**Report of Province 3 Resolutions Committee**

**April 4, 2022**

The Committee met virtually on March 30 to discuss and vote on several resolutions presented for action by Provincial Synod, including several for presentation to General Convention and action by that body. The Committee conducted subsequent consultations by e-mail.

Part 1 of this report reviews resolutions that the Committee recommends for adoption by Provincial Synod at its annual meeting on May 2, 2022.

Part 2 provides a listing of nineteen resolutions already introduced by General Convention deputies as General Convention resolutions, eighteen of them endorsed by the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). We are grateful for these efforts to address past and present racial injustices in the church and in our society. We very much appreciate the planned attendance of several General Convention deputies who will brief us about these eighteen resolutions and provide further information about these subjects to the Synod and to the General Convention Deputies attending.

1. **Resolutions Presented for Action by Provincial Synod.**
2. **Provincial Funding Resolution.**

The Committee voted to advance a resolution that asks General Convention, in The Episcopal Church budget for the years 2023-2024, to provide for funding for Provinces I through 8 at the level of $10,000 per year per Province. This funding will lighten the financial load of Provincial Apportionments on some of our dioceses and enable better cooperation and sharing of resources across Provincial and diocesan lines.

Province 6 is also presenting a very similar resolution to General Convention and our Provincial Council adopted a similar resolution sent to Executive Council last year. The resulting budget for 2022 from Executive Council included this funding for 2022 and the recommended budget from Executive Council to General Convention for 2023-24 includes the requested funding.

1. **Authorizing Expansion of Executive Committee of Provincial Synod.**

The Committee proposes a resolution to expand the size of the Executive Committee of Provincial Council by authorizing the President to appoint up to three additional members with seat and voice, but not vote, to improve diversity of skills, backgrounds and dioceses represented.

1. **Amend Canon III.9.5(d).**

The resolution, for submission to General Convention, seeks to change the cross-reference and procedure for a member of the clergy to transfer to a Province or Church not in full communion with The Episcopal Church. It would do so by changing the cross-reference to canon III.9.9 as the procedure for release and removal of a priest from ordained ministry, rather than referencing application to become a deacon in Canon III.8.6.

Here is the canonical language showing the change in strikeover and italics:

This provision shall not be used for Priests who seek to enter churches not in full communion with The Episcopal Church or for those who seek transfer to another Province of the Anglican Communion while remaining geographically within the boundaries of The Episcopal Church. In such cases, the provisions of Canon ~~III.8.6~~ ***III.9.9*** shall be followed.

1. **Courtesy Resolution.**

This resolution thanks officers who are completing their service as well as publicly recognizing and thanking ministry coordinators for various ministries.

1. **Resolutions for Informational Briefing.**

The proponents of nineteen resolutions, one from the Diocese of Virginia (C018), and eighteen from the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), D001 through D018, have approached Provincial Synod for endorsement of these resolutions, which are already making their way through General Convention Committees for hearings and revisions.

The Virginia resolution, C018, calls for a study of an expanded Revised Common Lectionary; the eighteen UBE resolutions seek to address multiple issues, some specific to budget funding and some of much broader public policy scope, with an emphasis on racial justice.

A number of these resolutions are already undergoing virtual hearings before General Convention committees. As is true with most proposed General Convention resolutions, it is likely that the wording of these will undergo significant revision before presentation to the House of Deputies and House of Bishops for a vote. The Committee believes it unwise to use our limited Synod time to debate endorsements of resolutions whose language may need significant further refinement to accomplish their admirable objectives.

Instead, the Resolutions Committee believes that the most effective use of Synod time is to hear and discuss the specific objectives and merits of these proposals. That approach will help prepare our General Convention deputies to refine and to evaluate these proposals as they emerge from the appropriate General Convention committees.

Here is the list of resolutions for discussion and the General Convention Committees to which these have been assigned. As an aid to those presenting at Provincial Synod, and to those listening, this report lists some questions and background on these resolutions so that those discussions can be more fruitful.

**C018 Study of Expanded Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings**

Assigned to Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music (Committee 12)

**D001 Funding Chaplaincies at HBCUs at the level of $300,000, split between Voorhees College and St. Augustine’s.**

Assigned to Committee on Evangelism and Church Planting (Committee 11). These two HBCUs are affiliated with The Episcopal Church.

**D002 A Resolution to promote equity and to Reduce differences in Health Outcomes**

Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and United States Policy.

As currently drafted, there is some overlap with Resolutions adopted at prior Conventions that already authorize the Office of Government Relations to advocate for many of these objectives. Thus, for example Resolution C041 from 2018 urges health care as a human right, and D014 highlights the need to eliminate racial disparities in maternal and prenatal health care. Similarly, A092 from 2015 addresses health care for vulnerable populations. The church is also to address environmental racism and its adverse effects on health, according to A011 from 2018. There are many more health and health care resolutions from past conventions; these will need review to determine the extent of additional authority needed for the Office of Government Relations to address the very serious inequities in health care highlighted by the pandemic.

**D003 Resolution for the Creation of a Clergy Retirement Contribution Fund**

**Assigned to Committee 17, Agencies and Boards**. Hearings already held; the Committee may replace this one with multiple resolutions.

**D004 A Resolution for Continued Funding of the Beloved Community**

**Assigned to Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.** This may overlap with the more recent resolution, A125, introduced by Presiding Officers’ Working Group on Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Healing, which provides for a larger expenditure on continuing basis.

**D005** **Resolution for Funding of the Implementation of the Internalized Oppression Curriculum**

**Assigned to Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.** The sponsor needs to provide the curriculum referenced by the resolution or to clarify that the curriculum is still to be developed. Otherwise, the resolution will be subject to a point of order on the floor of the House of Deputies, since resolutions cannot refer to unavailable documents.

**D006 Resolution Establishing Equity in the Awarding of TEC Grants**

**Assigned to Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.** Requires that 25% of TEC grants “be set aside and awarded to congregations or organizations that are predominately made up of people of color.” There will be definitional questions of what congregations and organizations are included among those that will be counted towards the 25%, as well as questions about how to reconcile some of the terms of this resolution with the terms of some of the trusts that provide funding for education and other grants made by Executive Council.

**D007. Resolution to address the issue of Voter Suppression**

**Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and U.S. Policy.** This resolution focuses on state legislation, not federal. It would require TEC to seek repeal of all voter access legislation adopted since 2013. The Office of Government Relations is neither funded nor staffed to work on a state-by-state basis, but rather works at the federal level. In addition, advocating for repeal of all state voting legislation since 2013 would repeal legislation in a number of states that expands voter access, as is the case in Virginia.

**D008 Resolution to Address the Issue of Mass Incarceration**

**Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and U.S. Policy.** Seeks to reduce use of imprisonment and length of mandatory minimum sentences, as well as racial and gender disparities in sentencing. Seeks to automatically seal arrest records and misdemeanor convictions after ten years. Questions about this resolution include what its effects would be on church and school background checks for people working with children, on whether this would apply to those convicted of January 6 Capitol riot offenses, and upon false statement convictions, also a critical part of background checks for fiduciaries who manage church funds.

**D009 Abolition of Private Prisons**

**Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and U.S. Policy.** This resolution would extend current Episcopal Church opposition to private prisons by urging their abolition in favor of government-run penal institutions. The Episcopal Church has already adopted investment guidance that bars investment in companies building and running private prisons. Private prisons generally treat their inmates worse than government-run prisons do, provide less rehabilitative services, and provide less protection for inmate rights to be free from inhumane conditions.

**D010 Endorse Trial Use of the Hymn to Honor Dr. Artemesia Brown.**

**Assigned to Committee 12, Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music.** Lyrics and music are available in the virtual binder. For those not musically gifted or skilled in reading music, it would be helpful to hear a recording of the hymn being performed.

**D011 Remove William Porcher DuBose from Lesser Feasts and Fasts**

**Assigned to Committee 12, Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music**. The proposed removalfrom the calendar would be based on his service as Confederate officer, his birth family’s reported enslavement of over 200 people, and the absence of any reported repentance or apology for such conduct. The resolution also requests additional study on unspecified other commemorations for possible removal, implicitly on similar grounds.

**D012 Bishop Barbara Harris to Be Added to Lesser Feasts and Fasts.**

**Assigned to Committee 12, Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music.** Multiple dioceses are reportedly offering similar resolutions or endorsing this one. One issue is the rule reportedly applied by the Prayer Book committee to wait fifty years after death of the person proposed to be included among Lesser Feasts and Fasts, when Bishop Harris died more recently, March 13, 2020, to all of our regret.

**D013 Establish Lift Every Voice and Sing as the National Hymn**

**Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and U.S. Policy.** Executive Council passed a nearly identical resolution at its June 2021 meeting; LEVAS would NOT replace the Star Spangled Banner as the National Anthem; this seeks to amend Title 36, of the United States Code for this purpose. Presiding Bishop Curry is thought to favor this resolution.

**D014 Encourage Use of Sacred Ground Curriculum**

**Assigned to Committee 14, Christian Formation & Discipleship.**  Sacred Ground is one of the best pieces of work done by TEC in recent decades, an honest and compelling curriculum to address pervasive racism in American society.

**D015. Adopt Emmet Till Anti-lynching Act**

**Assigned to Committee 8, Social Justice and U.S. Policy.** Thankfully, the resolution is moot because Congress has enacted and the President has signed the legislation, making it law.

**D016 Response to TEC’s Racial Audit.**

**Assigned to Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.** The resolution sets forth a variety of specific actions to take to follow up on the findings of the audit. Language on the discernment process that might be read to require specific ethnic makeup of elected bodies (e.g. vestries, standing committees) may need clarification or a change in the canons governing these elected bodies.

**D017 Include Juneteenth in Lesser Feasts and Fasts**

**Assigned to Committee 12, Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music.** In the past, General Convention has adopted resolutions setting standards for changes in the church calendar. More information about how this conforms or departs from any such criteria may be helpful.

**D018. Permanent Funding for Deputies of Color In-Person Pre-General Convention Meeting.**

**Assigned to Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.** It is unclear how this resolution ties in with the proposed budget for 2023-2024 as proposed by Executive Council, or by what mechanism “permanent funding” is to be assured.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Christopher Hart, Deputy, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce, Vice President, Province III
Mr. Russell Randle, Lay Representative, Executive Council
The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop, Central Pennsylvania
Mr. Eddie Vance, Deputy, Easton