

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A043
TITLE: Clarify and Update Mandate
PROPOSER: Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
TOPIC: Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A022 Amend Mandate and Membership of the Committee on Anti-Racism
2015-A023 Authorize Continuation of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2009-A144 Reaffirm a Resolution on Truth, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice
2006-A127 Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism
2006-B035 Express Mind of the House of Bishops on Commitment to Reconciliation
2000-B049 Require Anti-Racism Training

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

2015-D040 Develop Anti-Racism Youth Ministry Curriculum
2012-A125 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2012-A127 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2012-A161 Amend the Anti-Racism Committee's Mandate and Appointments
2009-A068 Continue Participation in Reconciliation Training
2009-A142 Recommit the Church to Anti-Racism and Request Annual Diocesan Reports
2006-C011 Support Legislation for Reparations for Slavery
2006-D046 Reaffirm the Jamestown Covenant
1997-A035 Designate a "Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation"

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Executive Council](#), see pages 126-127.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A043 Clarify and Update Mandate

Proposer	Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
Topic	Reconciliation
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the mandate for the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism be amended, clarify its charge and to update terminology to include the term “Reconciliation” and hereby read as follows:
- 2 “This Committee is charged with guiding 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:
- 3 Recognizing and developing its anti-racism *and racial reconciliation* work as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation; monitoring and evaluating anti-racism and ~~anti-racism~~ *racial reconciliation* related ministries and activities of national Church staff and, when feasible, contributing to the oversight and coordination of said ministries and programming; recommending best practices for eliminating racism *and promoting racial reconciliation*; collecting data on provincial anti-racism *and racial reconciliation* activities to be submitted to Executive Council on an annual basis; developing criteria for the credentialing of certified ~~anti-racism~~ *trainers ordained and lay people as having completed “anti-racism/racial reconciliation training in fulfilment of the Canons and General Convention Resolution 2000-B049*; and monitoring compliance of anti-racism/*racial reconciliation* legislation passed by General Convention.”

EXPLANATION

The Presiding officers have moved away from using the term “anti-racism” and have begun using the term “racial reconciliation” as to be a more expanded scope of effort. The committee appreciates and wants to support that change. Our members who visited the New Community Conference confirm that people of color are hungry for this change and expanded scope.

Some people have expressed the opinion that anti-racism work includes the work of reconciliation. Looking up the definition of "Anti-Racism" in the Oxford dictionary results in the definition "The policy or practice of opposing racism and promoting racial tolerance." The committee feels that opposition of racism and promotion of tolerance is not quite the same as God's call to reconciliation - returning to a right relationship with God calls our neighbor.

The committee's sense is that the work of anti-racism is advocating for people not to behave in a racist manner whereas the work of reconciliation goes further - seeking to actively change relationships. The end goal of reconciliation is being in a state of reconciliation or reconciled, not just a world where people tolerate one another or behave politely/respectfully.

The Committee, also, feels that the term "Anti-Racism" has history and value. In an effort to accommodate all the perspectives discussed, the Committee feels a compromise is to add the term "racial reconciliation" to the wording of its charge.

Move from credentialing of trainers to credentialing of individuals.

Based on our research and the fact that funding has not been provided for a staff member who would be tasked with running a trainer certification program as was done in the past, we believe that a more manageable process should be developed which would focus on certification of individuals managed at the local level.

We believe it will be easier and more cost effective to approve and maintain a list of vendor provided training curricula which must follow the rubric defined by this Committee yet allow other training curricula to be used as long as it follows the rubric defined by this Committee.

To prove that learners have gained the knowledge and skills we believe are appropriate, TEC staff (or the Committee) would develop a Certification Exam aligned to this rubric as a way of conferring certification on ordained and lay people. It, too, would be placed on the church web site.



Resolution Number: 2015-A022
Title: Amend Mandate and Membership of the Committee on Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

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

This Committee is charged with guiding 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 anti-racism work as a fundamental and requisite part of Christian formation; monitoring and evaluating anti-racism and anti-racism related ministries and programming of The Episcopal Church and, when feasible, contributing to the oversight and coordination of said ministries and programming; recommending best practices for eliminating racism; collecting data on provincial anti-racism activities to be submitted to Executive Council on an annual basis; developing criteria for the credentialing of certified anti-racism trainers; and monitoring compliance of anti-racism legislation passed by General Convention.

Membership of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism shall be composed of one person trained in anti-racism, named by the governing body of each province of this Church, plus one member of the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Advocacy and Networking for Mission and one Bishop.

(a) 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.

(b) In the event that a province fails to name a person to serve on the Committee by the [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.

(c) The Chair and Vice Chair of Executive Council shall appoint the member from the Joint Standing Committee on Advocacy and Networking, and the Chair shall appoint the Bishop member.

(d) 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.

(e) To ensure representation of diverse racial and ethnic voices on this Committee, if there are no members named who are from the racial or ethnic groups of black, Latino/a, Asian, Native American/Indigenous, and non-Hispanic white, then the Chair and Vice Chair of Executive Council shall appoint a member at large from each unrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 410-411.



Resolution Number: 2015-A023
Title: Authorize Continuation of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church continue the existence of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism for another nine years; and be it further Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the importance of the work of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism to support the Church to live into existing General Convention resolutions mandating anti-racism training for clergy and lay leaders of the Church, which includes meeting in person to review, recommend, and endorse anti-racism curricula for use by the Church and to plan and prepare for at least one Church-wide “Train the Trainer” workshop in the next triennium; and be it further Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to allocate \$131,500 covering training, licensing, face-to-face meetings, and translation 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. 411-412.



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: 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.



Resolution Number: 2009-A144
Title: Reaffirm a Resolution on Truth, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church agree to extend Resolution 2006-A127, which was passed at the 75th General Convention and that the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism report back to the 77th General Convention in 2012.

Resolution Number: 2006-A127
Title: Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 140-141.



Resolution Number: 2006-A127
Title: Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse the principles of restorative justice, an important tool in implementing a neutral articulation of the self-examination and amendment of life that is required to fulfill our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That the 75th Convention, in support of and to enhance Resolution A123, call upon the Anti-Racism Committee of Executive Council to design a study and dialogue process and materials in order to engage the people of The Episcopal Church in storytelling about historical and present-day privilege and under-privilege as well as discernment towards restorative justice and the call to fully live into our baptismal covenant; and be it further

Resolved, That in the spirit of inclusion, dioceses also be invited to determine whether their call is to conduct truth and reconciliation processes in regard to other histories and legacies of racial discrimination and oppression that may be applicable in their geographic area, while not diminishing the strong call to focus on the history and legacy of slavery; and be it further

Resolved, That the dioceses will give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee. The Anti-Racism Committee will report their findings and recommendations to the Standing Commission on National Concerns and to Executive Council and to the 76th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church hold before itself the vision of a Church without racism; a Church for all races.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 665-666.



Resolution Number: 2006-B035
Title: Express Mind of the House of Bishops on Commitment to Reconciliation
Legislative Action Taken: Adopted
Final Text:

Resolved, In response to our Presiding Bishop's leadership in global reconciliation, the rising Christly consciousness of youth to embrace global human suffering, and Jesus' own gift and call of the ministry of reconciliation, we express the mind of the House of Bishops, affirming that our commitment to the ministry of reconciliation and the relief of global human suffering is the theme that overlights and inspires the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 190.



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.