



THE 201st CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 6 SUPPORT FOR THE COVENANT OF ANTI-RACISM

RE: Covenant of Anti-Racism

SUBMITTED BY: Justice Commission of the Diocese of Maine

CONTACT PERSON: Rev. Eleanor Prior, Chair, (518) 610-3190, eprior@cathedralofstluke.org

1 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church in Maine recognizes
2 that the sin of racism disrupts the harmony and oneness that God intends for humanity.
3 Racism is dangerous, divisive, and damaging. Racism purports that some are deserving of
4 dignity over others and disregards the image and likeness of God found in every human being;
5 and be it further

6 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention affirms we are created in the image of God;
7 therefore, to engage in racism of any form is to refuse to acknowledge the image of God in the
8 other and the stranger. The fact that we were created in the image of God should remind us
9 that each person is a living expression of God that must be respected, preserved, and never
10 dishonored; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED** that throughout our history, courageous people of God have taken the risk of
12 standing up and speaking out with the least and the lowest. God now challenges us to become
13 courageous people who seek to create sacred communities of hope by dismantling the sin of
14 racism. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love, moving beyond
15 ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention authorize a statement of support for the
17 authors of "A Covenant to Root Out Racism"; and be it further

18 **RESOLVED** that the Justice Commission communicate this support by November 15, 2020, and be
19 it further

20 **RESOLVED** that the 201st Diocesan Convention requests the Racial Justice Council to consider
21 additions to this Covenant specific to our congregations for consideration at the 202nd Diocesan
22 Convention.

EXPLANATION

A covenant is more than an agreement. A covenant is a relationship of commitment between God and God's people. In response to the death of George Floyd and others in police custody, the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson wrote an anti-racism covenant. The document includes our laments (the things we confess to doing wrong) and our covenant (the promises we make to do better).



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Several other bishops in the Episcopal Church, including Bishop Thomas James Brown, and ELCA are supporting the Missouri bishop in this action. As Bishop Deon said, this is an opportunity to move beyond a "statement" and engage in meaningful action to end the sin of racism. "Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen." -1 John 4:20. View the [Anti-Racism Covenant](#) here.