

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

**Resolution No.:** 2022-D094  
**Title:** Reaffirming the Role of Ethnic Ministries  
**Proposer:** Mrs. Heather Rodriguez  
**Topic:** Ethnic Ministries

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

2018-A057 Strengthen Grassroots Social Justice Advocacy and Multicultural Ministries  
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice  
2003-C015 Retain Ethnic Desks at Episcopal Church Center  
1997-A068 Request a Domestic Missionary Strategy for Diverse Ethnic Groups  
1994-C008 Direct Dioceses to Ensure Participation of Hispanics in Leadership  
1991-A065 Affirm the Ministry of Evangelism Among Ethnic Groups  
1985-A141 Study the Needs of Minority Groups for Greater Involvement  
1973-B182 Establish Staffing for Ethnic and Racial Minority Empowerment Programs

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

2015-A086 Create a Network of Latino/Hispanic Partners for Congregational Development  
2003-A076 Develop Transformation Resources 1994-B029 Urge Use of Surplus Diocesan Funds for Local Ethnic Ministry

*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.*

# D094 - Reaffirming the Role of Ethnic Ministries

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Mrs. Heather Rodriguez

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

**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

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## Resolution Text

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

That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirms the role of our multicultural ministries in the life of the Church and resolves to strengthen them and affirm evangelistic work among diverse ethnic groups; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the 80th General Convention reaffirms all prior resolutions concerning ethnic ministries and resolves that the principles inherent in prior resolutions concerning particular ethnic groups apply to all ethnic and underrepresented groups; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the General Convention reaffirms the Church's work and commitment to minority and ethnic ministry and its work to underrepresented and vulnerable groups; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the General Convention reaffirms all church-wide and diocesan bodies for ethnic congregational development and continues to support empowerment programs for ethnic and racial minorities and underrepresented groups; and be it further.

*Resolved*, that all previous General Convention resolutions supporting ethnic and minority ministries shall be considered part of the Church's anti-racism and evangelistic work; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the work necessary to include people of color, ethnic minorities, and the underrepresented in the life and leadership of the Church at all levels – church-wide and diocesan – is inalienable from the Baptismal Covenant’s call to respect the dignity of every human being.

## **Explanation**

Previous General Conventions have affirmed the role of our multicultural ministries (1973-D046) and resolved to strengthen them (2018-A057), and affirmed the ministry of evangelism among ethnic groups (1991-A065).

Previous General Conventions have affirmed the creation of church-wide bodies for ethnic congregational development (2015-A086) and have called for empowerment programs for ethnic and racial minorities (1973-B182).

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

Previous General Conventions have called for the development of strategies for ethnic ministries (1991-C049), have funded studies for identifying opportunities in ethnic ministries (1979-B145), have called for development of plans to recruit ethnic leadership (1991-D166), and requested the recruitment and retention of people of color for ordained (1994-A045) and lay; ministry and leadership (1994-A046).





**Resolution Number:** 2018-A057  
**Title:** Strengthen Grassroots Social Justice Advocacy and Multicultural Ministries  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 79th General Convention support the continued and additional strengthening of Church wide staff resources and collaboration in accordance with the Blue Book report of the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church to support the grassroots work of The Episcopal Church in the areas of social justice advocacy and ethnic and multicultural ministry across The Episcopal Church.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 413.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A182  
**Title:** Address Systemic Racial Injustice  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st century systemic racial injustices that still occur in multiple contexts including but not limited to education; employment; housing; health care; banking; voting rights; immigration; policing, courts, and prisons, etc.; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirms that the Gospel, our Baptismal Covenant, and our Marks of Mission call individuals, churches, dioceses, provinces, and the wider Church to find more effective and productive ways to respond to racial injustice as we love our neighbors as ourselves, respect the dignity of every human being, and transform unjust structures of society; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention declare that “not knowing” and “not having the eyes to see and ears to hear” are serious obstacles to transforming unjust structures and therefore direct the Church at every level for this triennium to commit to increase the use of study, education, research, anti-racism training, liturgies, and Christian formation instruction that specifically address systemic racial injustice; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Church at every level to increase the number of dialogues about systemic racial injustice it has with local, state and national bodies within the public and private spheres and that these dialogues be used to identify, examine, and offer correctives to policies and practices within and among these bodies that result in systemic racial disparities and injustices; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to create vehicles for listening to diverse neighbors and developing reconciling relationships; such options might include (a) listening campaigns in local communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of a different race or culture (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) neighborhood prayer walks, (d) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth-telling, healing and action, (e) and others with which leaders throughout the Church are familiar; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with other church offices and organizations as appropriate to host, resource, and moderate an ongoing online forum for Episcopalians dedicated to the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation, with spaces dedicated to sharing about local and diocesan efforts and resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourage Justice and Advocacy Ministries to partner with Youth Ministries to commission a gospel-centered, Internet-integrated, action-oriented, anti-racism youth ministry curriculum for congregations throughout The Episcopal Church, including those not in the United States, to be provided in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music produce and post online a set of prayers for racial reconciliation and justice, suitable for inclusion in the Prayers of the People; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge the Executive Council to conduct its own internal audit to assess to what extent, if at all, racial disparities and systemic racial injustices exist within the Church (including but not limited to clergy salaries and deployment); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention request that the Executive Council report back to the 79th General Convention on the results of the internal audit; what concrete steps it and the wider Church took to address systemic racial injustice in the wider culture; and how effective those steps were.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 438-439.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-C015  
**Title:** Retain Ethnic Desks at Episcopal Church Center  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church Center develop new, creative ways of welcoming and incorporating people of diverse ethnic backgrounds into The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Asiamerica Ministries, Black Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, and Native American Ministries desks of the Episcopal Church Center be retained, holding advocacy and congregational development as equal responsibilities, and be given the budget and resources they need in order to function as an integral part of the work of the church's work [sic] of evangelism to double the average Sunday attendance by 20/20.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 187.





**Resolution Number:** 1997-A068  
**Title:** Request a Domestic Missionary Strategy for Diverse Ethnic Groups  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention give thanks for the creative and effective ministries in our Church which reach out across racial and cultural lines; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That each diocese and province be requested to create and implement a domestic missionary strategy to reach out and embrace peoples diverse in ethnicity and not included in large numbers in the Episcopal Church; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the Evangelism Office at the Church Center be requested to support the diocesan and provincial planning efforts.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 618.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-C008  
**Title:** Direct Dioceses to Ensure Participation of Hispanics in Leadership  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That dioceses and their bishops will actively develop and advocate policies and procedures that will help to ensure that Hispanics and other under-represented ethnic communities in their jurisdiction will have full knowledge of, access to and participation in local, diocesan and synodical positions of decision-making responsibility; and be it further Resolved, That the Episcopal Church recognize, affirm and sustain the ministry of the church to, by and with the Hispanic people and other under-represented ethnic communities in all dioceses of the United States in which this ministry is an imperative.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 254.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A065  
**Title:** Affirm the Ministry of Evangelism Among Ethnic Groups  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 70th General Convention strongly affirm the continuing development of evangelism ministries among Asiamerican, Black, Hispanic and Native American peoples and other ethnic groups.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 397.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-A141  
**Title:** Study the Needs of Minority Groups for Greater Involvement  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Committee on the State of the Church, in consultation with the Executive Council Committee on National Mission in Church and Society and the staff of the Minority Desks, continue to study the needs and desires of minority groups within the Church for the purpose of developing programs, materials, and opportunities to achieve their greater involvement in the service, worship, evangelism, pastoral care, and stewardship within the Church.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 134.



**Resolution Number:** 1973-B182  
**Title:** Establish Staffing for Ethnic and Racial Minority Empowerment Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the General Convention approve the action of the Executive Council at its meeting of May 1-3, 1973, in establishing a staff section and program group on work among ethnic and racial minorities, co-ordinating the administration of grants and programs currently funded by the General Convention Special Program, the National Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and the National Committee on Indian Work; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention include in such program of co-ordination the Asian Ministry, the Ministry to Black Episcopalians, and the Commission on Community Action and Human Development; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention re-affirm and endorse the continuation of the National Committee on Indian Work, and the National Commission on Hispanic Affairs as established by the 63rd General Convention at Houston.*

*and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention Special Program guidelines shall apply to all empowerment programs except the General Convention Youth Program.*

**Citation:** General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Louisville, 1973 (New York: General Convention, 1973), p. 375.