

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D016
Title: Continued Funding of The Beloved Community
Proposer: Kemp, The Rev. Rowena
Topic: Racism, Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D004 Continue Funding the Work of Beloved Community
2018-A207 Affirm Beloved Community as a Global Community
2018-B002 Advocate for Transparency and Anti-Corruption Efforts
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation

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

2022-A125 Establish the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice
2018-A228 Create a Beloved Community Summit

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](#).

D016 - Continued Funding of The Beloved Community

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Kemp, The Rev. Rowena

Endorsed by: Duncan, Canon Noreen, Harris, Ms. Carolyn

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$1,000,000.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: Yes

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 05 - Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention request that the Joint Budget Committee allocate \$1.0 million for the triennium for the continued implementation of additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That such monies shall again be utilized exclusively to make grants to agencies and dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of such programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of Racial Reconciliation. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, speaker series, sacred conversations, Racial Reconciliation Workshops, and other activities that promote the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention directs, consistent with established policies and procedures, that The Executive Council shall again be charged with the establishment of all criteria, and procedures associated with the awarding of such grants, and that such criteria and procedures be established as soon as practical, after the conclusion of this 81th

General Convention such Committee or Office that Executive Council shall designate with implementation of the grants shall have published the criteria and be ready to accept applications submitted for such grants, and that the entities receiving such grants shall report back to the Committee or Office that Executive Council shall have designated on the usage of its grant, and that the Executive Council shall report back to the General Convention in 2027 on the usage of the \$1.0 million allocation.

Explanation

The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognized, by the adoption of Resolution 2015-C019, 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, that the abomination and sin of racism continues to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity.

And, in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Mother 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 established 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.

2015-C019 charged the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church's work of racial justice and reconciliation. They articulated a framework for that work, entitled *Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice*, which directs additional work in the area of racial reconciliation.

As we head into this next triennium, we are faced with the realities of a resurgence of white supremacy, the increased normalization of personal and institutionalized fear of people of color, and overtly dehumanizing policies being enacted on refugees and immigrants—in addition to all of the injustices that prompted the 78th General Convention to pass 2015-C019.

As the 79th General Convention did by the adoption of Resolution D002, which allocated \$750,000 for the purposes herein, we again call upon our Church to make an investment of significant resources to home in on and build capacity among our current and future leaders within The Episcopal Church in order to impact the practices of telling the truth, repairing the breach, practicing Jesus' way of love, and proclaiming the dream of Beloved Community.

In order to continue to make our commitment to *Becoming Beloved Community* a reality in a world that desperately needs it, local churches, dioceses, and agencies must continue to have the resources to engage this work in their contexts. We believe that these grants will continue to make it possible for churches, dioceses, and other agencies of The Episcopal

Church to continue to live into the commitment of the Church to Becoming Beloved Community in new and life-giving ways. In the same way that communities of practice have developed from the Genesis Church Planting grants that were given in the 2015-2018 triennium, Resolution D002 made it possible for a network of grant recipients to share best practices, resources, etc. among themselves and with the whole church. Provinces and dioceses that have been unable to afford to provide the canonically mandated trainings have been able to do so. These grants have also made it possible for the development of much-needed culturally appropriate and relevant resources that have been broadly shared with the church through the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.



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.



Resolution Number: 2018-A207
Title: Affirm Beloved Community as a Global Community
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention reaffirm that “being a beloved community” means being members of a global community honoring our full name: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention affirm that in baptism we are called to companionship, which means standing with, traveling with, and sharing bread with another; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention continue to repent of colonialism and recognize that the work of mission is a Christ-centered, mutual undertaking, which is most effective when the traditional roles of “giver” and “receiver” are discarded, and the gifts of all are accepted, welcomed, and utilized; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and mission organizations to establish productive, mutual relationships with other outreach communities that have similar intent, but may not be part of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention urge dioceses, congregations, and individuals to pray regularly for specific dioceses and congregations and individuals with whom they are in companionship; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to form one-to-one relationships through social media with individuals and congregations with whom they are in companionship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 440.



Resolution Number: 2018-D002
Title: Request Funding for Racial Reconciliation Initiatives
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$5.0 million for the triennium for the implementation of additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That such monies shall be utilized exclusively to make grants to agencies and dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of such programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of Racial Reconciliation. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, speaker series, sacred conversations, Racial Reconciliation Workshops, and other activities that promote the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention directs, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council be charged with the establishment of all criteria, and procedures associated with the awarding of such grants, and that such criteria and procedures be established as soon as practical, after the conclusion of this 79th General Convention such Committee or Office that Executive Council shall designate with implementation of the grants shall have published the criteria and be ready to accept applications submitted for such grants, and that the entities receiving such grants shall report back to the Committee or Office that Executive Council shall have designated on the usage of its grant, and that the Executive Council shall report back to the General Convention in 2021 on the usage of the \$5.0 million allocation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 465.



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.