

RESOLUTION #1

TO: The 196th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky

FROM: The Racial Healing Commission and the Urban Partnership

SUBJECT: Addressing Racial Economic Disparities

Resolved, that the Racial Healing Commission continue the work of learning and telling the story of the history of race in the Diocese of KY to move towards Beloved community, and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Kentucky, under the guidance of the Racial Healing Commission, continue a period of intentional listening and conversation around issues of race that have separated our communities and the economic disparities that have developed as a result of racial discrimination, and be it further

Resolved, that these conversations engage Black Episcopalians and congregations and Black leaders of our cities and towns in order to explore ways our diocese can work for a more just society and strengthen our ministry within the African American community, and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop appoint a task force made up of members of the Racial Healing Commission and representatives from Trustees and Council, the Urban Partnership in Louisville, and various congregations around the diocese to explore ways we can address these economic disparities that exist in our diocese and society and make recommendations for future investments in outreach and development with and among the African American community and consider if some form of reparation can help move us toward beloved community and healing. The task force will work closely with the Racial Healing Commission and give a summary of its work and recommendations at the next three diocesan conventions.

Explanation:

It is now evident that leaders of our Diocese have at times been complicit in racial injustice as slave owners and advocates for slavery or supported racial discrimination. We also affirm that at times our leaders and members have been strong advocates for racial justice. While the efforts of our leaders for racial justice have made important contributions, much still needs to be done to move toward racial healing. The cost of racism continues to be manifest in segregation and economic disparities which remain in our culture and church today. Our faith calls us to respond.

RESOLUTION #2

TO: The 196th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
FROM: The Justice and Jubilee Department
SUBJECT: Creation Care

Resolved, that Bishop White appoint a task force of clergy and lay leaders from across the Diocese to explore and identify the place of creation care ministry in our Diocese and report its findings and recommendations to the 197th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, and be it further

Resolved, that this 196th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky declares its support of this work of this task force through participation, administrative assistance from diocesan office staff, and engagement from diocesan clergy and leadership. This support will consist of: responding to surveys, reporting current creation care practices and ministries, and announcing and promoting the work of and events hosted by congregations and the task force.

Explanation

The proposed work for this task force could include:

- 1) To work with the Diocese of Kentucky Liturgical Commission to form an approved resource for the Season of Creation.
- 2) To review and summarize the Creation healing resolutions previously passed by the Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky.
- 3) To survey the parishes of the Diocese for roles and initiatives concerning creation care.
- 4) Explore how establishing a sustained and impactful diocesan level ministry of creation healing would strengthen the diocese, advance the ministry of churches, and serve the healing of creation within and beyond the diocese.
- 5) To report findings and make recommendations at the Diocesan convention in 2024.

This resolution is supported by Colossians 1:19-20, "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross." It is also in concert with 2 Corinthians 5:18, "God reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church passed resolution A088, reaffirming the House of Bishops' 2011 Pastoral Teaching on the Environment as "an official position of the church." That teaching from the House of Bishops has called the church to repentance, writing in 2011:

“The mounting urgency of our environmental crisis challenges us at this time to confess ‘our self-indulgent appetites and ways,’ ‘our waste and pollution of God’s creation,’ and ‘our lack of concern for those who come after us’ (Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Book of Common Prayer, p. 268).” It also challenges us to amend our lives and to work for environmental justice and for more environmentally sustainable practices.

In that same resolution, the General Convention also resolved to: “encourage all Church communities, especially parishes, dioceses, camps, conference centers, schools, and chaplaincies, to learn more about the pressing moral implications of climate change in their regions and existing local organizing efforts, then advocate for policies and solutions to address those local needs.”

Further, the 80th General Convention passed resolution A086, resolving “that the General Convention affirm the Presiding Bishop’s and the President of the House of Deputies’ continued call to the Church to recognize Care of Creation and Environmental Justice as integral and ongoing parts of the Church’s loving, liberating, and life-giving work.”

RESOLUTION #3

TO: The 196th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
FROM: The Justice and Jubilee Department
SUBJECT: The Season of Creation

Resolved, that this 196th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky commits to supporting the celebration of the Season of Creation each year and asks the Diocese to provide resources that support its celebration.

Resolved, that this 196th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky encourages all parishes to make efforts to celebrate the Season of Creation in keeping with both the spirit and letter of the teachings of the House of Bishops, the work of the General Convention and previous resolutions passed by the diocese.

Explanation

The 181st Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky commended to the diocese and congregations the celebration of a liturgical Creation cycle for the purpose of “affirming the sacredness of God’s creation, spreading hope about God’s reconciling work in creation, and [fostering] an understanding of environmental stewardship and ecological justice.”

We believe in God, the Creator, Source, and End of all things. God formed the Earth and called humans to live in harmony with the Earth. Environmental degradation threatens the well-being of all of God’s creation, and we as individuals and faith communities participate in this degradation through our choices, lifestyles, and building practices. The scientific community is united in its belief that the environmental situation is urgent and the time for action is now.

Past General Conventions of the Episcopal Church have encouraged its bishops, clergy, and lay persons through numerous resolutions to support, be informed, and respond to all pertinent environmental challenges, including issues of water, air, food stuffs, energy, biodiversity, and social justice.

Since 1991, many Episcopal Churches in the United States have celebrated a Creation Season to honor God the Creator with worship, music, and praise for these gifts of life. This practice has spread to churches and cathedrals worldwide.