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## 2019 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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The Committee on Resolutions received three proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2019 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at Diocesan House, at which proposers had an opportunity to amend their original proposals, and following which the Committee met and decided on recommendations. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report.

As provided by the Rules of Order, proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

*Respectfully submitted,*

The Rev. Susanna Paige Cates, Chair  
The Rev'd Amy S. Cornell  
The Rev'd Terry Martin  
The Rev'd Dr. John P. Mitchell  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq.  
Mr. Curtis Hoberman  
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller  
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

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### RESOLUTION 2019-1:

*Subject: A Reaffirmation of the 220th Convention Resolution 2004-1 Concerning the WTC Victims in this the 18th Anniversary Year of September 11, 2001*

*Be it resolved,* That the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm the 220th Diocesan Convention's Resolution 2004-1; and be it

*Further resolved,* That that we continually pray for all those lost on September 11, 2001, for all others lost at the hand of terrorism, for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the days since the attacks, for those who still suffer in body and mind as a result of terrorist attacks, and for all those we call peacemakers; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Secretary of this Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and the House of Bishops.

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*SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church, Toms River (parents of Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, Age 26 WTC Victim), the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, and the Rev. Theodore A. Foley, Deacon*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2019-1 by Proposers:*

The names of the Episcopalians of the Diocese of New Jersey adorn a wall in the Cathedral who were lost that day, and to whom we keep the promise "Never To Forget", and acknowledge our duty that all of the Victims are not forgotten, by those of us who remain behind, as Bishop Stokes has reminded us.

It is with this reminder that we offer this resolution, so that all the victims of terrorism will not be forgotten, nor the sacrifices made by those we call peacekeepers, in the years that followed. That they are remembered in prayer, and that those whom still suffer in body and mind are comforted and healed by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

#### Reference

RESOLUTION 2004-1:

*Subject: Concerning the World Trade Center Victims*

*Whereas*, The unprovoked attack on the United States carried out by international terrorists on September 11, 2001 against targets in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, injury to countless others and the destruction of innumerable lives; and

*Whereas*, Among the victims of this depraved act were civilian and government workers, military personnel, airline passengers and crew members, and police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, many of whom reside in this State; and

*Whereas*, The remains of many victims of the World Trade Center attacks were never located; and

*Whereas*, The ash from the World Trade Center site that contains the remains of victims of September 11, 2001 has been held at Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, New York; and

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper for the State and City of New York to honor the victims of September 11, 2001 by returning their ashes to the site of a memorial in their honor, or a suitable resting place other than a landfill; and

*Whereas*, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey understands that the right to a proper burial is fundamental to the healing process and should be accorded to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack upon the WTC; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey go on record as supporting and endorsing the request of the WTC Families for Proper Burial organization to have the ashen remains of those lost on September 11, 2001 covered and placed in containers to eventually be transported to an appropriate site to become a part of a memorial that will be built at that location, and be it

*Further Resolved*, That, as we continually pray in the Diocese of New Jersey for all those lost, the Secretary of Convention forward a copy of this Resolution to George W. Bush, the President of the United States, the Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, to the Hon. Joseph L. Bruno, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, to the Hon. George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, to the Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, to the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to Mr. Joseph J. Seymour, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to the Hon. James E. McGreevey, Governor of New Jersey, and to the Standing Commission on National Concerns of The Episcopal Church.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

## RESOLUTION 2019-2:

*Subject: To Authorize a Process to Revise Our Diocesan Canons*

*Be it resolved,* That the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey authorize the appointment of a Task Force to simplify, revise, and update our Diocesan Canons; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Task Force shall consist of nine members: three members appointed by the Bishop (one of whom shall be chair), three by the Standing Committee, and three by the Diocesan Council; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Task Force make progress reports to the 2020 and 2021 Diocesan Conventions, with a final proposal to be submitted to the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons pursuant to Canon 75, Section 1 by April 2021, for action to be taken at a Convention to be held no later than March 2022.

*SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Valerie Balling, the Rev. Ophelia G. Laughlin, the Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Dcn., the Rev. John P. Mitchell, the Rev. Karin R. Mitchell, the Rev. Ronald N. Pollock, the Rev. Lee Powers, and the Rev. John V. Zamboni*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2019-2 by Proposers:*

The Diocese of New Jersey was formed in 1785. Over the 234 years of its existence, a Constitution and Canons have been developed and amended as circumstances necessitated. Our current Canons have become too layered, too burdened by historical arguments, and are not the most suitable, in their present state, to meet the needs of our Diocese in the 21st century and beyond. Some items that are in our Canons might better be addressed by Policies that can be adopted and changed by the Ecclesiastical Authority over time. The purpose of this Resolution is to authorize a Task Force to examine Canons and Policies in other Dioceses, and to prepare a fresh draft of Canons for the Diocese of New Jersey. It is hoped this process will greatly reduce the work of future Conventions in trying to continually make changes to Canons that aren't working well. It is envisioned that after a proposed draft is developed by the Task Force, that hearings will be held throughout our Diocese for broad-based input before a final draft is developed and considered by the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons and presented to a Convention for adoption, no later than March of 2022.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to the adoption of this proposal. It will not appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption but will be presented separately for deliberation and voting.**

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**RESOLUTION 2019-3:**

*Subject: Funding for Black Congregations*

*Be it resolved,* That the 235th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey recognize the ministry of the historically Black congregations within the diocese which continue, in the evaluation of the Commission on Black Ministry, to have vital congregational life and ministry by directing Diocesan Council to continue providing financial support at levels allocated in 2019 unless a congregation requests a lesser amount, to ensure that operating budgets within these congregations are subsidized to help provide for stable clergy leadership and promote long-term vitality; and be it

*Further resolved,* That proceeds from the sale of historically black churches be earmarked for ministry within black congregations.

*SUBMITTED BY: Canon Annette Buchanan on behalf of the Commission on Black Ministries*

**Statement in Support of Resolution 2019-3 by Proposers:**

In 2015, eight of the eleven historically Black congregations in the Diocese of New Jersey were without permanent clergy, an urgent situation. Many of these congregations in their 100+ year history were regular missional and financial contributors to the life of the Diocese. The Diocesan Bishop was asked to positively intervene in this situation by concerned Black Episcopalians (lay and clergy). The Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Council and Convention approved a 5-year plan of Special Initiatives funding, a portion of which consisted of grants to certain of these congregations to sustain and revitalize ongoing programs and implement new initiatives towards self-sustainability. The grants helped subsidize their operating budgets at a level that included full-time clergy leadership to address this critical issue. Some congregations were funded through regional investments, others through the Mission Renewal Fund.

For congregations awarded Special Initiatives grants, funds were disbursed over periods varying from one to three years with the understanding that congregational viability and vitality moving towards self-sustainability had to be demonstrated. The five-year plan will end in 2019. The congregations were visited during the fourth quarter of 2018 and most were deemed to be on the right track with programs of stewardship, discipleship, outreach and fundraising, but continue to be in need of financial support. Given the dissolution of the Special Initiatives funding additional resources are needed to continue the work begun.

- A) This resolution proposes that the continued funding for operating budget subsidies be realized from one or more of the following sources: Diocesan investment, proceeds from the sale of Black churches, proceeds from the sale of regional churches or additional scholarships and creative solutions identified by the Diocese, at the discretion and direction of Diocesan Council in consultation with the Trustees of Diocesan Trust Funds where applicable.

- B) This resolution additionally directs that any proceeds from the disposition of assets from historically black congregations be placed in a separate fund, disbursements from which utilize the process currently in place with Diocesan Council for grant applications, with the understanding that the Commission on Black Ministry shall be the governing body to evaluate requests for grants from this fund and make recommendations to Diocesan Council.

Given the critical impact and positive results of the Special Initiatives investment to date, this resolution calls for these funding issues to be addressed expeditiously. Unfortunately, the alternative is the death of our Black churches without this continuation of much-needed funding.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**