

A Call from the Reparations Committee of the Diocese of New York to Live into Apology

Proposer of Resolution: Ms. Diane Pollard

Parish or Organization: The Reparations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

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Title of Resolution: Living into an Apology for Slavery

Whereas, the Reparations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York has been charged with examining and addressing the impact of slavery in the Episcopal Diocese of New York; and

Whereas, the findings of the Reparations Committee have indicated that restorative justice within the Diocese should include, without limitation, a formal apology for slavery in the form of a Service of Apology to be conducted at the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION(S):

Resolved: that the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York commit to the exploration and creation of a permanent acknowledgment of their involvement in slavery; and further

Resolved: that in order to implement the above resolution, the Reparations Committee will prepare a toolbox that can be used by congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to assist them in this effort; and further

Resolved: that congregations should report their actions to the Secretary of Convention by not later than the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York; and further

Resolved: that the Reparations Committee call upon the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to implement a formal Service of Apology for slavery, for use at the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Explanation

The Reparations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York has since 2006 engaged in a variety of activities designed to study and address the impact of slavery in the Episcopal Diocese of New York, in our daily lives and in the lives of our congregations. The scope of our engagement has included the study of various forms of literature and media productions that have served as education into our complicity in these heinous activities. We believe that the time has come for our Bishop and Diocese to commit to a formal apology and that the 2020 Diocesan Convention will be an appropriate time. This resolution calls us to plan and to execute the act of apology for slavery at the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, with the venue being the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

Actions Needed At This Time of Climate and Ecological Emergency

Proposer of Resolution: The Reverend Dr. Matthew Calkins

Parish or Organization: Committee on the Care of Creation of the Social Concerns Commission

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Title of Resolution: Actions Needed at This Time of Climate and Ecological Emergency

Whereas, stewardship of creation is rooted in the theology and teachings of the Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, current climate and ecological emergencies dictate prompt actions on the part of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations.

Text of Resolution:

Resolved: that the 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations recognize through its liturgy and mission that we are living in a time of climate and ecological emergency and commit to a time of diocesan-wide discernment, taking into account both past actions in the stewardship of creation, and actions that we must begin now; and further

Resolved: that the 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations, in response to Resolution DO53 of the 2018 General Convention of The Episcopal Church, “consider the potential for utilization of church-owned property for new ministries integrating the care of Creation,” including situations “where properties are no longer regularly utilized;” and further

Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations, in response to Resolution D053 of the 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, “collaborate with partner agencies to care for creation, sequester carbon through regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, green burial, and habitat restoration;” and inspired by our companion Diocese of Tanganyika, implement and support tree planting and reforestation programs in response to the climate emergency; and further

Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations recall a resolution adopted at our 237th Diocesan Convention in 2010, “urging member congregations to (1) work with the Diocese Property Support Committee in auditing energy use in their church buildings;” leading to (2) develop a ‘self-study’ plan for the conversion to renewable energy sources within the next ten years;” and further

Resolved that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations also recall and pursue the goals of resolutions submitted by the Task Force on Socially and Environmentally Responsible

Investing adopted at the 239th Diocesan Convention in 2015, focusing on community investing, fossil fuel divestment, and working with fund managers toward a larger vision of investment in renewable energy, development of green technologies, and environmental justice; and further

Resolved that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations applaud, support and pursue the passage and goals of the NY State Legislature's (June, 2019) "Climate and Community Protection Act," which calls us to pursue environmental justice, green jobs, the care of creation, and an 85% reduction of greenhouse emissions below 1990 levels by 2050; and further

Resolved that given these past and present commitments, the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations take every step available, given the climate and ecological emergency, to meet these goals with all due speed.

Explanation

Humankind has never faced a crisis as urgent or as serious as climate change and the species extinctions currently underway. This crisis calls into question the confidence that the younger generation might have in core values and institutional commitments needed to guide humankind through what scientists now recognize as a true planetary emergency. It also raises questions about sustainability (including financial) that we must begin to address in a substantial way now. We must carry the vision and actions that "Caring for Creation" implies to a higher level of action, which will both transform and stabilize our life together in the church and the world.

**All are Welcome in God's Church:
Responding to the Lambeth Conference Invitation**

Proposer of Resolution: The Reverend Matthew Mead and The Reverend Winnie Varghese

Parish or Organization: The Council of The Episcopal Diocese of New York

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Title of Resolution: All are Welcome in God's Church: Responding to the Lambeth Conference Invitation

Whereas, the 2020 Lambeth Conference will take place in July and August of 2020 at the University of Kent in Canterbury; and

Whereas, the bishops who gather at the Lambeth Conference represent the great diversity of theological and ecclesiological viewpoints of the thirty-eight provinces (representing more than 165 countries) of the Anglican Communion, including conflicting viewpoints around human sexuality and marriage; and

Whereas, the 2020 Lambeth Conference has been advertised as a conference for "active bishops and their spouses", with separate retreats for bishops and spouses; and

Whereas, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion has stated that the Anglican Communion's position on marriage as set out in Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference would make it inappropriate for same-sex spouses to be invited to the 2020 Lambeth Conference, noting that the Archbishop of Canterbury had privately notified Bishop Mary Glasspool of this position in December 2018; and

Whereas, the President of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church has disputed the accuracy of the Secretary General's statement regarding the 1998 Lambeth Conference's setting the Anglican Communion's position on marriage; and

Whereas, The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and the State of New York all affirm that two people of the same gender can be married; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the claim of the Secretary General that only a "few individuals" are directly affected by this decision, the Episcopal Diocese of New York includes numerous priests, deacons, and lay persons who are married to persons of the same gender, and this number is increasing both in our Diocese and in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury to exclude same-sex spouses has caused pain for many people both within and outside of The Episcopal Diocese of New York.

TEST OF THE RESOLUTION(S)

Resolved: that the 243 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York recognize that the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury to exclude an invitation of same-sex spouses to attend the 2020 Lambeth Conference was applied specifically to the spouse of one of the bishops of the Diocese of New York; and further

Resolved: that the 243 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, recalling the words of Saint Paul, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it" (1 Cor 12:26), recognize that this decision has caused pain to lay persons, deacons, priests, and bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to their spouses, and to others; and further

Resolved: that the 243 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York encourage every congregation of this Diocese to offer public intercessions for our bishops and their spouses, for those who are in pain because of this decision, for the Archbishop of Canterbury, and for all who attend the Lambeth Conference; and further

Resolved: that the 243 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York recommend that the Archbishop of Canterbury reconsider this decision; and further

Resolved: that the 243 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York direct the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese of New York to communicate the full text of this resolution and accompanying explanation to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Explanation

The 2020 Lambeth Conference has been specifically advertised as a conference for “active bishops and their spouses”. According to the home page of the official Lambeth Conference website (<https://www.lambethconference.org/en/>), the 2020 Lambeth Conference “brings together all active bishops and their spouses from across the worldwide Anglican Communion.” The program for the Lambeth Conference notes that there will be “two separate retreats: one for bishops and another for spouses.”

On February 15, 2019, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Dr. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, stated in his blog on Anglican Communion News (<https://www.anglicannews.org/blogs/2019/02/the-global-excitement-about-lambeth-conference.aspx>): “Invitations [to the 2020 Lambeth Conference] have been sent to every active bishop. That is how it should be – we are recognizing that all those consecrated into the office of bishop should be able to attend. But the invitation process has also needed to take account of the Anglican Communion’s position on marriage which is that it is the lifelong union of a man and a woman. That is the position as set out in Resolution I.10 of the 1998 Lambeth Conference. Given this, it would be inappropriate for same-sex spouses to be invited to the conference. The Archbishop of Canterbury has had a series of private conversations by phone or by exchanges of letter with the few individuals to whom this applies.” One of those individuals was Bishop Mary Glasspool who was privately notified in December of 2018.

The accuracy of the statement that the 1998 Lambeth Conference set “the Anglican Communion’s position on marriage” has been disputed by the Rev. Gay Jennings, the President of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church: “The Lambeth Conference does not get to set policy for the Anglican Communion, and the Primates’ Meeting does not get to set policy for the Anglican Communion, and the Archbishop of Canterbury does not get to set policy for the Anglican Communion. That’s the job of the Anglican Consultative Council.” See <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/president-jennings-on-the-exclusion-of-same-sex-spouses-from-the-lambeth-conference/>

Historically the Lambeth Conference has been a gathering of bishops. Whether or not a given bishop’s spouse attended did not affect the program offered or statements made by the Lambeth Conference. Notably, this Conference is different in that spouses are explicitly given a role that they heretofore did not have. The decision to refuse to invite spouses in same-sex marriages is discriminatory and an obvious effort to silence the voices of those who can speak most personally and perhaps most powerfully about same-sex marriage and its place in the Church. It is especially egregious to silence these voices considering the fact that issues of human sexuality and marriage have been and continue to challenge the Anglican Communion, presumably a major reason why spouses were invited to take on a larger role in the first place.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 3

Proposer of Resolution: The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Chair of the Budget Committee

Parish or Organization: Budget Committee of the Diocese of New York

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Title of Resolution(s): Moving the canonical date the Proposed Budget is due to Council.

Text of Resolution(s):

[3] Resolved: that Canon 17 Sec. 1 (3) be modified as follows:

No later than fifty (50) ~~seventy (70)~~ days before annual Convention the Budget Committee shall submit to Council and to the Trustees a draft budget of Diocesan expenditures for the following year with an accompanying narrative. The budget shall be presented at the next meeting of the Council at which members of Trustees are invited to attend and given voice. The Council may approve, reject, or modify the budget or narrative, provided, however, that no budget may be approved in which projected receipts are less than projected expenses. The draft budget approved by the Council shall be the proposed budget.

Commentary on Resolution

The requirement of seventy days reflects outdated practice. Prior to 2017 Council and the Trustees traditionally met at the start of September, and the Proposed Budget and Narrative were made available to them in late August. Current practice since 2017 (when we updated the Canons as part of the Strategic Plan) has been to provide the Budget and Narrative to Council and Trustees in mid-September with Council and Trustee meetings taking place at the end of September.

The additional 20 days makes it possible for the Budget Committee to receive essential input from our bishops and their staff (many of whom are away on vacation in August). The additional 20 days also ensures that the Budget Committee has more accurate projections for income and disbursements. The additional 20 days has no effect whatsoever on the timing of Convention, the timing of the distribution of the Calendar of Convention, or the timing of any pre-Convention Caucuses.

In 2017 we voted on this resolution; the vote in favor was nearly unanimous. However, there were a handful of “No” votes which meant it did not pass unanimously. For any canonical amendment to pass in a single convention, the amendment must be approved unanimously or by two-thirds in a vote by orders. A canonical amendment may also pass at consecutive conventions by majority (See Canon 35, Amendments). We mistakenly thought that a 2/3 majority was enough and so did not request a vote by order nor did we follow up in 2018 with a second vote on the Amendment.

Any NO against this amendment will require additional time for us to take a second vote by orders. Please vote YES.

Minimum Clergy Compensation

Proposer of Resolution: The Rev. Carol Gadsden for the Human Resources Committee

Parish or Organization: Human Resources Committee, Trustees of the Diocese of New York

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Title of Resolution: Minimum Clergy Compensation

Whereas, Clergy Compensation Minimums underwent an in-depth review and comparison with the minimums set by other dioceses and a report was made to the 241st Convention with new Minimum Compensation Guidelines set for 2018 and stipulating that Compensation Guidelines be reviewed annually thereafter; and

Whereas, the 242nd Convention of the Diocese of New York adopted the new Minimum Compensation Guidelines for Priests of the Diocese of New York, as prepared by the Human Resources Committee of the Trustees and approved by the Trustees of the Diocese of New York; and

Whereas, the Diocesan Human Resources Committee recommended a 2% increase to the minimum annual stipend for clergy, effective January 1, 2020 and the recommendation was approved at the September 2019 meeting of the Trustees of the Diocese of New York. Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York adopted the new Minimum Compensation Guidelines for Priests of the Diocese of New York, as prepared by the Human Resources Committee of the Trustees and approved by the Trustees of the Diocese of New York.

Whereas, the Diocesan Human Resources Committee recommended a 2% increase to the minimum annual stipend for clergy, effective January 1, 2020 and the recommendation was approved at the September 2019 meeting of the Trustees of the Diocese of New York.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION:

Resolved: that the 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York raise the minimum annual stipend for Clergy by 2.0% effective January 1, 2020.

Cash stipends:

Ordained to priesthood less than 3 years: \$44,960 as of January 1, 2019

Ordained to priesthood more than 3 years but less than 10 years: \$50,080 as of January 1, 2019

Ordained to priesthood more than 10 years: \$50,600 as of January 1, 2019

Ordained over 15 years: \$57,300 as of January 1, 2019

*Ordained to priesthood less than 3 years: **\$46,000** as of January 1, 2020*

*Ordained to priesthood more than 3 years but less than 10 years: **\$51,100** as of January 1, 2020*

*Ordained to priesthood more than 10 years: **\$51,600** as of January 1, 2020*

*Ordained over 15 years: **\$58,500** as of January 1, 2020*

Explanation

The Clergy Compensation Minimums were increased last on January 1, 2019. The resolution at the 2016 convention called for a review of the minimums each year and an increase based on the CPI. The CPI has increased 1.9% in the last year. The Human Resources committee recommends increasing the minimums by 2% for 2020.

Reconsideration and Adoption of the John Jay Tabled Resolutions of September 28, 1860

Proposer of Resolution: Ms. Diane Pollard

Parish or Organization: The Reparations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

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Title of Resolution: Reconsideration and Adoption of the Resolutions of September 28, 1860: The African Slave-Trade in New York and Evening Session – The Slave-Trade Again.

Whereas, on September 27, 1860, New York attorney and a leader in the anti-slavery movement John Jay presented a number of resolutions (the “1860 Resolutions”) to the Diocese of New York in Convention in which he called on the diocese to “address a pastoral letter to the people of this Diocese , in reference to the African Slave-trade as now prosecuted from the port of New York, within the limits and jurisdiction of the diocese, in violation.....”;

Whereas, the 1860 Resolutions read as follows:

Resolved, 1. That this Convention respectfully ask the Right Reverend Bishop of the Dioceses to address a pastoral letter to the people of this Diocese, in reference to the African Slave-trade as now prosecuted from the port of New York, within the limits and jurisdiction of the Diocese, in violation of the statutes of the Republics, of the teachings of the Church, of the rights of man, and the laws of God; to the end that such letter may be read in all the churches, and that the people may be warned in the language of the Christian Council of London 1162, “Let no man presume from henceforth to carry on that wicked traffic which men have hitherto been sold like brute animals.”

Resolved, 2. That the Reverend Clergy of this Diocese be respectfully recommended from time to time to preach in their respective parishes against the wickedness of the Slave-trade, as now prosecuted from within this Diocese.

Resolved, 3. That the laity of the Diocese be urgently recommended to exert their influence, in all legitimate ways, to stay the further prosecution of the traffic from within the limits of the Diocese.

Resolved, 4. That this convention, in order to prevent all misapprehension in regard to the position of the Church in this diocese on the subject of the Slave-trade, do hereby declare and announce that the Convention do utterly reject the doctrine that men may be lawfully kidnapped and held in slavery by any other person, and do utterly condemn the said practice as a great sin against God and man. And do adopt in regard thereto, the words of St. Cyprian, in writing to the Bishop of Numidia:

“Both religion and humanity make it a duty for us to work for the deliverance of the captive. It is Jesus Christ, himself, of whom we ought to consider in our captive brothers. It is Him whom we should deliver from captivity – Him who hath delivered us from death.”; and

Whereas, the 1860 Resolutions were tabled at that Convention and have not been acted upon since that date.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION(S):

Resolved: that the 243 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York call upon clergy and congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to reconsider the 1860 Resolutions and to take action in adopting said 1860 Resolutions; and further

Resolved: that the clergy and congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York take such action as is necessary to endorse the position of this Diocese, each congregation hereof and each member herein to give effect to the letter and spirit of the 1860 Resolutions.

Explanation

The Reparations Committee is calling on this 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to remove the 1860 Resolutions from the table and adopt said 1860 Resolutions with retroactive force and effect.

As we continue our process of lamentations for slavery, this act is the right thing to do and will move us closer to the 2020 Diocesan Convention when we are calling on the Episcopal Diocese of New York to execute a formal apology for the sin of slavery.