

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-D070  
**Title:** Addressing Inequities in the Quality of Life of Native Peoples  
**Proposer:** Ms. Betsy Ridge Madsen  
**Topic:** Health Care, Native Americans and Ministry, Poverty, Racism

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-C041 Advocate for Policies Supporting Nutrition, Healthcare, and Housing as Human Rights  
2018-D014 Urge Equitable Access to Prenatal and Maternal Health Care  
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation  
2012-A086 Address Community Development Opportunities in Native Communities  
2009-A155 Establish a Community Development Initiative with Native People  
1988-C007 Support the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
1982-D109 Advocate Creation of Employment Opportunities on Indian Reservations  
1973-A099 Continue Indian/Eskimo Community Development Fund

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

2015-A025 Authorize Ministries for At-Risk Teens  
2012-A131 Express Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

*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.*

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# D070 - Addressing Inequities in the Quality of Life of Native Peoples

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Ms. Betsy Ridge Madsen

**Endorsed by:** Mr. Billy Boyce, The Rev. Dr. Karen Coleman

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 08 - Social Justice & United States Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the General Convention directs the Office of Government Relations to advocate for legislation, funding, and services which address the inequities in healthcare, housing, nutrition, and education affecting the quality of life of Native Peoples; and be it further,

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church also seeks to address the issue that American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians also face much higher rates of poverty, incarceration, and unemployment than the total population; and be it further,

Resolved, That congregations and dioceses educate themselves on the inequities and engage in local and state advocacy,

## Explanation

The Episcopal Church recognizes that Native People live in some of the poorest counties in the United States experiencing increasing disparities in income, economic security, health and healthcare, mental health services, and quality of life. The Episcopal Church also recognizes that there are steep divisions between the health of American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians and other Americans. They have lower life expectancies and lose more years of productive life. They have the nation's highest rates of death to suicide. High rates of death to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and accidents continue to disproportionately affect American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.





**Resolution Number:** 2018-C041  
**Title:** Advocate for Policies Supporting Nutrition, Healthcare, and Housing as Human Rights  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct The Office of Government Relations to advocate unflaggingly for the federal government of the United States to close gaps in the safety net which cause millions of Americans to suffer eviction, homelessness, inability to access health care, medical debt, and hunger; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians, Dioceses and The Episcopal Church advocate at the federal, state, and local level for adequate nutrition, healthcare, and housing as human rights which should be provided to all residents of this country, and for which eligibility is determined only by the applicants' current financial need, and all eligible people receive the aid for which they qualify; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians, dioceses, and The Episcopal Church oppose federal cuts in tax credits that benefit low-income families including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Child Care Credit, and advocate for similar tax credits at the state level; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians, dioceses, and The Episcopal Church oppose health care proposals 1) to limit public benefit funding to block grants, or 2) to cut off new enrollment of income-eligible people at a future date irrespective of their needs, or 3) to stipulate that people who lose eligibility when their income rises cannot re-enroll if their income falls again in the future due to loss of income; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians and dioceses in the 19 states that did not accept the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion advocate with their state legislators and governors to accept this benefit and federal funding for their constituents; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians, dioceses and The Episcopal Church call on Congress to make the cost-sharing provisions of the Affordable Care Act an entitlement; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Episcopalians, dioceses and The Episcopal Church call on Congress to cap the mortgage interest deduction for wealthy taxpayers and direct the increased revenue to low-income housing assistance programs; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$83,750 for 1/4 FTE staff person at the Office of Government Relations to track federal and state legislative proposals on public benefit funding and eligibility, and to provide timely action alerts to dioceses, and Episcopal Public Policy Network; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Dioceses and congregations provide networking relationship for housing and employment to refer homeless people to assist in getting employment and housing.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 421-422.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-D014  
**Title:** Urge Equitable Access to Prenatal and Maternal Health Care  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention reaffirm its commitment in Resolution 2006-B018 to work to “Ensure quality pre-natal care is available for all;” and views with alarm that the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity has been increasing in the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Convention support the advocacy efforts of our dioceses for all women to have the right to safe and available pre- and post-natal health care that enables healthy pregnancies, births, post-partum recovery, and mental health care; and overall maternal well-being; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Office of Government Relations articulates our vision that safe and respectful maternal health care is a recognized human right throughout the U.S., and urges state governments to adopt a human-rights based approach to ensuring safe pregnancy and childbirth; and be it further*

*Resolved, That as we live out the call of our Presiding Bishop to be the Beloved Community, we acknowledge the tragic disparity in maternal health care that has resulted from discrimination in pre- and post-natal maternal health care for impoverished women and women of color.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 441.



**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:** 2012-A086  
**Title:** Address Community Development Opportunities in Native Communities  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognized at the 76th General Convention the pressing challenges to those living in poverty and the working poor throughout this nation and called for new and innovative strategies to address issues related to nutrition, employment, childcare, education, health care, environment and housing, as well as equal protection under law and cultural affirmations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commends the community development initiative in Native People's communities in the past triennium, recognizing that Native People live in some of the poorest counties in the United States experiencing increasing disparities in income, economic security, health and health care, and quality of life; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this development initiative emerging from the visions and voices of the local Native People's communities, address community development opportunities using Asset-Based Community Development models, identify key federal, state, and local advocacy issues and access the abundant human and financial resources of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church commend the work begun by the Office of Social and Economic Justice and the Office of Lifelong Christian Formation and the Office of Native and Indigenous Ministries in sponsoring Asset-Based Community Development training held regionally throughout The Episcopal Church hearing the voices of people living in poverty and the working poor who are members of our Episcopal congregations and institutions; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention urge the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$300,000 per annum in the 2013–2015 triennium for the implementation of this Resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 223.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A155  
**Title:** Establish a Community Development Initiative with Native People  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognize the pressing challenges to those living in poverty and the working poor throughout this nation and call for new and innovative strategies to address issues related to nutrition, employment, childcare, education, healthcare, environment and housing, as well as equal protection under law and cultural affirmations; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church establish a community development initiative in Native People's communities in the new triennium, recognizing that Native People live in some of the poorest counties in the United States experiencing increasing disparities in income, economic security, health and healthcare, and quality of life; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this community development initiative emerge from the visions and voices of the local Native People's communities, address community development opportunities using asset-based community development models, identify key federal, state and local advocacy issues, and access the abundant human and financial resources of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Executive Council, working closely with the Advocacy Center, evaluate the community development initiative in Native People's communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Advocacy Center sponsor asset-based community development training held regionally throughout The Episcopal Church to hear the voices of people living in poverty and the working poor who are members of our Episcopal congregations and institutions; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Executive Council report to the 77th General Convention a strategic plan for establishing domestic development programs for The Episcopal Church in the 2013-2015 triennium and beyond; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$400,000 per annum in the 2010-2012 triennium for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 649.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-C007  
**Title:** Support the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church strongly support the Indian Health Care Improvement Act as presently before Congress; and be it further Resolved, That the Secretary of the General Convention communicate this resolution to all appropriate governmental agencies including the President and the Congress and make this matter known to the public at large by every appropriate means, that the action of this Convention be publicized.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 225.



**Resolution Number:** 1982-D109  
**Title:** Advocate Creation of Employment Opportunities on Indian Reservations  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That this 67th General Convention request the Hunger and Indian Desks of the Executive Council and the NCIW and their staffs to advocate creation of employment opportunities on Indian Reservations which could overcome the present economic conditions (which result in an estimated unemployment rate of 89.9% on the Reservations) and alleviate the pain, suffering, disease, and malnutrition which Indian people suffer because of such unemployment; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention communicate the urgent needs of American Indians to the President of the United States, the Departments of Labor and Interior, and the members of Congress.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-142.



**Resolution Number:** 1973-A099  
**Title:** Continue Indian/Eskimo Community Development Fund  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Indian/Eskimo Community Development Fund be continued, with such fund being used by the Committee and its regional system for grants in support of projects conceived and, as far as possible, implemented by Indian and/or Eskimo communities to improve their total positions; and be it further*

*Resolved, That grants made from this fund shall be made in co-operation with other grant-making organizations and in a co-ordinated manner with other grants made by agencies of the Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the authority for making Indian/Eskimo grants from this fund be vested in the National Committee on Indian Work and its regional system, with the Committee reporting on projects funded and their accomplishments to the concerned jurisdictions, the Executive Council, and succeeding General Conventions.*

**Citation:** General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Louisville, 1973 (New York: General Convention, 1973), pp. 409-410.