

Resolution 003 for the 154th Convention
Of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
PARISH ENGAGEMENT REGARDING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Be it RESOLVED that the 154th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania encourages parishes to prayerfully consider becoming educated and taking appropriate action regarding Christian Nationalism by recognizing the violence, intimidation and distortion of scripture associated with Christian Nationalism embraced by organizations including but not limited to: New Apostolic Reformation, Dominionism, Seven Mountain Mandate, Project 2025, Black Robed Preachers; identifying the presence of Christian Nationalism in the area served by the parish.; advocating and taking appropriate action to counteract Christian Nationalism in their parish community and the area served by their parish; and exploring the historical role of The Episcopal Church in creating what is today Christian Nationalism.

Sponsor: The Rev. Rebecca Myers, the Rev. Jennifer Mattson, Cn. Anthony Alexander, Ms. Sharon England, Ms. Brenda Scott

EXPLANATION:

In the summer of 2019, The Episcopal Church joined Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Presiding Bishop Curry endorsed their statement and remarked:

“As followers of Jesus, his command to love our neighbors means neighbors of every type, of every faith, not just our own. Through our baptism and in our democracy, we are called to a way of love that creates a community in which the dignity of every human being is recognized and respected, and where all can have an equal say in the governing of our civic life. The violence, intimidation and distortion of scripture associated with ‘Christian nationalism’ does not reflect the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, and so I stand with fellow leaders in the Christian community and call for a better way.”

In January 2021 the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church adopted resolution MW036 expressing alarm about white nationalism and Christian nationalism. Among other things, the resolution acknowledges the harm done to Christianity, as well as communities by Christian nationalism. The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) subsequently developed a 3-part information piece on Christian nationalism, including definitions, background and resources. Presiding Bishop Curry participated in presentations decrying Christian nationalism. An Episcopal News Service article headline proclaims, “White Christian nationalism is not Christianity.”

Even with these efforts beginning over five years ago, Christian nationalism has continued to flourish and embed itself in our communities. Sometimes, such as recent school board elections of candidates associated and supported by the organization Moms for Liberty, Christian nationalism is overt. However, in many cases the connection to Christian nationalism is less obvious and even covert. This major threat to Christianity requires members of parishes to be informed, aware and to take action to address what is happening in their communities.