

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D011
Title: Resolution to Direct the Removal of the Name of The Rev. William Porcher DuBose from the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar
Proposer: Mr. Harold Patrick
Topic: Church Calendar

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A065 Authorize Continued Use of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* 2006
2006-C011 Support Legislation for Reparations for Slavery

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

2018-A044 Set Essential Components of Anti-Racism or Racial Reconciliation Training
2009-A143 Extend 2006 Resolution to Examine and Repent for Complicity in Slavery

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.

D011 - Resolution to direct the removal of the name of The Rev. William Porcher DuBose from the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Mr. Harold Patrick

Endorsed by: Canon Noreen Duncan, The Rev. Kevin Matthews

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 12 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That this 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby direct the withdrawal of the name of The Rev. William Porcher DuBose from the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar; and be it further

Resolved, that this 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to conduct an examination of all those who are so honored in the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar for the purpose of determining whether or not their names should be removed; and be it further

Resolved, that the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music report back to the 81st General Convention with a recommendation and explanation of those so honored in the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar whose name should be removed for the reasons stated below in the Explanation Section of this Resolution.

Explanation

It is stated in the citation for The Rev. William Porcher DuBose, August 18th, that he was “possibly the greatest theologian the Episcopal Church has ever produced.”

It also states, “He preached the faith as it is in Christ Jesus.”

The truth is Rev. Dubose served as an officer in the Confederate Army. He fought in The Second Battle of Bull Run, like the First (July 21, 1861), which was a significant tactical victory for the Confederates and was another blow to Union morale. Union casualties were about 14,000 killed and wounded out of 62,000 engaged (22.5%); the Confederates lost about 1,000 killed and 7,000 wounded out of 50,000. (16%).

DuBose grew up on the 2,500-acre family plantation near Winnsboro; his family were planters and holders of enslaved human beings; owning 204 enslaved Africans.

In all of his scholarly writings and teaching, there is never a mention that Rev. Dubose renounced slavery or his participation as a traitor against the United States by serving in the Confederate Army.

The Episcopal Church should not be honoring a man who saw no conflict in teaching Jesus, but believing that Jesus would somehow condone the enslaving, killing, torturing and destroying families of a people, slaves or free.

There is the slippery slope argument: Many of America’s founders — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson — owned slaves. Does removing statues of Columbus or Confederate officials pave the way for action against monuments honoring those who helped create the United States? There is, however, an important difference between helping to create the United States and trying to destroy it. Both Washington and Jefferson were critical to the formation of the country and to the shaping of it in its early years. They are both excellent candidates for this kind of contextualization argument.

Yet the Confederate statues were put up when they were put up (not just after the war but largely during periods of Civil Rights tension in the 20th century), to send a message about white supremacy, and to sentimentalize people who had actively fought to preserve the system of slavery. No one puts a monument up to Washington or Jefferson to promote slavery. The monuments go up because, without Washington, there likely would not have been an American nation. They put up monuments to Thomas Jefferson because of the Declaration of Independence, which every group has used to make their place in American society. Or they go up because of Thomas Jefferson’s views on separation of church and state and other values that we hold dear. On these two, Washington and Jefferson, in particular, you take the bitter with sweet. The main duty is not to hide the bitter parts.

No doubt there are others who are celebrated by The TEC with a commemoration in The Lesser Feasts & Fast Calendar who not only owned slaves but also fought in the Confederacy to preserve the institution of slavery. Thereby, effectively fighting to destroy the American Nation. These men should not be so honored by our Church. Their names should therefore be removed from The Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar.



Resolution Number: 2018-A065
Title: Authorize Continued Use of Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize the continued use of Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention commend the continued availability of Great Cloud of Witnesses 2015 for the 2018-2021 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the new commemorations in Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 proposed by the SCLM be authorized for trial use and be included in the calendar for the 2018-2021 triennium, under Article X(b); and be it further

Resolved, That the SCLM provide the 80th General Convention with a clear and unambiguous plan for a singular calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 679.



Resolution Number: 2006-C011
Title: Support Legislation for Reparations for Slavery
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention, affirming our commitments to become a transformed, anti-racist church and to work toward healing, reconciliation, and a restoration of wholeness to the family of God, urge the Church at every level to call upon Congress and the American people to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and of proposals for monetary and non-monetary reparations to the descendants of the victims of slavery.

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