

A125

TOPIC: RACISM

Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism

PROPOSER

Executive Council

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 588–589; Constitution & Canons: p.
N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / Social and Urban Affairs

CURRENT FILING STATUS

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REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

currently in proposed budget; N/A; N/A

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 recommit and declare itself to be dedicated to continuing the work against the sin
- 3 of racism in all of its forms; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That a culture, expectation, and practice of anti-racism permeate the
- 5 life of The Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all
- 7 teams of the DFMS, monitored and networked by a staff officer; and be it further
- 8 *Resolved*, That anti-racism principles and practices permeate the work of all
- 9 volunteers participating in the governance structures of The Episcopal Church;
- 10 and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That anti-racism training oversight and implementation be carried out
- 12 on provincial and diocesan levels for all Episcopalians; and be it further
- 13 *Resolved*, That all dioceses and provinces initiate anti-racism training if they
- 14 have not already done so and continue to engage in anti-racism training on an
- 15 ongoing basis; and be it further
- 16 *Resolved*, That the provinces report annually to the Executive Council on the
- 17 progress being made in fulfillment of this resolution; and be it further
- 18 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention request that the Joint Standing
- 19 Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of
- 20 \$180,000 to be distributed and used by the Provinces for the implementation of
- 21 this resolution during the 2013–2015 triennium.

EXPLANATION

Since 1976, the General Convention has repeatedly called for the Church to work to end racism. Furthermore, anti-racism awareness is an ongoing process in the life of individuals and the Church and is grounded in the Baptismal Covenant. Pastoral letters from the House of Bishops in 1994 and 2006 have also clearly addressed the need for Churchwide focus on the elimination of racism.

The 76th General Convention identified “Alleviating Injustice” as one of its Mission Priorities, and the report of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism to that convention revealed the following:

- 77 of 100 dioceses offered anti-racism training;
- only 38 dioceses had anti-racism committees;

- there were just 60 certified trainers, meaning persons able to serve their own diocese and others, from a goal of having trainers in every diocese; and
- 23 dioceses had not offered any training.

The report of the Committee on Anti-Racism to this convention identifies “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other” as the primary anti-racism training manual of The Episcopal Church, to be supplemented with other appropriate existing or newly developed resources.

The underpinning of racism affects the dynamics of the ministry of The Episcopal Church, and anti-racism work should be a top priority as stated in a history of General Convention Resolutions: 2003□A010, 2006□C011, and 2009□A142. Local mission cannot thrive in the absence of greater understanding, training, and practice of anti-racist, multi-cultural, and anti-oppression principles by both our laity and clergy. Racial justice seeks to eliminate oppressive systems and to honor the value and quality of all races, ethnicities, and cultures. An understanding and appreciation of the wide diversity of perspective and experience present in God’s creation is increasingly felt as a critical component of transformation, both as individuals and as community. The Church in all the above-cited resolutions has noted the systemic inequalities and injustice that exists in our societies and in the Church.

The Churchwide Ministries Survey, a report received by the Executive Council in October 2011, was designed to inform the priorities for the 2013–2015 budget process and was directed to a select group of Church leaders (bishops, Executive Council, and CCAB members) revealed a continued emphasis on the importance of anti-racism work on both the Churchwide and local (congregational, diocesan, and provincial) levels.

Currently, there is no provision for the training of Anti-Racism Trainers to do the work mandated by the General Convention, or to monitor anti-racism efforts or adherence to General Convention-approved guidelines and curriculum.