

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A229
TITLE: Condemnation of Racial Discrimination and Encouragement to Confront Racism
PROPOSER: 09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
TOPIC: Racism

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A182 Address Systemic Racial Injustice
2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2003-A129 On the Topic of Ending Racial Profiling (Rejected)

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

2003-D077 Affirm Abhorrence of Racial Profiling and Violence

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.

A229 Condemnation of Racial Discrimination and Encouragement to Confront Racism

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	Passed review

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That while we recognize the many dedicated police officers who put their lives on the line to serve and protect, we also acknowledge the numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed men and youth of color at the hands of law enforcement personnel such as those seen in Rapid City, South Dakota; Falcon Heights, Minnesota; North Charleston, South Carolina; Ferguson, Missouri; and Baltimore, Maryland, are having a detrimental effect on our communities; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That we acknowledge the blackballing of clergy who speak up on matters of race as a roadblock to the Church being a leader in racial healing, justice and reconciliation carrying forward the Jesus Movement; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church hereby does condemn the improper actions of authorities against people of color or any actions that make clergy and laity feel they should not speak out or take nonviolent action to eliminate the sin of racism.

EXPLANATION

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

In the wake of the 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 Presiding Officers have spoken out but the Church overall has not spoken out. This resolution is an opportunity for the Church body to speak out against these injustices.

The Church understands 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. However,

there have been many instances where clergy have been “blackballed”, criticized, or discouraged for praying for or taking actions that would bring about racial reconciliation. This resolution is an opportunity for the Church to say, emphatically, that this behavior is not condoned and should not be tolerated.



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: 2003-A129
Title: On the Topic of Ending Racial Profiling
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention deplore the immoral use of racial profiling *which unjustly to identifies identify* certain behaviors, and call for The Episcopal Church to recommit itself to being vigilant in speaking out against all negative profiling but especially racial profiling wherever it happens; and be it further

Resolved, That we renew our commitment to treat all people of color with honor and dignity, modeling the behavior that we commit to in our Baptismal Covenant: to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being; and be it further

Resolved, That each diocese be urged to commit funds specifically to help those who take action against racial profiling in their community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Anti-Racism Committee's diversity training be adjusted to include teaching about racial profiling, how to identify it, and various methods to end it.