

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D044
Title: Owning a Commitment to Reparations
Proposer: Dr. Carolyn Mok
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A128 Examine Impact of Doctrine of Discovery
2009-D035 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery

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

2018-D002 Request Funding for Racial Reconciliation Initiatives
2018-D089 Condemn Racist Language and Address Past and Current Discrimination
2015-A024 Direct Dioceses to Examine the Impact of the Doctrine of Discovery
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2012-A131 Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples
2012-A132 Protect Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Sites
2009-A152 Request Study of Burial Sites of Indigenous Peoples
1994-D008 Support Reparations and Study of Japanese Treatment of Koreans

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.

D044 - Owning a Commitment to Reparations

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Dr. Carolyn Mok

Endorsed by: The Rev. Boyd Evans, The Very Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 09 - Racial Justice & Reconciliation

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 (TEC) endorse the creation of an independent Reparations Fund Commission, with its Convener and at least 60% of its membership being persons of color; and be it further

Resolved, That the establishment of this Commission will be overseen by the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice; and be it further

Resolved, That the charge to the Commission is the creation of a substantial fund from TEC assets, the purpose of which is a sustained, meaningful, tangible response to the historic and ongoing legacy of slavery and displacement of Indigenous peoples of what is now the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the magnitude of this fund and date for accomplishing the target amount will be determined by the Commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Reparations Fund Commission or an entity that it approves will be responsible for defining and implementing payments of reparation.



Resolution Number: 2012-A128
Title: Examine Impact of Doctrine of Discovery
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in the spirit of our Baptismal Covenant and in being inclusive, direct all dioceses to examine the impact the Doctrine of Discovery, as repudiated at the 76th General Convention, has had on all people, especially on persons of color, including racial discrimination, racial profiling and other acts of oppression; and be it further

Resolved, That the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, and the Episcopal Women's History Project, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Formation as well as diocesan historiographers and archivists, be requested to assist dioceses in documenting and explaining the effects of the Doctrine of Discovery, especially in the life of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the President of the House of Deputies, be asked to seek volunteer dioceses to develop appropriate written guidance about how a diocese may effectively document and explain the church's historical role, negative and positive, in connection with the treatment of people of color, including African Americans and Native American people, as a result of the now-repudiated Doctrine of Discovery.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 183-184.



Resolution Number: 2009-D035
Title: Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention repudiates and renounces the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God, and that this declaration be proclaimed among our churches and shared with the United Nations and all the nations and peoples located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries. This doctrine, which originated with Henry VII in 1496, held that Christian sovereigns and their representative explorers could assert dominion and title over non-Christian lands with the full blessing and sanction of the Church. It continues to be invoked, in only slightly modified form, in court cases and in the many destructive policies of governments and other institutions of the modern nation-state that lead to the colonizing dispossession of the lands of indigenous peoples and the disruption of their way of life; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church review its policies and programs with a view to exposing the historical reality and impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and eliminating its presence in its contemporary policies, program and structures and, further, that this body directs the appropriate representatives of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, to inform all relevant governmental bodies in the United States of its action and suggest similar and equivalent review of historical and contemporary policies that contribute to the continuing colonization of Indigenous Peoples and, further, to write to Queen Elizabeth II, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, requesting that her Majesty disavow, and repudiate publicly, the claimed validity of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese within The Episcopal Church be encouraged to reflect upon its own history, in light of these actions and encourage all Episcopalians to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States and other nation states located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries, and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for the U.S. government's endorsement of the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," which the United States has refused to endorse (only the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia have failed to sign on).

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 371-372.