

*Requires a vote by orders.*

## **167G PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA**

1 **RESOLVED**, that Section 4(a) of Article III of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of  
2 Iowa be amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 4(a). The representation of Congregations in the Convention shall be determined by the number  
4 of communicants in good and regular standing in the Congregation. Each Congregation with fewer  
5 than 50 such communicants shall be entitled to two delegates. Each Congregation with at least 50  
6 but fewer than 100 such communicants shall be entitled to three delegates. Each Congregation with  
7 at least 100 but fewer than 175 such communicants shall be entitled to four delegates, with one  
8 additional delegate being added for each additional increment of 75 communicants thereafter.

*Convention adjourned before dealing with 168F.*

## **168F PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CANON 2 OF THE CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF IOWA**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that canon 2 (1) of the Canons of the Diocese of Iowa be amended as follows:  
2 CANON 2 OF LAY MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION

3 Sec. 1. Lay Delegates from Parishes, to either Annual or Special Convention, shall be elected by the  
4 Vestry or Bishop's Committee, at a meeting held as provided in Article III, Sec. 3 of the Constitution.  
5 *This election shall take place at the Vestry meeting next following the Annual Meeting. The delegates*  
6 *(and alternates) so elected shall serve at any regular and special Conventions held prior to the next*  
7 *Annual Parish Meeting). A vacancy in the delegation shall be filled as provided for in Article III, Sec. 3*  
8 *of the Constitution.*

### **169-A**

#### **Resolution for Continued Funding of The Beloved Community**

1 Resolved, That this 169th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa adopts the following resolution  
2 and hereby directs the Secretary of this Convention to forward this resolution to the Secretary  
3 of General Convention of The Episcopal Church as a duly authorized resolution from this  
4 Diocese; and be it further

5 Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be directed to forward a copy of this resolution  
6 to the Resolutions Committee of Province VI for consideration by the Provincial Synod on  
7 February 26, 2022.

8 Resolved, the House concurring, That this 80th General Convention request that the Joint  
9 Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$2.0 million for the triennium for  
10 the continued implementation of additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to racial  
11 injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers for the  
12 implementation of this resolution; and be it further

13 Resolved, That such monies shall again be utilized exclusively to make grants to agencies and  
14 dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of such  
15 programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of Racial Reconciliation. Such activities  
16 may include, but not be limited to, speaker series, sacred conversations, Racial Reconciliation  
17 Workshops, and other activities that promote the purposes of this resolution; and be it further

18 Resolved, That this General Convention directs, consistent with established policies and  
19 procedures, that The Executive Council shall again be charged with the establishment of all  
20 criteria, and procedures associated with the awarding of such grants, and that such criteria and  
21 procedures be established as soon as practical, after the conclusion of this 80th General  
22 Convention such Committee or Office that Executive Council shall designate with  
23 implementation of the grants shall have published the criteria and be ready to accept  
24 applications submitted for such grants, and that the entities receiving such grants shall report  
25 back to the Committee or Office that Executive Council shall have designated on the usage of its  
26 grant, and that the Executive Council shall report back to the General Convention in 2024 on  
27 the usage of the \$2.0 million allocation.

**Explanation:**

The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognized, by the adoption of Resolution 2015-C019, that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives—including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, that the abomination and sin of racism continues to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity. And, in the wake of the brutal, overtly racist murders of nine of our Christian brothers and sisters of Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015; numerous inexcusable deaths of unarmed black men and youth at the hands of law enforcement personnel; and the moral atrocity of mass incarceration in which a hugely disproportionate number of persons of color have been unfairly caught in the net of an unjust criminal justice system, the 78th General Convention established as a top priority of The Episcopal Church in the upcoming triennium the challenging and difficult work of racial reconciliation through prayer, teaching, engagement, and action.

2015-C019 charged the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies, Vice President of the House of Bishops, and Vice President of the House of Deputies to lead, direct, and be present to assure and account for the Church's work of racial justice and reconciliation. They articulated a framework for that work, entitled *Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice*, which directs additional work in the area of racial reconciliation.

As we head into this next triennium, we are faced with the realities of a resurgence of white supremacy, the increased normalization of personal and institutionalized fear of people of color, and overtly dehumanizing policies being enacted on refugees and immigrants—in addition to all of the injustices that prompted the 78th General Convention to pass 2015-C019. As the 79th General Convention did by the adoption of Resolution D002, which allocated \$750,000 for the purposes herein, we again call upon our Church to make an investment of significant resources to hone in on and build capacity among our current and future leaders within The Episcopal Church in order to impact the practices of telling the truth, repairing the breach, practicing Jesus’ way of love, and proclaiming the dream of Beloved Community. In order to continue to make our commitment to Becoming Beloved Community a reality in a world that desperately needs it, local churches, dioceses, and agencies must continue to have the resources to engage this work in their contexts. We believe that these grants will continue to make it possible for churches, dioceses, and other agencies of The Episcopal Church to continue to live into the commitment of the Church to Becoming Beloved Community in new and life- giving ways. In the same way that communities of practice have developed from the Genesis Church Planting grants that were given in the 2015-2018 triennium, Resolution D002 made it possible for a network of grant recipients to share best practices, resources, etc. among themselves and with the whole church. Provinces and dioceses that have been unable to afford to provide the canonically mandated trainings have been able to do so. These grants have also made it possible for the development of much-needed culturally appropriate and relevant resources that have been broadly shared with the church through the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

Submitted by: the Beloved Community Initiative Diocesan Advisory Group – Rev. Kim Turner Baker, Ms. Ellen Bruckner, Ms. Aileen Chang-Matus, Ms. Donna Prime, Rev. Ruth Ratliff, Dr. John Stewart, Rev. Meg Wagner, Dr. Donna Wong-Gibbons

## **169-B**

### **Resolution to Encourage Usage of The Sacred Ground Curriculum**

- 1 Resolved, That this 169th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa adopts the following resolution
- 2 and hereby directs the Secretary of this Convention to forward this resolution to the Secretary
- 3 of General Convention of The Episcopal Church as a duly authorized resolution from this
- 4 Diocese; and be it further
  
- 5 Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be directed to forward a copy of this resolution
- 6 to the Resolutions Committee of Province VI for consideration by the Provincial Synod on
- 7 February 26, 2022.
  
- 8 Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that this 80th General
- 9 Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby directs and encourages the continued church-wide
- 10 usage of the Sacred Ground Curriculum.

**Explanation:**

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is a 10-part film-and-reading-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, which encourages small groups to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism. While it is purposely designed to help white people talk with other white people, the carefully selected collection of readings and films are designed to be enlightening and transformative for all races.

More than a teaching tool, Sacred Ground aims to call those who take the curriculum into intentional, sustained circles in which they pray, watch, share their own stories, reflect, wonder, reckon, heal, and commit to action. It is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community- where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God.

On April 29, 2021, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry conducted a virtual gathering to discuss the Sacred Ground Curriculum, which was attended by over 4,000 individuals. During the event it was revealed that the curriculum was being used by 92 dioceses, that there were 1,712 circles in existence, which meant that over 13,000 people have participated in the curriculum in the little over two years since it was first launched. The success of the curriculum in bringing about constructive dialogue on issues of race and racism is obvious.

As was stated earlier, the curriculum was primarily designed for white people; however, in September of 2019, The Union of Black Episcopalians partnered with others, including the creator of the Sacred Ground Curriculum, Katrina Browne, and was awarded a Becoming Beloved Community Grant, to identify best practices and methods (the "Best Practices Project") for people of color to participate in the curriculum. This was necessary because the curriculum found a place in multicultural and interracial settings where participants sought fresh and timely information to enhance their awareness of racial dynamics. The Best Practices Project was designed to examine the Sacred Ground curriculum and structure through the lens of Episcopalians of color to see how it might be strengthened to ensure its proliferation, effectiveness, and continued use. The aim was to develop non-intrusive ways in which communities of color may affirm the work of white circle groups as well as hold those circle groups accountable for gathering again after course completion and examining such questions with brothers and sisters of color: (i) Where do we go from here; and (ii) How might we take what we have learned and put it into action?

While we affirm our support of our brothers and sisters who have engaged in the journey, our hope is that the continued church-wide usage of the Sacred Ground Curriculum will lead to fresh conversations on dismantling racism and allow for the creation of the Beloved Community.

Submitted by: the Beloved Community Initiative Diocesan Advisory Group – Rev. Kim Turner Baker, Ms. Ellen Bruckner, Ms. Aileen Chang-Matus, Ms. Donna Prime, Rev. Ruth Ratliff, Dr. John Stewart, Rev. Meg Wagner, Dr. Donna Wong-Gibbons

## 169-C

### Resolution Regarding Inclusion of Juneteenth in Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar

1 Resolved, That this 169th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa adopts the following resolution  
2 and hereby directs the Secretary of this Convention to forward this resolution to the Secretary  
3 of General Convention of The Episcopal Church as a duly authorized resolution from this  
4 Diocese; and be it further

5 Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be directed to forward a copy of this resolution  
6 to the Resolutions Committee of Province VI for consideration by the Provincial Synod on  
7 February 26, 2022.

8 Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that this 80th General Convention of  
9 The Episcopal Church hereby directs the inclusion of the Juneteenth Feast Day in *Lesser Feasts*  
10 *and Fasts*; and be it further Resolved, that this 80th General Convention approve the  
11 appropriate proper to be prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

#### Explanation:

The Emancipation Proclamation outlawing slavery was issued in 1863, however, it only freed slaves in the Confederate States. It took two and a half years, until June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas read the General Order announcing that the Civil War was over and slavery had been abolished. [1] The General Order Number 3 read: “The people of Texas are informed that . . . all slaves are free. . . .” [2]

June 19th, known as Juneteenth, celebrates the end of slavery and is a symbolic date of freedom for African Americans. Often referred to as this country’s Second Independence Day, Juneteenth is observed as a state holiday in 15 states and the District of Columbia. [3] Thirty-two additional states recognize Juneteenth through community service and celebration, many of which are considering making Juneteenth a state holiday. The annual celebration of Juneteenth is a time of reflection, learning, self-assessment, and healing. The recent passage of The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act made Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Today, the celebration of Juneteenth has deep and lasting meaning for the Black community as we continue to fight for justice and freedom. We have witnessed a rise in racist and oppressive actions and behaviors that directly conflict with our beliefs and values as Christians. There is a misconception that slavery no longer exists in this nation and that everyone enjoys freedom. However, “More than 400,000 people could be living in ‘modern slavery’ in the US, a condition

of servitude broadly defined in a new study as forced and state-imposed labor, sexual servitude and forced marriage.” [6] The majority of those who live in “modern slavery” today are people of color, predominately Black and Brown folks. [7]

It is vital as Episcopalians that we join together in unity to be ever vigilant in fighting for the precious meaning of freedom of all people by celebrating Juneteenth as a Feast Day.

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[1] Congressional Research Service Juneteenth: Fact Sheet, dated June 3, 2020, viewed 8 August 2020, p 1 <<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44865.pdf>>

[2] Ibid

[3] Ibid

[4] Rebecca Shabad, Senators propose bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, NBC News (June 19, 2020). <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-democrats-introduce-bill-make-juneteenth-federal-holiday-n1231550> (August 27, 2020)

[5] Juneteenth.com organization, Have a Happy Juneteenth, viewed 8 August 2020, <<https://www.juneteenth.com/>>

[6] Helmore, E. 2019 The Guardian: Over 400,000 people living in ‘modern slavery’ in US, report finds, viewed 8 August 2020, <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/19/us-modern-slavery-report-global-slavery-index>>

[7] Walk Free, Global Slavery Index, 2018 United States Report, viewed 8 August 2020, pp.2, 5 <<https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/country-studies/united-states/>>

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