

RESOLUTION #2

ON ACTIVE ADVOCACY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

The following resolution is proposed by the following members of the Clergy and Laity of parishes within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington:

Submitted by: The Rev. Sari Ateek, St. John's, Norwood Parish; The Rev. Deacon Anne Derse, St. John's, Norwood Parish; The Rev. Joan Beilstein, Ascension, Sligo Parish; Ms. Jacki Smith, Chair, Policing Action Committee Ascension, Sligo Parish.

RESOLUTION

- 1 ~~Resolved,~~
- 2 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington urges each parish *and*
- 3 *the Diocese*
- 4 to review its history in the context of racial equity, as well as the long history of the Episcopal Church
- 5 on advocacy, ~~social~~ *racial* justice and racial equity, as reflected in the resolutions of the General Convention
- 6 and Executive Committee. And be it further
- 7 ~~Resolved,~~
- 8 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington urges each parish *and*
- 9 *the Diocese*
- 10 to discern its specific calling to address ~~social~~ *racial* justice and racial equity issues. And be it further
- 11 ~~Resolved,~~
- 12 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington urges each parish *and*
- 13 *the Diocese*
- 14 to actively advocate, individually and collectively with others, at the local, state and Federal level for systemic change to ensure that race does not determine socioeconomic outcomes, that all have what they need to thrive and that those most impacted by racial disparity are meaningfully involved in the process of creating and implementing policies that affect their lives.

EXPLANATION:

We are in the midst of a national crisis. As followers of Jesus and his Way of Love, we must keep our eyes and energies fixed on addressing the root causes of systemic racism and white supremacy in all its forms. In this extraordinary moment, we have the opportunity to make extraordinary change. The Episcopal Church has well-defined and thoughtful positions already taken by our General Convention and Executive Committee, some of which are highlighted in the attachment found [here](#). Presiding Bishop Michael Curry affirms that “advocacy is a spiritual discipline... the practical working of love in the social and public context... to advocate is to do the work of the spirit of God which is nothing less than the work of love... advocacy is one way to practically do that: to put on love on our feet and on our hands, to work to help make this country and this society what we say we want to be: one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

It is incumbent upon us to actively join in advocacy at the local, state and Federal level to secure systemic change until justice for all is achieved. We can do this as individual parishes or work together with others. We can do this in a way that inspires others – especially young people – to join our advocacy, our mission and our church. The Diocese of Washington is the perfect place for this call to action – it strongly supports the focus on racial justice articulated in the [Diocese's Strategic Plan](#); many of our parishioners have advocated professionally for decades and are, as such, familiar with the process; and, Washington DC is home to the Episcopal Church's Federal advocacy through the [Office of Government Relations](#) and the [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#).

The focus of this resolution is threefold. First, to educate parishes on their own history, the existing positions of the Episcopal Church and the call to active advocacy. Second, to honor the different interests and expertise across our parishes by encouraging them to select their own issues to champion. Third, and most importantly, to call on our parishes to actively advocate with the goal of securing systemic change in our country.