
RESOLUTION #4

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:

Submittedby: The Rev. Sari Ateek, St. John's, Norwood Parish; The Rev. Anne Derse, St. John's, Norwood Parish; Ms. Jacki Smith, Ascension, Sligo Parish; The Rev. Joan Beilstein, Ascension, Sligo Parish.

RESOLUTION

1 *Resolved,*

2 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington encourages all parishes
3 to review the long history of the Episcopal Church on advocacy, social justice and racial equity, as reflected
4 in the resolutions of the General Convention and Executive Committee. And be it further

5 *Resolved,*

6 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington encourages all parishes
7 to discern their specific calling to address social justice and racial equity issues. And be it further

8 *Resolved,*

9 that the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Convention of the Diocese of Washington encourages all parishes
10 to actively advocate at the local, state and Federal level for systemic change to ensure that socioeconomic
11 outcomes are no longer determined by race.

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](#). 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. The Diocese of Washington is the perfect place for this call to action – this call 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 [Office of Government Relations](#) and the [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#).

The focus of this resolution is threefold. First, to **educate** parishes on 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.