entities receiving such grants shall report back to the Committee or Office that Executive Council shall have designated on the usage of its grant, and that the Executive Council shall report back to the General Convention in 2021 on the usage of the \$5.0 million allocation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 465.



Resolution Number: 2015-A182
Title: Address Systemic Racial Injustice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st century systemic racial injustices that still occur in multiple contexts including but not limited to education; employment; housing; health care; banking; voting rights; immigration; policing, courts, and prisons, etc.; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirms that the Gospel, our Baptismal Covenant, and our Marks of Mission call individuals, churches, dioceses, provinces, and the wider Church to find more effective and productive ways to respond to racial injustice as we love our neighbors as ourselves, respect the dignity of every human being, and transform unjust structures of society; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare that “not knowing” and “not having the eyes to see and ears to hear” are serious obstacles to transforming unjust structures and therefore direct the Church at every level for this triennium to commit to increase the use of study, education, research, anti-racism training, liturgies, and Christian formation instruction that specifically address systemic racial injustice; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Church at every level to increase the number of dialogues about systemic racial injustice it has with local, state and national bodies within the public and private spheres and that these dialogues be used to identify, examine, and offer correctives to policies and practices within and among these bodies that result in systemic racial disparities and injustices; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to create vehicles for listening to diverse neighbors and developing reconciling relationships; such options might include (a) listening campaigns in local communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of a different race or culture (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) neighborhood prayer walks, (d) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth-telling, healing and action, (e) and others with which leaders throughout the Church are familiar; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with other church offices and organizations as appropriate to host, resource, and moderate an ongoing online forum for Episcopalians dedicated to the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation, with spaces dedicated to sharing about local and diocesan efforts and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with Youth Ministries to commission a gospel-centered, Internet-integrated, action-oriented, anti-racism youth ministry curriculum for congregations throughout The Episcopal Church, including those not in the United States, to be provided in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music produce and post online a set of prayers for racial reconciliation and justice, suitable for inclusion in the Prayers of the People; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Executive Council to conduct its own internal audit to assess to what extent, if at all, racial disparities and systemic racial injustices exist within the Church (including but not limited to clergy salaries and deployment); and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Executive Council report back to the 79th General Convention on the results of the internal audit; what concrete steps it and the wider Church took to address systemic racial injustice in the wider culture; and how effective those steps were.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 438-439.



Resolution Number: 2015-B021

Title: Refer a Resolution on External Funding of Convention's Interim Bodies

Legislative Action Taken: Referred

Final Text:

Resolved, That no Commission, Committee, Agency or Board of General Convention shall raise or receive funding other than that explicitly provided in the Triennial Budget, without prior authorization by General Convention or the Executive Council.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 448.



Resolution Number: 2015-C019
Title: Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church confesses that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, the abomination and sin of racism continue to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity; we formally acknowledge our historic and contemporary participation in this evil and repent of it; and be it further

Resolved, That in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015; numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed black men and youth at the hands of law enforcement personnel; and the moral atrocity of mass incarceration in which a hugely disproportionate number of persons of color have been unfairly caught in the net of an unjust criminal justice system, the 78th General Convention affirms as a top priority of The Episcopal Church in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church understands and affirms that the call to pray and act for racial reconciliation is integral to our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to our living into the demands of our Baptismal Covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies be charged to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church's work of racial justice and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$1.2 million for the Triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 310-311.



Resolution Number: 2006-A127
Title: Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse the principles of restorative justice, an important tool in implementing a neutral articulation of the self-examination and amendment of life that is required to fulfill our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th Convention, in support of and to enhance Resolution A123, call upon the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council to design a study and dialogue process and materials in order to engage the people of The Episcopal Church in storytelling about historical and present-day privilege and under-privilege as well as discernment towards restorative justice and the call to fully live into our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That in the spirit of inclusion, dioceses also be invited to determine whether their call is to conduct truth and reconciliation processes in regard to other histories and legacies of racial discrimination and oppression that may be applicable in their geographic area, while not diminishing the strong call to focus on the history and legacy of slavery; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses will give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee. The Anti-Racism Committee will report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Commission on National Concerns and to Executive Council and to the 76th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church hold before itself the vision of a Church without racism; a Church for all races.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 665-666.



Resolution Number: 1979-B052

Title: Implement an Institutional Program of Racial Justice in the Church

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 66th General Convention direct the Executive Council to design by means of its existing agencies programs that can assist Dioceses and congregations as they seek to combat racial and economic injustice.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-128.