

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A015
Title: Owning a Commitment to Reparations
Proposer: Secretary of General Convention
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A017 Urge Assessment of Participation In Historic Colonialism
2022-A125 Establish the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
2022-A127 Create Commission to Research Church's Historic Role in Indigenous Boarding Schools
2022-A129 Conduct Historical Research on DFMS Assets Tied to Racial Injustice
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)

2022-C072 Develop and Implement Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Liturgies
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 2022, 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](#).

A015 - Owning a Commitment to Reparations

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Secretary of General Convention

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: Yes

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st 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.

Explanation

This resolution was referred from the 80th General Convention. It was proposed by Dr. Carolyn Mok and endorsed by the Rev. Boyd Evans and the Very Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund, listed as 2022-D044, and referred to Legislative Committee 09 - Racial Justice & Reconciliation.



Resolution Number: 2022-A017
Title: Urge Assessment of Participation In Historic Colonialism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention acknowledge and grieve the participation of the Episcopal Church and its various entities and institutions in colonialism in North America, Latin America, Africa, Oceania and Asia; and warns of and laments colonial mindsets in the Church today; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm that Colonialism and its continuing impacts are antithetical to the Gospel as proclaimed by our Savior Jesus Christ, and that we are all called to repent and atone for the evils perpetuated in the name of Christ in the missionary field; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) encourage the Episcopal Church to use principles and practices which turn from the colonial mindset of the past towards mutuality of relationships in our mission, ministries, and outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the SCWM to deliver a report to the 82nd General Convention on the historic role of the Episcopal Church in colonialism through its missionary work, and how and where a colonial mindset continues to prejudice our work in propagating the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, \$50,000 be budgeted to support the Office of Global Partnerships in support of this work in partnership with the Standing Commission on World Mission in the next Biennium.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 542-543.



Resolution Number: 2022-A125
Title: Establish the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirms that striving to become the Beloved Community of Jesus is central to our baptismal vocation in God's mission, and every Episcopalian is called to a lifelong vocation of racial justice and equity and the dismantling of white supremacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention establish the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as a voluntary association of Episcopal dioceses, parishes, organizations, and individuals dedicated to the work of becoming the Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice be charged with facilitating, coordinating, encouraging, supporting, and networking efforts of Episcopal dioceses, parishes, organizations, and individuals for racial justice and equity, and the dismantling of white supremacy, in collaboration with the work of the Executive Council and staff of the Episcopal Church Center; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint a Constituting Group for the development, implementation, and creation of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice, whose work includes determining and proposing all necessary organizational, canonical, legal, and other actions necessary to constitute formally and oversee said Coalition; and be it further

Resolved, That once the Coalition is constituted, it shall be funded with an annual draw on one-tenth of the trusts and endowment funds available for general use in the Episcopal Church's budget, the income of which is currently found on Line 5 of the Episcopal Church budget; and be it further

Resolved, That the draw percentage applied to fund the Coalition be the same percentage as that applied to fund the Episcopal Church's budget; and be it further

Resolved, That to support the development of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equality and Justice, the Constituting Group be funded during the biennial 2023-2024 at the level of \$200,000 a year.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 768-769.



Resolution Number: 2022-A127
Title: Create Commission to Research Church's Historic Role in Indigenous Boarding Schools
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That we recognize the work of becoming Beloved Community as a long-term commitment directed toward dismantling racism, which is essential to our spiritual life, by acknowledging, engaging, and supporting the ongoing work of racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation as one Body of Christ. Thereby, we live into our Baptismal Covenant of “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God’s help,” and every Episcopalian strives toward the dismantling of white supremacy; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention create a fact-finding commission to conduct research in the Archives of The Episcopal Church and its dioceses, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress, as well as any other repository of historical documents relevant to the role of the Episcopal Church in the Indigenous residential boarding schools of North America; and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention thanks the Executive Council for its commitment to work on “Native Boarding Schools and Advocacy, Resolution MW062 in VBinder), and urges it to work cooperatively with the conduct of a comprehensive and complete investigation of the church’s ownership and operation of Episcopal-run Indigenous boarding schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Archives of The Episcopal Church be encouraged to hire one or more research fellows to work with dioceses where Episcopal-run boarding schools were located to find and share records from those schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Archives be directed to share all relevant records with the Indigenous Ministries of The Episcopal Church and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition for inclusion in their growing resource database; and be it further

Resolved, That the Archives be directed to work with the Office of Indigenous Ministries to support the production of an educational video that can be used across the church to share the history of Indigenous boarding schools in the US and the history of The Episcopal Church-run boarding schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses of The Episcopal Church will be strongly encouraged to, before the 81st General Convention, begin an audit of the relationship, financial or otherwise, between the federal government, the diocese and/or its subsidiary entities, its churches, and any Episcopal or non-Episcopal missionary societies with respect to any Indigenous residential boarding school operated within the territorial jurisdiction of that diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses of The Episcopal Church will be strongly encouraged to, before the 81st General Convention, begin to gather information from boarding school survivors and their descendants about the experiences of Indigenous children and families in Episcopal run and/or supported residential boarding schools within the territorial jurisdiction of that diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses of The Episcopal Church will be strongly encouraged to, before the 81st General Convention, provide a public platform through which the stories of boarding

school survivors of any Indigenous residential boarding schools within the territorial jurisdiction of that diocese and their descendants might be preserved and shared; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention acknowledge the intergenerational trauma caused by the Doctrine of Discovery, colonialism, genocide, ethnocide through the operation of Indigenous boarding schools, and other systems of white supremacy that have oppressed Indigenous peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention direct Executive Council to follow the lead of Indigenous communities and invest in community-based spiritual healing centers that will work to address the effect of intergenerational trauma by providing mental health and substance abuse counseling, traditional forms of healing, family counseling, and other services and support desired by local communities; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church will support federal legislation to create a truth and healing commission on Indian boarding school policy, consistent with the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior and its efforts to “shed light on the traumas of the past;” and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention recognize, affirm, and support the ongoing work of Executive Council around these issues through the creation of the Executive Council Committee for Indigenous Boarding Schools and Advocacy, as well as the extraordinary efforts of the Presiding Officer’s Working Group on Truth-telling, Reckoning, and Healing; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention appropriate \$2,500,000 over the next biennium, or some other degree of funding commensurate with The Episcopal Church’s commitment to the work of truth-telling and reconciliation around its role in Indigenous residential boarding schools, to adequately fund the provisions of this resolution, specifically 1) to fund the creation and support of a fact-finding commission; 2) to fund the work of the Office of Indigenous Ministries to create an education resource regarding the church’s role in Indigenous residential boarding schools; 3) to fund a grant program to support the work of the dioceses of The Episcopal Church in both conducting their own research into the diocesan role in Indigenous residential boarding schools and preserving the stories of boarding school survivors and their families; and 4) to support the establishment of community-based spiritual healing centers in Indigenous communities across The Episcopal Church to address the intergenerational trauma rooted in the church’s role in Indigenous residential boarding schools.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 769-770.



Resolution Number: 2022-A129
Title: Conduct Historical Research on DFMS Assets Tied to Racial Injustice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention directs the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to ensure that this Church conducts historical research on the origins and sources of the financial and all other assets of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society that are directly tied to the enslavement of humans, the slave trade, and historical and current racial injustices, in order to tell the story of our history and to report the results to the Executive Council prior to the 81st General Convention; and be it further
Resolved, That this 80th General Convention urges the Church Pension Group to conduct historical research on the origins and sources of its financial and all other assets, and to report the results to its constituents; and be it further
Resolved, That this 80th General Convention urges each diocese to conduct its own historical research on the origins and sources of their financial and all other assets; and be it further
Resolved, That this 80th General Convention allocates \$150,000 for this work.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 759.



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.