

**General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022
Archives' Research Report**

Resolution No.: 2022-D017
Title: A Resolution Regarding Inclusion of Juneteenth in Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar
Proposer: Ms. Yvonne O'Neal
Topic: Church Calendar

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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

None

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.

D017 - A Resolution Regarding Inclusion of Juneteenth in Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Ms. Yvonne O'Neal

Endorsed by: Canon Noreen Duncan, The Rev. Glenna Huber

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 inclusion of the Juneteenth Feast Day in Lesser Feasts and Fasts; and be it further

Resolved, that this 80th General Convention approve the appropriate proper to be prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

Explanation

The Emancipation Proclamation outlawing slavery was issued in 1863, however, it only freed slaves in the Confederate States. It took two and a half years, until June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas read the General Order announcing that the Civil War was over and slavery had been abolished. The General Order Number 3 read: "The people of Texas are informed that . . . all slaves are free. . . ."

June 19th, known as Juneteenth, celebrates the end of slavery and is a symbolic date of freedom for African Americans. Often referred to as this country's Second Independence Day, Juneteenth is observed as a state holiday in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Thirty-two additional states recognize Juneteenth through community service and celebration, many of which are considering making Juneteenth a state holiday. The annual

celebration of Juneteenth is a time of reflection, learning, self-assessment, and healing. The recent passage of The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act made Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Today, the celebration of Juneteenth has deep and lasting meaning for the Black community as we continue to fight for justice and freedom. We have witnessed a rise in racist and oppressive actions and behaviors that directly conflict with our beliefs and values as Christians. There is a misconception that slavery no longer exists in this nation and that everyone enjoys freedom. However, “More than 400,000 people could be living in ‘modern slavery’ in the US, a condition of servitude broadly defined in a new study as forced and state-imposed labor,

sexual servitude and forced marriage.” The majority of those who live in “modern slavery” today are people of color, predominately Black and Brown folks.

It is vital as Episcopalians that we join together in unity to be ever vigilant in fighting for the precious meaning of freedom of all people by celebrating Juneteenth as a Feast Day.



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.