

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A056  
**TITLE:** Create Task Force on the Theology of Social Justice Advocacy as Christian Justice  
**PROPOSER:** House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church  
**TOPIC:** Justice

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-A182      Address Systemic Racial Injustice  
2009-A110      Request Episcopal Schools to Address Economic Disparities  
1994-A081      Develop Liturgical Resources That Recognize Racial and Cultural Diversity  
1991-D184      Provide Culturally Sensitive Liturgical Texts

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

2003-B026      Establish the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice  
1997-A051      Remind Convention Bodies to Be Attentive to Inclusion and Discrimination

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

*(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church](#), see page 569.*

*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.*

# A056 Create Task Force on the Theology of Social Justice Advocacy as Christian Justice

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<b>Proposer</b>	House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
<b>Topic</b>	Justice
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HB / 15 - Ministry
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention direct the Presiding Officers of The Episcopal Church to appoint a Task Force on the Theology of Social Justice Advocacy as Christian Ministry, consisting of three (3) bishops, three (3) presbyters or deacons, and six (6) lay persons, who represent the diversity of the Church, to be tasked in this triennium to consider scripture, approved liturgical resources, other theological texts and previous actions of General Convention to summarize the ways in which The Episcopal Church understands the work for social justice as essential mission and ministry of the Christian Church; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the Task Force study how The Episcopal Church currently fosters theological understanding and leadership for social justice, and recommend ways to foster theological and practical conversation across the Church on this topic; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Task Force be directed to report its findings and recommendations to the 80th General Convention; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$15,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

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## EXPLANATION

No explanation.



**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:** 2009-A110  
**Title:** Request Episcopal Schools to Address Economic Disparities  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention commend Resolution 2006-B018 (Endorse the National Council of Churches Policy on Rights of Children) for bold and immediate action; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on National Concerns (SCNC) in its next triennium further study the voucher system and its impact on reducing the educational achievement gap within poor communities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) be commended for the initiatives it has taken on justice and equity, its statement on Social, Economic and Racial Mix in Episcopal schools and its Episcopal Schools Urban Alliance; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Committee on National Concerns encourage Episcopal Schools to cooperate with the NAES to explore and develop further new and bold educational models with underserved and economically challenged communities, focusing on systems, capacity and resources, and the story of those initiatives and efforts to be included in the SCNC Blue Book report to the 77th General Convention in 2012; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Schools, working through the NAES collaboration with the SCNC, be encouraged to further strengthen their leadership in addressing economic disparities, by finding new and bold ways to increase the availability of scholarships and sliding fee scales for elementary schools, high schools and colleges and report such findings to the SCNC for inclusion in the Blue Book report to the 77th General Convention in 2012; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse continued support of funding for the historic black Episcopal colleges.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 650.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-A081  
**Title:** Develop Liturgical Resources That Recognize Racial and Cultural Diversity  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Standing Commissions on Liturgy and Music continue to identify/develop, promulgate and distribute liturgical resources which raise up our racial and cultural diversity and reflect the concepts embodied in the goals of Jubilee Ministry, and encourage their use in all congregations.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 673.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-D184  
**Title:** Provide Culturally Sensitive Liturgical Texts  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church direct the Standing Liturgical Commission to work with appropriate resource persons to provide culturally sensitive liturgical texts for use in special situations and/or culturally significant events.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 400.