

2015 RES. 6 USING EDUCATION POLICY AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE TO RESPOND TO ALL FORMS OF RACIAL INJUSTICE

RESOLVED, that the Diocesan Task force on Eliminating Racism be tasked with developing activities to be used by congregations, convocations, youth groups and at Diocesan-wide events to engage one another and to educate our Diocese on the issues involved in all forms of racial injustice, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Diocesan Task Force on Eliminating Racism be tasked with developing internet-based resources for congregational and Diocesan leaders to eliminate racism, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 145th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania calls upon our Diocese and individuals and congregations within our Diocese to find productive ways to respond to racial injustice, strengthened by the Gospel, our Baptismal Covenant and the Five Marks of Mission, recognizing that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st century institutional racism that occurs in our churches, in our communities and in our culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Diocesan Task Force on Eliminating Racism be tasked with (a) collecting stories from congregations, convocations and individuals on what has been and what is being done to combat racism in our communities, and (b) with creating a presentation based on the stories it collects, to be shared at the 146th Diocesan Convention, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that this 145th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania urge congregations, convocations and individuals to develop ways for listening to the diversity of our neighbors in order to develop reconciling relationships through (a) listening campaigns, (b) developing partnerships with other churches and organizations to collaborate in best ways to eliminate racism in all its forms, (c) facilitating

neighborhood prayer walks and (d) developing “storytelling” and “speak out” events, designed to facilitate action and healing, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force on Eliminating Racism be tasked to work with the Bishop Diocesan and the Council of Trustees to implement this resolution and to develop Diocesan policy for eliminating racism.

EXPLANATION

This resolution seeks to incorporate the Anglican Communion’s “Five Marks of Mission” as developed by the Anglican Consultative Council between 1984 and 1990, namely:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation, and
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth,

and calls for Diocesan response to Resolution A182 of the 78th General Convention, “Using Education, Community Dialogue and Internal Audit to Respond to All Forms of Racial Injustice” (set forth in full below).

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, 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., 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 requests 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.

Submitted by

The Rev. Canon Kate Harrigan, Chair and on behalf of Deputation of the Diocese of Pennsylvania to the 78th General Convention