
2021 PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions received three proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2021 deadline for submissions and one following that deadline. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. The proposers may make additional revisions prior to submission to Convention.

Following hearings at preconvention meetings and at the formal hearing of the Committee to be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2021, by Zoom meeting (Meeting ID: 910 1735 9262, Passcode: 530438), the Committee will prepare its Final Report with its recommendations, if any, with respect to the proposals. It is the Final Report that will be submitted to Convention for consideration. If the Committee recommends adoption of any proposed resolutions, they will appear on the Consent Calendar.

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
Committee on Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2021-1:

Subject: Remembering the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Victims

Be it resolved, That the 237th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm Resolution 2004-1 of the 220th Convention of the Diocese; and be it

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

Further resolved, That churches of the Diocese on September 11, 2021 join in observing the Six Moments of Silence that mark the loss of life in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the District of

Columbia:

1. At 8:46 a.m., on September 11, 2001, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the upper portion of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.
 2. At 9:03 a.m., hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
 3. At 9:37 a.m., the west wall of the Pentagon was hit by hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, the impact of which caused immediate and catastrophic damage to the headquarters of the Department of Defense.
 4. At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.
 5. At 10:03 a.m., the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 acted heroically to retake control of the airplane and thwart the taking of additional American lives by crashing the airliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and, in doing so, gave their lives to save countless others.
 6. At 10:29 a.m., the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed;
- and be it

Further resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

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

Statement in Support of Resolution 2021- 1 by Proposers:

September 11th, 2021 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the attacks upon United States.

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 I 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.

Resolution 2004-1 is reprinted below for reference.

Resolution 2004-1
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.

RESOLUTION 2021-2:

Subject: Remembering the Victims and Survivors of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Be it resolved, That the 237th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey commend the reading of the names of those parish members lost to COVID on the anniversary date of November 17, 2021; and be it

Further resolved, That we continually pray for those who have perished, and for those who survived, and that God's Grace will heal and comfort all those affected and restore them to health, this we pray; and be it

Further resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church Toms River, the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, Christ Church, Toms River, and the Rev. Theodore Foley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River

Statement in Support of Resolution 2021- 2 by Proposers:

November 17th, 2021 will mark the first Anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The question to be asked is "Who Will Speak Their Names?" The quote by graffiti artist Banksy has great truth in it: "I mean, they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time." It is with this quote that I offer this resolution, so that all the victims of this pandemic will not be forgotten, 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.

RESOLUTION 2021-3:

Subject: Commission on Black Ministry Authorization for Funding Recommendations

Be it resolved, That the 237th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey provide the authority to the Commission on Black Ministry of the Diocese of New Jersey (the "COBM") to collaboratively evaluate and provide funding and strategic recommendations for the ministry of the historically Black congregations; and be it

Further resolved, That funds be set aside annually from the Board of Missions, the Mission Renewal Fund, and other Diocesan Trust Funds for the ministry of the historically Black congregations, with the COBM providing critical input on the disbursement of these funds; and be it

Further resolved, that a financial report of these funds be shared annually and the fund amount be periodically evaluated and adjusted as needed; and be it

Further resolved, That the COBM's decision-making role be publicly communicated by the Diocese to these congregations.

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

Statement in Support of Resolution 2021- 3 by Proposers:

Bishop Stokes appointed the members of the Commission of Black Ministry to support the Canon Missioner for Black Ministry in addressing the unique needs and challenges of the ten historically Black congregations in the Diocese of New Jersey. Over the years, the COBM has been a major advocate for these congregations to sustain and revitalize ongoing programs and implement new initiatives towards self-sustainability, including advocacy for full-time clergy leadership.

In 2019, the COBM proposed a resolution, adopted by the Diocesan Convention, for the continued funding of historically Black churches 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.

Given our strategic relationship with these congregations, we propose that the COBM be directly involved in the decision-making with the congregations and the Diocese for the disbursements of these funds. We also propose that the COBM be involved in strategic decisions with congregations and the Diocese about the viability and vitality of these congregations.

Note from the Committee on Resolutions: The following proposal was submitted to the Committee after the January 15, 2021 deadline set by Rule VIII of the Rules of Order. It may come before Convention only upon a two-thirds prior consent for consideration. For that reason, it is not included in the Consent Calendar.

RESOLUTION 2021-4:

Subject: Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day

Be it resolved, That the 237th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey recognize and acknowledge that:

- Christopher Columbus, a man who is known for having "discovered" the Americas, came upon land that was already inhabited by Indigenous Peoples; and
- Columbus's voyage to the Americas opened the door to crimes, including but not limited to the introduction of transatlantic slavery and genocidal acts against Indigenous People; and
- Indigenous Peoples were promised security and protection but instead were forcibly relocated and their land seized to allow for European settlements; and
- The territory of the Diocese of New Jersey was historically inhabited by the Lenape people; and
- The idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations; and
- The Diocese of New Jersey recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made in our community by Indigenous Peoples and commits to ensure greater access and opportunity for continued contribution; and
- The Diocese of New Jersey has the opportunity and means to cultivate a community that honors and respects the diverse history of our community; and
- The second Monday in October should be recognized for the original inhabitants of the Americas: Indigenous Peoples;

and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey join communities across America in recognizing and promoting the well-being and understanding of the contributions of Indigenous communities by the annual recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day, commencing Monday, October 11th, 2021.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Chase Danford, The Rev. Thomas B. Conway, the Rev. Gail Bennett, Dcn, the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Bradley, Dcn., and members of the Racial Justice Project at Trinity Church, Asbury Park: Maureen Shaffer, Katherine Cunningham, Adrienne Wert, Mary Jane Dodd, Liza Minno-Bloom, Nora Doyle, and Derek Minno-Bloom

Statement in Support of Resolution 2021- 4 by Proposers:

The Episcopal Church is committed to the work of anti-racism, anti-colonialism, dismantling systemic racial injustice, and racial reconciliation. Indigenous People have experienced systemic racial injustice in this land since it was colonized by European settlers, who invoked a concept known as the Doctrine of Discovery to seize lands not settled by Christians. This settler colonialist occupation of land eventually became recognized by the United States Supreme Court, which in 1823 ruled that the federal government held title to Indigenous lands as the inheritor of European colonization. In Resolution 2009-D035, the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church noted that the Doctrine of Discovery "continues to be invoked, in only slightly modified form, in court cases and in the many destructive policies of governments and other institutions of the modern nation-state that lead to the colonizing dispossession of the lands of indigenous peoples and the disruption of their way of life." Therefore, the Convention repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery and urged "each diocese within The Episcopal Church be encouraged to reflect upon its own history, in light of these actions and encourage all Episcopalians to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States and other nation states located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries, and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected."

Christopher Columbus justified his conquest of Indigenous land through the Doctrine of Discovery, perpetuating crimes against humanity in his treatment of Indigenous Peoples. His cruelty led to the Spanish crown arresting him and removing him from his post as governor (he was eventually granted his freedom, but was not allowed to serve as governor). Many Indigenous People experience the observance of Columbus Day as a government-sanctioned embrace of the Doctrine of Discovery, settler colonialist theft of Indigenous land, and the enduring legacy of systematic racism against Indigenous Peoples. To achieve racial reconciliation, we must engage in truth-telling. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day and celebrating it on the same date Columbus Day is observed is both an exercise in truth-telling about the racist legacy of European settler colonialism and an attempt to acknowledge the past and present contributions of Indigenous Peoples in this nation. Therefore, we urge the Diocese to adopt this resolution celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day as a public witness to our Church's commitment to healing, justice, and reconciliation.