

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A129
Title: Resolution for a Forensic Audit of the Funds of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
Proposer: Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2009-A143 Extend 2006 Resolution to Examine and Repent for Complicity in Slavery
2006-A123 Study Economic Benefits Derived from Slavery
2000-B041 Direct Executive Council to Strengthen Evaluation of Vendor Contracts

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

2018-A061 Create a Task Force on the Church's Theology of Money
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
1991-A199 Urge Each Diocese to Conduct an Audit on Institutional 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.

A129 Resolution for a Forensic Audit of the Funds of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Proposer	Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing
Endorsed by	—
Supported by	—
HiA / Leg. Cttee	House of Deputies / —
Current Status	—
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That this 80th General convention directs the Executive Council and the Presiding Officers of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society conduct a forensic audit of the financial assets of the church that are directly tied to historical and current racial injustices and to report the results to the Executive Council prior to the 81st General Convention, and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention urges the Church Pension Group to conduct a forensic audit of its financial assets, and to report the results to its constituents, and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention urges each diocese to conduct its own forensic audit of their financial assets, and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention directs the Executive Council to make financial resources available to aid dioceses who may be financially unable to conduct such forensic audits of their finances.

EXPLANATION

This resolution is part of our reckoning with our church's participation in and complicity with historical and current racial injustices. Forensic audits of other institutions have revealed the depth and breadth of this direct involvement and complicity. This kind of audit will produce data that will make a measure of healing old hurts and righting old wrongs possible.

The General Convention does not have the authority to require dioceses and other Episcopal institutions to follow suit with their own forensic audits. However, if passed, this resolution will carry moral authority in commending a piece of reckoning to the dioceses and other institutions who have not yet done such an audit. If passed, the Executive Council will be obligated to provide some financial assistance to dioceses that need it in order to comply with the intent of the resolution.



Resolution Number: 2009-A143
Title: Extend 2006 Resolution to Examine and Repent for Complicity in Slavery
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church agree to extend Resolution A123, which was passed at the 75th General Convention, through the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That, as directed by Resolution 2006-A123, the General Convention encourage each diocese to continue over the next six years a process to gather information in its community on (1) the complicity of The Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery and in the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination, (2) examples of resistance to slavery and discrimination and (3) the economic benefits derived by The Episcopal Church from the transatlantic slave trade and the institution of slavery; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses consult with the anti-racism officer of The Episcopal Church for resources to aid them in doing this work; and be it further

Resolved, That the information gathering be used as the foundation for truth telling, confession, apology, forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese, as requested by Resolution 2006-A123, name a Day of Repentance and on that day hold a Service of Repentance; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention require all dioceses to report their results to the 77th and 78th General Conventions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 711.



Resolution Number: 2006-A123
Title: Study Economic Benefits Derived from Slavery
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery in the United States and anywhere else in the world, based as it is on “ownership” of some persons by other persons, was and is a sin and a fundamental betrayal of the humanity of all persons who were involved, a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participation in this sin and the deep and lasting injury which the institution of slavery and its aftermath have inflicted on society and on the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our most profound regret that (a) The Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture, and (b) after slavery was formally abolished, The Episcopal Church continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church apologize for its complicity in and the injury done by the institution of slavery and its aftermath; we repent of this sin and ask God’s grace and forgiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church through the Executive Council urgently initiate a comprehensive program and urge every Diocese to collect and document during the next triennium detailed information in its community on (a) the complicity of The Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery and in the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination and (b) the economic benefits The Episcopal Church derived from the institution of slavery; and direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to monitor this program and report to Executive Council each year by March 31 on the progress in each Diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That to enable us as people of God to make a full, faithful and informed accounting of our history, the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to study and report to Executive Council by March 31, 2008, which in turn will report to the 76th General Convention, on how the Church can be “the repairer of the breach” (Isaiah 58:12), both materially and relationally, and achieve the spiritual healing and reconciliation that will lead us to a new life in Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That to mark the commencement of this program the Presiding Bishop is requested to name a Day of Repentance and on that day to hold a Service of Repentance at the National Cathedral, and each Diocese is requested to hold a similar service.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 664-665.



Resolution Number: 2000-B041

Title: Direct Executive Council to Strengthen Evaluation of Vendor Contracts

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention direct the Executive Council to strengthen procedures for evaluating all vendors under consideration for contracts with this Church on their policies and practices addressing the sin of racism. This evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an audit of the vendor's business practices with regard to anti-racism and the vendor's statement of corporate responsibility.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 680.