
2019 PRELIMINARY REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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. 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 16, 2019, in the Small Conference Room at Diocesan House, 808 West State Street, Trenton, 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.

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 2019-1:

Subject: A Reaffirmation of the 200th 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.

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. Theo Foley

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.

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 15 members: five members appointed by the Bishop (one of whom shall be chair), five by the Standing Committee, and five by the Diocesan Council; and be it

Further resolved, That the Task Force make progress reports to the 2020 and 2021 Diocesan Conventions, with 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 presented to a Convention for adoption, no later than March of 2022.

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 by continuing the level of financial support allocated in the Special Initiatives funding to ensure that clergy are compensated within these congregations to ensure 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 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 and Convention approved the Special Initiatives funding for clergy compensation to address this critical issue. Some congregations were funded through regional investments, others through the Mission Board.

For congregations eligible for the Special Initiatives grant, they were disbursed over a three-year period with the understanding that congregation viability and vitality had to be demonstrated. The three-year period ended in 2018, the congregations were visited and were deemed to be on the right track with programs of stewardship, 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 this clergy compensation 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.
- B) This resolution additionally recommends that the proceeds from the sale of historically black congregations be placed in a separate fund with a process developed by Diocesan Council for

grant application. This process should consider that the majority of grant applications would be applied to clergy compensation.

Given the critical impact and positive results of this 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 infusion of much-needed funding.