

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D090
Title: The Church's Teaching on Racism
Proposer: The Rev. José Rodríguez-Sanjuro
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A043 Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
2018-A044 Set Essential Components of Anti-Racism or Racial Reconciliation Training
2018-A045 Reaffirm and Report on Anti-Racism Training
2018-D009 Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration
2012-A125 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2012-A127 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2009-A142 Recommit the Church to Anti-Racism and Request Annual Diocesan Reports
2003-A010 Continue Anti-Racism Program
2000-B049 Require Anti-Racism Training
1997-A039 Reaffirm General Convention Resolutions on Racism
1994-D132 Reject Racism Toward Immigrants and Request the Church to Respond

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.

D090 - The Church's Teaching on Racism

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: The Rev. José Rodríguez-Sanjuro

Endorsed by: Mr. Joe McDaniel, Ms. Wendy Cañas, The Rev. Daniel Vélez-Rivera

Requests New Interim Body: No

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 the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirms previous General Convention resolutions on racism and that these shall be considered part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention invites the House of Bishops to develop and promulgate apostolic teaching on racism to form part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, that the Church's Christian principles to guide responses to human migration (2018-D009) and all previous General Convention resolutions concerning migrants and migration shall be part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, that racism, racially-biased behavior, and teaching contrary to the Church's teaching on racism is an anathema to the Church.

Explanation

This resolution aims to identify existing Church teaching that can form the body of the Church's teaching on racism and invite the House of Bishops as a body to add teaching and apostolic witness to the Church's teaching on racism.

Canon III.8.5.h.4, training for priests, lists “the Church’s teaching on racism.”

Canon III.6.5.g.4, training for deacons, lists “the Church’s teaching on racism.”

Canon III.10.1.c.4, evidence of training for the reception of clergy from other Churches, lists “the Church’s teaching on racism.”

Canon III.12.5.viii.4, training for a Bishop, lists “the Church’s teaching on racism.”

The 71st General Convention rejected racism toward immigrants and requested the Church respond (1994-D132).

The 72nd General Convention reaffirmed previous General Convention resolutions on racism (1997-A039).

The 73rd General Convention resolved to require anti-racism training (2000-B049).

The 79th General Convention resolved that the “the essential components of anti-racism or racial reconciliation training to include liturgy, history, a didactic component, and engagement; and supports the development of resources and best practices for dismantling racism” (2018-A044).

Previous General Conventions have recommitted to anti-racism work (2000-A047, 2003-A010, 2003-D025, 2012-A125 & 2012-A127) and directed the Church to enter into dialogue about systemic racial injustice (2015-A182).



Resolution Number: 2018-A043
Title: Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism be amended, and hereby read as follows:

“This Committee is charged with supporting and monitoring the Church’s work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at eliminating the sin of racism from the life of the Church by:

Recognizing and developing its work of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation; supporting the work of Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation; recommending best practices for dismantling racism training; collecting information from dioceses and provinces about their successes and challenges in complying with the canonical requirements and with General Convention Resolution 2000-B049 for providing anti-racism training; and sharing their findings with Executive Council on an annual basis.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 667-668.



Resolution Number: 2018-A044
Title: Set Essential Components of Anti-Racism or Racial Reconciliation Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognizes that widely different criteria have been used across the Church to determine if the completion of anti-racism training required in Title III and resolution 2000-B049 has been satisfied; and be it further
Resolved, that The Episcopal Church recognizes that in order to maintain a common theological framework in our commitment to dismantle the sin of racism that these specific components are essential to include in any Episcopal Anti-racism or Racial Reconciliation training:

- 1) Liturgy, preferably a celebration of Eucharist when possible or other corporate worship, grounding the work in scripture and spiritual formation
(Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community)
- 2) An Historical Component—including but not limited to (and, as appropriate to the context where the training is offered): The Episcopal Church's role in slavery, its history with segregation and discrimination of people of color, the Doctrine of Discovery, The Episcopal Church's role in taking indigenous children from their families through our participation in the boarding school system, and the Church's responses to racism through the years.
(Telling the Truth about the Church and Race)
- 3) An Information or Didactic Component—including, but not limited to: the Baptismal Covenant, power, class, race, racism, internalized racial privilege, internalized racial oppression, implicit racial bias, intercultural awareness and communication, becoming co-conspirators in dismantling racism, and envisioning racial reconciliation.
(Repairing the Breach)
- 4) Engagement—including, but not limited to: establishing respectful communication guidelines, discussion, Bible Study, and other activities as indicated to accomplish learning objectives for these components.
(Practicing the Way of Love);

And be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism continue to collect and develop, in collaboration with the staff, Christian Formation professionals, and The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing, resources and best practices for dismantling racism that can be shared online to aide in the consistent fulfillment of the requirement for anti-racism training for lay and ordained leaders across the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 668.



Resolution Number: 2018-A045
Title: Reaffirm and Report on Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That we acknowledge that not all dioceses have followed the spirit of the anti-racism training required in Title III or General Convention Resolution 2000-B049 regarding training of all ordained persons and lay leadership; and be it further

Resolved, That we acknowledge that the work of dismantling racism is an essential part of spiritual formation; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention re-affirms the necessity and importance of anti-racism training for the lay and ordained leadership of The Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to committees, commissions, agencies, task forces, and boards; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and The Episcopal Church staff, The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing and Christian Formation professionals be encouraged to work together to continue to expand the resources available for trainings that can be adapted to different contexts and that address the multiplicity and intersectionality of oppressions that exist in society, and maintain online a recommended list of curricula and programs as they are developed, that could be used for anti-racism training and for training facilitators; and be it further

Resolved, That the lay and ordained leadership of The Episcopal Church are also expected to engage in ongoing spiritual formation and education focused on racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as part of our Church's commitment to Becoming Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That each committee, commission, agency, task force, and board, and each province and diocese maintain a register of those who have participated in training, and annually report to the Executive Council through the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism by January 1 each year, how many people have participated in training and what other Becoming Beloved Community formation opportunities have been offered and that the Council report on this information to future General Conventions until such time as the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism or its succeeding body determines it is no longer necessary.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 669.



Resolution Number: 2018-D009
Title: Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that human migration has always been part of the human condition, and that human migration will continue in future, and will likely increase due to any number of variables including the effects of climate change on human habitat, economic instability, or ongoing war and conflict, and remembering the call in both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to welcome the stranger, building stronger and more diverse community: “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and “I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25: 35, 40); and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention set forth these principles to guide our church’s response to human migration, including internal migration, in the future:

1. We recognize the fundamental human rights of all people as expressed in our Baptismal Covenant and we reaffirm that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to all refugees and both regular and irregular migrants;
2. We remember that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were refugees, as they were forced to flee into a foreign land to escape violence;
3. We call on all governments to keep their commitments and legal obligations to respect the rights and dignity of all people, including access to justice and social services, while recognizing the complexity of developing just immigration policies in any country, and the legitimate need to protect borders and address security threats to sovereign nations;
4. We commit the church to learning and engaging migration issues as part of the Jesus Movement, sacredly holding the voices and leadership of migrants themselves and honoring their leadership in this process;
5. We will endeavor to learn and address root causes of migration and advocate for just solutions with Anglican/Episcopal, ecumenical, and interfaith partners;
6. We acknowledge the connection between U.S. policies, and the policies of other states, and the root drivers of migration, including climate change, armed conflict, and disruption of local economies through global trade policies;
7. We stress the importance of demonstrating hospitality and welcome as Christian values at the local level, preaching hospitality and positive storytelling to overcome xenophobia;
8. We insist that the United States of America and other powerful, wealthy nations, and all nations to the best of their ability, contribute to resettlement, establish and maintain safe and orderly humanitarian protection for refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants seeking long-term solutions and safety;
9. We call on all nations to maintain family unity and safety during migration;
10. We insist that economic and foreign relationships among governments should not increase the need of migration due to economic hardships, persecution, and violence;
11. We insist that governments strive to maintain conditions which are conducive to internal stability and employment opportunity;

12. **In the event that people are forced to migrate, we insist that our governments address the drivers holistically, without racial, ethnic, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, health status, or religious prejudice;**
13. **We insist that our governments adhere to the internationally accepted principle known as non-refoulement, that stipulates that countries should not return migrants and refugees to unsafe conditions in their home countries or other countries;**
14. **We recognize the links between migrants in vulnerable transit situations and human trafficking and other dangers, and will seek to establish and maintain robust, safe, and orderly routes for refugees;**
15. **We urge governments to expand refugee resettlement as a humanitarian response that offers individuals safety and opportunity;**
16. **We recognize that displacement due to climate change already happens and will increase, and we insist that our governments and the international community must commit to development of long-term protection solutions for persons displaced by climate change; and be it further**

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize the process underway at the United Nations to establish a Global Compact on Refugees,[i] and a Global Compact on Migration, processes that have included advocacy by The Episcopal Church Representative to the UN and by the Office of Government Relations Refugee and Immigration Policy Advisor; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention urge the Office of the Presiding Bishop to ensure continued representation of The Episcopal Church at the United Nations and other multinational consultations with faith communities on refugee and migrant issues, alongside the Anglican Communion Office, Lutheran World Federation, and other ecumenical and interfaith partners in responding to the global refugee crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage all congregations and dioceses to learn about the intricacies of migration, including root causes through the resources provided by Episcopal Migration Ministries and its Partners in Welcome network and engage in aiding migrants to the best of their ability.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1065-1067.



Resolution Number: 2012-A125
Title: Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing the work against the sin of racism in all of its forms; and be it further
Resolved, That a culture, expectation, and practice of anti-racism permeate the life of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all teams of the DFMS, monitored and networked by a staff officer; and be it further
Resolved, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all volunteers participating in the governance structures of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
Resolved, That anti-racism training oversight and implementation be carried out on provincial and diocesan levels for all Episcopalians; and be it further
Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces initiate anti-racism training if they have not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an ongoing basis; and be it further
Resolved, That the provinces report annually to the Executive Council on the progress being made in fulfillment of this resolution; and be it further
Resolved, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$180,000 to be distributed and used by the Provinces for the implementation of this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 489.



Resolution Number: 2012-A127
Title: Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing to work against the sin of racism; and be it further

Resolved, That anti-racism training oversight and implementation be carried out on provincial and diocesan levels for all Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces receive anti-racism training if they have not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an ongoing basis; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and provinces use existing programs and ministries, or develop new programs and ministries, to dismantle and eradicate structures of racism, both internally and externally, and integrate the practices of anti-racism into their ongoing life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 698-699.



Resolution Number: 2009-A142
Title: Recommit the Church to Anti-Racism and Request Annual Diocesan Reports
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing to work against the sin of racism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Anti-Racism and Gender Equality continue to design and deliver anti-racism, classism and ethnic discrimination training that examines factors and circumstances which maintain racism, classism and ethnic discrimination in the Church and in civil society; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces receive anti-racism training if they have not already done so or renew training that has been previously taken; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and provinces develop programs and ministries to dismantle and eradicate structures of racism, both internally and externally, and integrate the practices of anti-racism into their ongoing life; and be it further

Resolved, That the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council develop a monitoring and reporting process for the dioceses, and that dioceses make annual reports to the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 742



Resolution Number: 2003-A010
Title: Continue Anti-Racism Program
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church reaffirm its historic commitment to eradicate racial injustice in the Church and in secular society, and that the Executive Council continue the anti-racism program with appropriate staffing and budget, as approved by the 73rd General Convention (A047) and recommend the National Dialogues on Anti-Racism methodology; and be it further

Resolved, That the emerging provincial network of anti-racism trainers be recognized as an important resource, and its utilization commended to the several provinces, dioceses, and affiliated organizations of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention extend its appreciation to the organizers and participants of the anti-racism hearings and call upon the anti-racism committee (Anti-Racism Advisory Committee of the Executive Council and the Office of Social Justice) to implement a program that responds to the issues raised at the hearings, as appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That all persons seeking election or appointment to the several standing commissions, other committees of Executive Council, related boards and auxiliary organizations must have had anti-racism training required by the 73rd General Convention (B049) or agree to have this training within a year of their appointment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Peace and Justice be commended for its "Stop the Hate" Campaign, and be encouraged to develop similar programs that address the issues of racial profiling and other abuses of the criminal justice system that have emerged in this post 9/11 environment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council be directed to prepare a report for the other standing committees and commissions of the Church that inform them of the several issues emerging from the anti-racism hearings, and specify what actions each might take to ameliorate the impact of racism in their area of concern.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 173f.



Resolution Number: 2000-B049
Title: Require Anti-Racism Training
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That beginning on September 1, 2000 the lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards be required to take anti-racism training and receive certification of such training; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the national level; that each province select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the provincial level; and that each diocese select and authorize appropriate programs that will be used at the diocesan and parochial levels, each province and diocese to determine those lay and clergy leaders who are to take the training; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on National Concerns continues to develop a list of such appropriate resources; and be it further

Resolved, That each national committee, commission, agency, and board, and each province and diocese maintain a register of those who are trainers and those who have been trained, and forward this information to the Executive Council by January 1, 2003, and every two years thereafter, and the Council report on this information to the 74th and 75th General Conventions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 603.



Resolution Number: 1997-A039
Title: Reaffirm General Convention Resolutions on Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention reaffirm Resolution 1994-D135 of the 71st General Convention, which was not implemented and once again directs the Executive Council to oversee the monitoring of progress in dioceses implementing resolutions on racism adopted by previous General Conventions and Executive Councils; and that it report the results of its surveys annually to the Church at large and every three years to the General Convention of this Church, with recommendations for improvement.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 575.



Resolution Number: 1994-D132
Title: Reject Racism Toward Immigrants and Request the Church to Respond
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 1994 General Convention of the Episcopal Church declare reprehensible the widespread racist and unjust treatment of immigrants that has become a convenient theme of current political discourse; and be it further
Resolved, That provinces and dioceses develop programs of literacy, citizenship, voter registration and advocacy to counteract violations of civil rights.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 355.