



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

## RESOLUTION ADDRESSING RACISM WITHIN TITLE IV COMPLAINTS AND PROCESSES

**Submitted by:** Submitters: The Rev. Whitney Altopp, The Rev. Amjad Samuel, The Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, The Rev. Darryl Burke, Ms. Julie Ayer, The Rev. Diane M. Peterson, The Rev. Shariya Molegoda, The Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Ms. Audrey Hupp

RESOLVED that the 237th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut authorize a task force to study the potential impact of biases with respect to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and especially race in complaints brought through the TEC Title IV process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention direct the bishops to create such a task force whose membership will consist of a majority of clergy and laity of color, in order to study and make specific recommendations to the 238th Convention.

### EXPLANATION:

General Convention has grappled with issues of racism and discrimination for decades, and much of its reconciliation work today is rooted in actions of the 70th General Convention, held in 1991 in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona controversy compelled the church to commit to a long-term examination of its own racism, and it produced an audit of General Convention membership that found a "clear pattern of institutional racism" in the church. This resolution addresses the potential misuse of Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, recognizing that Clergy of Color are particularly vulnerable to unwarranted attacks. Therefore, this resolution seeks to "try on" new ways of deepening this work within the context of Title IV.

### HOW DOES THIS RESOLUTION FURTHER GOD'S MISSION OF RESTORATION AND RECONCILIATION WITH ALL OF CREATION?

On April 19, 2021, The Episcopal Church publicly released a 72-page report, three years in the making, that confirmed that the church's leadership, like its membership, is overwhelmingly white, and it found that people of color have often felt marginalized, notwithstanding the church's professed commitment to racial reconciliation. This resolution seeks to address other patterns cited by the report which include racial power imbalances in the church, the often hidden complexity and variety of racism, and doubts about the church's commitment to the work of creating Beloved Community.



#### REQUIREMENTS TO IMPLEMENT:

There are no costs or materials or time required to implement this resolution, other than the time contributed by members of the committee.