

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A148
Title: Amend Canons to Underscore Support for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
Proposer: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President Julia Ayala Harris
Topic: Canons, Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A052 Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
2022-A125 Establish the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
2022-D004 Continue Funding the Work of Beloved Community

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 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](#).

A148 - Amend Canons to Underscore Support for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President Julia Ayala Harris

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: Yes

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 02 - Constitution & Canons

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

That Canon 1.1.8 is hereby amended by adding new subsection b and renumbering the remaining subsection as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

Canon I.1.8

Sec. 8.

a. The General Convention shall adopt, at each regular meeting, a budget for The Episcopal Church, including for the contingent expenses of the General Convention, the stipend of the Presiding Bishop together with the necessary expenses of that office, the necessary expenses of the President of the House of Deputies including the staff and Advisory Council required to assist in the performance of the duties and matters related to the President's office, and the applicable Church Pension Fund assessments. To defray the expense of this budget, an assessment shall be levied upon the Dioceses of the Church in accordance with a formula which the General Convention shall adopt as part of The Episcopal Church

budget. It shall be the duty of each Diocesan Convention to pay its assessment to the Treasurer of the General Convention according to the schedule established by the Executive Council.

b. The Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice (the “Coalition”), created by the 80th General Convention, shall be funded in part with an annual draw on one-tenth of the Church’s unrestricted trusts and endowment funds as determined in the most recent audited financial statements at a percentage rate equal to the draw percentage applied to fund the Church’s budget as described in subsection 8.a of this Canon. The estimated funding amount for the Coalition shall be described in The Episcopal Church budget for informational purposes only. The funding for the Coalition shall be provided by the Treasurer after the Executive Council declares the annual draw rate. The Coalition shall report to every regular meeting of the General Convention, providing audited financial statements and reports on its ministry and participation in God’s mission.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

Canon I.1.8

Sec. 8.

a. The General Convention shall adopt, at each regular meeting, a budget for The Episcopal Church, including for the contingent expenses of the General Convention, the stipend of the Presiding Bishop together with the necessary expenses of that office, the necessary expenses of the President of the House of Deputies including the staff and Advisory Council required to assist in the performance of the duties and matters related to the President’s office, and the applicable Church Pension Fund assessments. To defray the expense of this budget, an assessment shall be levied upon the Dioceses of the Church in accordance with a formula which the General Convention shall adopt as part of The Episcopal Church budget. It shall be the duty of each Diocesan Convention to pay its assessment to the Treasurer of the General Convention according to the schedule established by the Executive Council.

b. *The Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice (the “Coalition”), created by the 80th General Convention, shall be funded in part with an annual draw on one-tenth of the Church’s unrestricted trusts and endowment funds as determined in the most recent audited financial statements at a percentage rate equal to the draw percentage applied to fund the Church’s budget as described in subsection 8.a of this Canon. The estimated funding amount for the Coalition shall be described in The Episcopal Church budget for informational purposes only. The funding for the Coalition shall be provided by the Treasurer after the Executive Council declares the annual draw rate. The Coalition shall report to every regular meeting of the General Convention, providing audited financial statements and reports on its ministry and participation in God’s mission.*

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.4.6 be amended to add a new subsection k. to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

Canon I.4.6.k

k. Nothing in this Canon shall alter in any way the Church's obligation to fund the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as described in Canon I.1.8. other than the Executive Council's determination of the annual draw from unrestricted trusts and endowment funds.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

Canon I.4.6.k

k. Nothing in this Canon shall alter in any way the Church's obligation to fund the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as described in Canon I.1.8. other than the Executive Council's determination of the annual draw from unrestricted trusts and endowment funds.

Explanation

In response to the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth-Telling, Reckoning, and Healing, the 80th General Convention created 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 Beloved Community (2022-A125).

2022-A125 further directed that the income from one tenth of The Episcopal Church's unrestricted trusts and endowments be used to fund, in part, the work of the Coalition. The rate of the income draw is to be equal to the draw percentage applied to fund the Church's budget as determined by the Executive Council.

This resolution, jointly proposed by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies and endorsed by the Constituting Group created under 2022-A125 underscores the support for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice voted by the 80th General Convention by adding new canonical language to the Constitution and Canons. It further clarifies, by canon, that the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice will report on its financial statements and programmatic work to every regular meeting of the General Convention.



Resolution Number: 2022-A052
Title: Revise Mandate for Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation is hereby clarified as follows:

“This Committee is charged with supporting and monitoring the Church’s work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at dismantling racism and promoting racial healing, justice, and reconciliation in the Church by:

- a) helping the church recognize and develop its work of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation;
- b) supporting the work of Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation and other such initiatives the Presiding Officers, Executive Council, or Interim Bodies develop, and also the work of the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice;
- c) recommending, in collaboration with staff and other church organizations, resources and best practices for dismantling racism and for promoting racial healing, justice, and reconciliation that can be adapted to different contexts;
- d) collecting information from dioceses and provinces about their successes and challenges in complying with the canonical requirements and with General Convention Resolution 2018-A045 for providing anti-racism training;
- e) and sharing their findings with Executive Council on an annual basis.

Membership of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism & Reconciliation shall be composed of:

one person named by the governing body of each province of this Church who has been trained in doing the work of dismantling racism and seeking to foster racial healing, justice, and reconciliation, has demonstrated experience in anti-racism/racial reconciliation work, has demonstrated the ability to make connections with people in their geographic area who do this work, and has demonstrated a commitment to make connections with people in the provinces who do this work;

one member of the Executive Council as appointed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council;

one Bishop as appointed by the Presiding Officers;

members named who are from the racial or ethnic groups of black, Latino/a, Asian, Native American/Indigenous, and non-Hispanic white to ensure representation of diverse racial and ethnic voices on this Committee - if there are none, then the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a member at large from each unrepresented racial or ethnic group;

a member named who is under 40, to ensure representation of multiple generations - if there are no members then the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a member at large from each unrepresented generational group.

Members shall serve terms as follows:

Each Committee member shall serve one triennium beginning January 1 in the year following each General Convention until the December 31 following the next General Convention. Members may be named to serve consecutive terms by their provinces.

In the event that a province fails to name a person to serve on the Committee by [sic] January 1, when each term begins, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a qualified person from that province to serve on the Committee.

Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original members were named. Vacancies in excess of 30 days shall be filled by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Executive Council, and in the case of a Bishop vacancy, by the Chair of Executive Council.”

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 837-838.



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-D004
Title: Continue Funding the Work of Beloved Community
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize the need to continue existing Beloved Community work in the upcoming two years alongside the work that may be underway to establish an Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice dedicated to the long-term work of becoming the Beloved Community, as proposed in Resolution 2022-A125 by the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the continuation of the Presiding Officers' Advisory Group for Beloved Community Implementation, with members appointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies, to oversee this biennium's Beloved Community work in coordination with Executive Council and the staff of the Episcopal Church Center and also with the new Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as it is established, and to report on this work to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$550,000 for the biennium of 2022-2024 for continuing current efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers, and that such monies be utilized to:

- **Make Beloved Community grants to agencies and dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of racial reconciliation, such as speaker series, sacred conversations, racial reconciliation workshops, and any such activities that promote the purpose of this resolution, with \$450,000 allocated specifically for these grants;**
- **Plan and host Building Beloved Community conferences, with a biennium budget of \$100,000;**
- **Engage conversations with ethnic ministry groups, interim bodies and other church organizations to dialogue about the specific ways systemic racism influences and afflicts ability to participate in building the Beloved Community through their ministries (with the understanding that funds and staff to support virtual meetings is already embedded in the Ethnic Ministries and Racial Reconciliation budgets, and that the General Convention Office can also support virtual meetings with interim bodies);**

And be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Commission on Program Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$550,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 893.