

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: #1

RESOLUTION: FOLLOWING MOTHER EMANUEL'S EXAMPLE OF LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

RESOLVED, that The Episcopal Church of South Carolina, meeting in convention on November 14, 2015,

1. urges all member congregations within The Episcopal Church in South Carolina to continue to pray for the families of Mother Emanuel who have lost their family members in this tragic event;
2. urges all member congregations to provide all possible logistical and spiritual support to Mother Emanuel as it heals;
3. urges all member congregations to work within their communities to seek opportunities for ending the scourge of racism that affects our culture; and
4. urges all member congregations to follow the example of Christ and of Mother Emanuel through lives of love and forgiveness.

Explanation:

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, with the rest of the nation, was shaken by the tragic deaths of nine members of the Emanuel African **Methodist** Episcopal Church of Charleston on June 17, 2015. It has been credibly asserted that the **murder** of the church members, all of whom were African Americans, **was** perpetrated by a person desiring to instigate conflict based on race.

The family members of those murdered on that day of sadness openly and lovingly forgave the person **who confessed to** the crime. Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, known lovingly as "Mother Emanuel," by opening its doors and its hearts to all **people**, has been a living guide to the trust in God that all Christians who wish to walk in Jesus' footsteps would follow. Through this tragedy, we are learning of the brotherhood and sisterhood of all peoples, regardless of race, faith or other human condition.

Mover: The Rev. Rick Lindsey, convener, Southern Deanery of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

RESOLVED, that The Episcopal Church in South Carolina commit itself to ongoing training, community dialogue, internal examination, and seek to establish partnerships with other churches and institutions to strive for racial justice and reconciliation by reforming patterns of racial prejudice and injustice wherever they are found; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the planning for this work be entrusted to the Diocesan Council to develop and promote plans and programs for achieving racial justice and reconciliation for this diocese and all communities in it; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Diocesan Council regularly report to this Convention and other elected governing bodies of this diocese on the plans it has developed and implemented to achieve and enhance racial justice and reconciliation, and to make recommendations for future plans and programs for these purposes.

Explanation:

Many recent events in our country, including the tragic murders at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, have exposed our nation's need to continue to struggle to achieve racial justice and reconciliation.

It has become apparent that the social tension between races has highlighted the ongoing need for immediate and enhanced self-examination, reflection, and action by all Christian bodies to promote reconciliation by and between all people.

The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, at its meeting in 2015 at Salt Lake City, adopted Resolution A182 that urges all dioceses of our Church to employ education, community dialogue, internal examination, and partnerships with other churches and institutions to respond to all forms of racial injustice, and to implement programs to achieve these goals. And, our Presiding Bishop has called us to engage in a fight for racial reconciliation. This resolution is for the purpose of establishing a way for our Diocese to respond to this call.

Mover: Mr. Thomas S. Tisdale, Chancellor, The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3:
RESOLUTION FOR THE MINISTRY OF
THE MOST REVEREND KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI

RESOLVED, Upon the occasion of her retirement as the 26th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, also known as The Episcopal Church,

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina wishes to express its profound gratitude for the exemplary ministry of The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Explanation:

During her administration she has traveled to our diocese no less than three times, leading us by her skill and grace as we continue to be the Episcopal Church in this part of South Carolina.

Her unfailing love and unending support of us will continue to be a source of strength and renewal.

As she transitions to her next part of her journey in Christ, we wish her to know we are exceedingly grateful for her time of service. She does not lead from behind, but as a most faithful example of Christ's mission to us all.

We ask that the Secretary of the Convention to send her and the Executive Council a copy of this resolution.

Movers:

Rev. William J. Keith, Rector, Holy Cross Faith Memorial

Michael G. Thomas, Holy Cross Faith Memorial

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4:

RESOLUTION UPON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. CLEVELAND SELLERS, PRESIDENT OF VOORHEES COLLEGE

RESOLVED, that The Episcopal Church of South Carolina, meeting in convention on November 14, 2015,

wishes to express its profound gratitude to Dr. Cleveland Sellers for the example his life has been for all of us, and to express thanksgiving for a life lived with courage, integrity and grace.

And we ask that the Secretary of the Convention send him and the Executive Council a copy of this resolution.

Explanation:

Cleveland Sellers worked as an advocate for justice and human rights, risking his life by marching across Mississippi, enduring the tension of segregation and the fury of oppression, being wounded and serving seven months in jail as a result of leading protests against segregation in Orangeburg, for which he received a full pardon twenty-five years later.

These experiences were the catalyst for a life-changing decision to complete his education by earning his bachelor's degree from Howard University, a master's degree in education from Harvard University, and a doctorate in education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Sellers then moved his civil rights battle to the classroom by educating young people, serving at the University of South Carolina both as director of the African-American Studies Program and as a teacher in the Department of History, before becoming President of Voorhees College in 2008.

He has faithfully served The Episcopal Church as warden of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Denmark, South Carolina, as a board member of the Episcopal Church Foundation, and as President of Voorhees College for more than seven years.

He will retire as President of Voorhees College at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Movers:

Resolutions Committee

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5:

RESOLUTION FOR AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLVED, that the following “Alcohol and Drug Policy for the Episcopal Church in South Carolina” be adopted by each parish church and worshipping community of the Diocese.

1. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws should be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors, as well as any chemical usages other than alcohol that are also clearly controlled under the same laws.
3. Some congregations may decide not to serve alcohol at events or gatherings. Others may decide to permit a limited use of alcoholic beverages at church-sponsored events. Both can be appropriate if approached mindfully.
4. Whenever alcohol is served, the Rector, Vicar, or Priest-in-Charge must appoint an adult who must not drink any alcoholic beverages during the time that they are overseeing the event that includes the serving of alcohol. During the event, that person must monitor all those showing signs of intoxication. Should someone become even mildly intoxicated it is the responsibility of the person designated to oversee the event to arrange responsible transportation home for that person. In addition, if hard liquor is served, a “certified” server is required. Whether consumed in glass or in bottles, alcoholic beverages should be served rather than left on tables for self-pour.
5. When serving alcoholic beverages at congregational events, (whether on or off church property) the presence of minors is strongly discouraged. Should minors be present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
6. Alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol must be clearly labeled as such.
7. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
8. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events (meaning ministries inside or outside the church proper) should not be publicized as an attraction of the event, e.g. “Wine and Cheese Reception,” “Cocktail Party,” and “Wine and Beer Tasting.”
9. Food must always be served when alcohol is present, and when the event is concluded all alcoholic beverages are to be removed from the church premises as soon as possible afterwards.

10. Outside groups or organizations sponsoring an activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the Clergy and/or the Vestry. Such groups or organizations must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired. Consulting with liability insurance carriers is advised.

11. Recognizing the effects of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted, including Vestry meetings, and the meetings of authorized committees or sub-committees of the church.

12. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse.

13. We encourage clergy to acknowledge the efficacy of receiving the sacrament in one kind.

14. This policy should be visibly posted in all church kitchens.

Explanation:

The House of Bishops concurring, the 78th General Convention recognized that the field of substance use disorders and addiction has advanced substantially since 1985 when the 68th General Convention passed the current policy, acknowledging that alcohol use, addiction and recovery all involve biological, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions. Recent developments within the body of the Diocese of Maryland caused that diocese and all dioceses to re-examine their policies regarding the use of alcoholic beverages as well as the use of any and all substances that impair the normal functioning of human beings and, in doing so, the House of Bishops concurring, passed Resolution A159 under the title “The Role of the Church in the Culture of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse.”

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina assumes equal concern for those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse and seeks to ameliorate those concerns on a diocesan-wide basis for all parishes and congregations of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina by its creation of an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Sub-Committee of the Diocesan Council.

Movers:

Sub-Committee of Diocesan Council: The Rev. Dr. David Williams, Chair; the Rev. Faith Bledsoe, the Rev. Rick Lindsay, Mrs. Barbara Mann, the Rev. John Zahl