



THE 201st CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 4 ESTABLISHMENT OF A RACIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

RE: Racial Justice Council

SUBMITTED BY: Justice Commission of the Diocese of Maine

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1 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church in Maine recognize
2 that many Episcopalians find it challenging to understand or know how to respond to 21st
3 century systemic racial injustices that still occur in multiple contexts including but not limited to
4 education, employment, housing, health care, voting rights, banking, immigration, policing,
5 courts, and prisons, etc.; and be it further

6 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention affirms that the Gospel and our Baptismal
7 Covenant call individuals and churches to find more effective and productive ways to respond
8 to racial injustice in Maine as we love our neighbors as ourselves, respect the dignity of every
9 human being, and transform unjust structures of society; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention urge the Church at every level to increase the
11 number of dialogues about systemic racial injustice it has with local, state, and national bodies
12 within the public and private spheres and that these dialogues be used to identify, examine,
13 and offer correctives to policies and practices within and among these bodies that result in
14 systemic racial disparities and injustices, and be it further

15 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Convention urge all congregations to engage in appropriate actions
16 and responses in order to be ready and able to listen to diverse neighbors to develop
17 reconciling relationships; such options might include (a) listening campaigns in local
18 communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of
19 a different race or culture (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) neighborhood prayer
20 events, (d) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth telling, healing, and
21 action, (e) encouraging individual and corporate confessional self-reflection, (f) and others
22 with which leaders of the church are familiar; and be it further

23 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention endorse the establishment of the Racial
24 Justice Council as part of the Justice Commission for the purpose of developing resources to
25 support the ongoing ministry of Racial Reconciliation in the Diocese of Maine.

EXPLANATION

The Racial Justice Council was born of the Justice Commission and solely focused on anti-racism work. Everyone the bishop appointed to the Commission has expressed their interest to focus on the work of racial reconciliation. It will hold the vision of the beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored, protected, and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we keep one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.