

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN UTAH
RESOLUTION FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2022

In order that debate may be directed toward the resolution and not toward its justification, only the “RESOLVED...” will be moved. The explanation of the resolution, will, however, be distributed to delegates. Resolutions may be submitted to the Convention by the Bishop, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, a member of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, a Warden, a delegate to the Convention, a Diocesan Council representative of any Region of the Diocese, a Vestry, A Bishop’s Committee, a Congregation, a Diocesan Commission or a Diocesan Committee.

TOPIC: Resolution Inviting All on a Journey toward Racial Equity

1 **RESOLVED:**

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3 **WHEREAS** the mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah proclaims: “As members of the Episcopal
 4 branch of the Jesus Movement in Utah, we are committed to following Jesus into loving, liberating, and
 5 life-giving relationships with God, each other, and creation.”

6 **WHEREAS** in 2018, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirmed the President of the
 7 House of Deputies’ and the Presiding Bishop’s call to the Church to recognize Race and Reconciliation
 8 as an integral part of the Jesus Movement

9 **WHEREAS** we, as the Episcopal Church in Utah, recognize that, through our shared history, we “have
 10 not loved our neighbors as ourselves,” and by "what we have done and by what we have left undone"
 11 contributed to institutions and systems that have harmed others through the sin of racism.

12 **WHEREAS** this harm has been manifested through the colonization of Indigenous people and their
 13 lands, exploitation of Chinese workers within our state’s borders as part of the building of the
 14 Transcontinental Railroad, historic enslavement, and indentured servitude of Black, Indigenous, and
 15 people of color (BIPOC) to build our communities, and continued BIPOC exploitation for societal and
 16 economic gain.

17 **WHEREAS** within the Becoming Beloved Community vision for The Episcopal Church, rooted in The
 18 Jesus Movement, and called forth by General Convention, we are asked to engage in a journey, “a set of
 19 interrelated commitments around which Episcopalians may organize our many efforts to respond to
 20 racial injustice and grow a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers.”

21

22 **WHEREAS** the Commission on Peace & Justice of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah (the “Commission”)
 23 has been charged by canon with the task of developing and implementing recommendations and
 24 strategies on issues of peace and justice.

25

26 **WHEREAS** the Diocese of Utah has adopted prior resolutions to move toward reparation by becoming
 27 a sanctuary diocese (2018) and adopting the practice of land acknowledgments (2020).

28 **THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED:** All Utah Episcopalians are enjoined to participate with the
29 Peace & Justice Commission on a journey of reconciliation, which includes opportunities to:
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- 31 1. Learn about anti-racism work and advocacy.
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- 33 2. Explore how to meet the call of Becoming Beloved Community through dialogue, mediation,
34 storytelling, and community building.
- 35
- 36 3. Raise awareness, educate, and inform of opportunities to advocate for peace and justice.
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38 Advocacy may include, but is not limited, to the following:
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- 40
- 41 1. Urge congregations to incorporate "Land Acknowledgements" in congregation
42 communications and gatherings. At a minimum, recognize the contributions of diverse
43 communities throughout the year through official commemorative days and months.
- 44
- 45 2. Support efforts of educators, agencies, and organizations in providing quality education in
46 the math, sciences, and other healthcare-related subject matters across school districts,
47 particularly in districts where General Fund revenues tend to be lower.
- 48
- 49 3. Support efforts of educators to teach the true totality of history and allow dialogue on racial
50 equity, diversity, and inclusion within our public education system.
- 51
- 52 4. Support efforts of public health educators and agencies to provide increased and quality
53 community health education programs, including among marginalized communities.
- 54
- 55 5. Understand and appreciate the intersectionality that exists between myriad marginalized
56 groups within the context of race (i.e., gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability).
- 57
- 58 6. Support proposed bills, laws, policies, and regulations that would help dismantle racist
59 systems.
- 60
- 61 7. Frequent and support Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)-owned businesses.
- 62
- 63 8. Support efforts of BIPOC students and graduates for entry into and access of professional
64 fields.
- 65
- 66 9. Increase engagement with and of the Episcopal Prison Ministries.
- 67
- 68 10. Support the efforts of the Utah Courts' Office of Fairness and Accountability in their
69 commitment and task.

Date: February 22, 2022

Moved by Peace and Justice Commission

Congregation/Organization: Peace and Justice Commission

EXPLANATION: The impact of institutional and systemic racism has a long and varied history. It continues to exist within our society and, yes, even within our faith. There are many ways that racism has harmed our community and our humanity. This list of categorical “Authorities/Facts” and “Concerns” is by no means exhaustive, but a starting point by which we, as members of the Episcopal Church in Utah, can work toward racial equity.

You and your congregation can learn more about racial equity within the Becoming Beloved Community call here: [Racial Reconciliation – The Episcopal Church](#).

Fiscal note: None

Criminal Justice

Authorities/Facts

- The American Bar Association stated that the evidence and effects of racism throughout the criminal justice system are pervasive, staggering, and overwhelming.
- The NAACP has published statistics revealing a significant over-representation of African Americans regarding fatal police shootings, incarceration rates of both adults and juveniles, wrongful conviction exonerations, and execution rates by the death penalty.
- The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) published that marginalized groups continue to be over-represented in the state’s criminal justice system and that racism continues to contribute to the lack of fairness.
- The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) acknowledges the link, as supported by numerous studies, between the quality of education, employment opportunities, and socioeconomic status with increased criminal justice involvement due to some criminal justice policies favoring those with greater resources.
- The Utah Judicial Council (UJC) established the Office of Fairness and Accountability in 2021 in a commitment to identify, examine, and address racism within the judicial system and eradicate racism from the Courts.

Concerns

- The Commission is concerned that racism is pervasive throughout the criminal justice system, resulting in over-representation and unfair treatment of marginalized groups.
- The Commission recognizes that the efforts to identify and eradicate racism and its effects throughout the criminal justice system will involve a long-term commitment of diligence in advocating for racial equity across the network of government and private agencies.

Public Health

Authorities/Facts

- Through House Joint Resolution 13, the Utah State Legislature has declared that racism is a moral and public health crisis
- The Utah Hospital Association stated that racism is a public health crisis and is a threat to patients and communities.
- The Utah Public Health Association has expressed that racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health resulting in significant racial health disparities
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify categories of social determinants of health to include economic stability, education access, and quality, health care access, and quality, neighborhood and built environments, and social and community context.

Concerns

- The Commission on Peace & Justice of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah (the “Commission”) is concerned that while H.J.R 13 expresses a commitment to work collaboratively with others to address this crisis, its language is general and lacks informative detail regarding specific resources, actions, and support.
- The Commission recognizes that addressing the moral and public health crisis of racism will involve many actors and sectors of society and that addressing impacts of racism across the state and within its communities will, by necessity and nature, include long-term strategies of both proactive and preventative measures.

Education

Authorities/Facts

- Within the American Education system, much (if not most) learning is focused on the narratives of some groups at the expense of others.
- Many studies have shown that children who grow up not seeing or learning about those who look like them can have negative internalized effects. Without positive and healthy representations of people who share their identities, there is often lowered self-esteem and, ultimately, limited potential.
- The Utah State Board of Education, in Resolution No. 2021-01, “Denouncing Racism and Embracing Equity in Utah Schools,” “firmly denounces racism in any form in our schools and our education system and embraces principles of equity and justice for all.”

Concerns

- The Commission on Peace & Justice of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah is concerned with recent legislative and local community efforts to quash dialogue on racial equity, diversity, and inclusion within community, particularly within our public education system.
- The Commission recognizes that psychological counseling in the schools and the general public is underutilized by marginalized communities of Latino, African-American, and Indigenous populations. The Commission asks the government and schools to study this issue to find out the reasons why this inequality of care exists and how it affects Criminal and Juvenile Justice issues.
- The Commission supports educators and administrators who are working to follow existing guidelines that support an environment of belonging and inclusion in our schools and opposes policies that limit comprehensive teaching of our country and state history.