

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A228
TITLE: Beloved Community Summit: Igniting the Church to be Bold Agents for Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation
PROPOSER: 09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
TOPIC: Reconciliation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2012-A127 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2006-A127 Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism

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

2015-A023 Authorize Continuation of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2003-A010 Continue Anti-Racism Program

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.

A228 Beloved Community Summit: Igniting the Church to be Bold Agents for Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation

Proposer	09 - Racial Justice and 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

- Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the General Convention shall promote the gathering of leaders, who are engaged in the work of racial reconciliation and racial justice throughout The Episcopal Church for the purposes of building capacity among leaders and igniting the church to live into the Jesus Way of Beloved Community; and be it further
- Resolved*, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, in collaboration with partner ministries, shall convene by December 31, 2019, a Beloved Community Summit: Igniting the Church to be Bold Agents for Racial Healing, Racial Justice, and Reconciliation. This gathering would accelerate the work of racial reconciliation by sharing stories, best practices, resources, and identifying needed action in each of the four areas of becoming Beloved Community, that will grow a network of healers, justice makers, and reconcilers; and be it further
- Resolved*, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society fund this work through the allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution, especially to ensure participation in the Summit by the widest representation of all God's People.

EXPLANATION

Racial healing, justice, and reconciliation is at the heart of the way of Jesus. The Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement seeks to foster Beloved Community, where all people experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God.

As reported in the recent Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism (ECCAR) Blue Book report, there is significant anti-racism work occurring throughout the Church. Furthermore, there are places in the church which have little or no trainings or emphasis on racial healing, justice, and reconciliation. In our current divisive climate, the church must be on the forefront of racial reconciliation. A summit which gathers leaders, practitioners, trainers and those interested in the work would be a catalyst for expanding racial healing and dismantling racism throughout the church and the world.

At the last General Convention, there was a call for an Evangelism Summit (Resolution 2015 A173). By all accounts, that summit was a great success. The summit sparked a significant increased interest in evangelism, the sharing of best practices, the creation of new evangelism resources, mutual encouragement amongst evangelists, a newly formed network of evangelism catalysts, as well as two church-wide evangelism conferences. This resolution seeks to hold such a catalytic gathering in the area of racial reconciliation and social justice.

We are aware that over the years, many Centers for Anti-Racism and Racial Reconciliation have been established across the Church. These centers are vital resources and places of action. The summit would bring these practitioners together and many others to ignite the whole Church to make a difference in healing our world and growing into beloved community.



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: 2012-A127
Title: Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing to work against the sin of racism; and be it further

Resolved, That anti-racism training oversight and implementation be carried out on provincial and diocesan levels for all Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces receive anti-racism training if they have not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an ongoing basis; and be it further

Resolved, That dioceses and provinces use existing programs and ministries, or develop new programs and ministries, to dismantle and eradicate structures of racism, both internally and externally, and integrate the practices of anti-racism into their ongoing life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 698-699.



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.