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.