

Originator: The Bishop H. Irving Mayson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, The Reverend Ronald C. Byrd, Sr. - President, The Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr. Vice-President

Subject: Compliance with Resolution 123-A (75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Resolved, that the 174th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan be in full compliance with Resolution 123-A as adopted by the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan acknowledge our complicity and involvement in the institution of slavery and its aftermath; its influence on church and society; and it's support of de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination for at least a century after slavery was formally abolished in this country; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan initiate a process to (a) make a public declaration that human slavery is sin and a fundamental betrayal of the humanity of all persons involved; (b) publicly condemn human slavery in its past and present practices; (c) acknowledge, express our regret, and apologize for any support, justification, and participation in the racist, injurious, and discriminatory practices that still continue; (d) urgently initiate a comprehensive program and to collect and document detailed information on the complicity of the Diocese of Michigan and the Episcopal Church at large in the institution of slavery and to forward that information to the National Anti-Racism Committee for inclusion in future reports; and (e) to report to the diocese, the findings of work along with recommendations on how we in the Diocese of Michigan can be "the repairer of the breach" (Isaiah 58:12), both materially and relationally, and achieve the on-going spiritual healing and reconciliation that will lead us to a new life in Christ; and be it further

Resolved, that the 174th annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan invite and empower representatives of the Bishop H. Irving Mayson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians; the (Diocesan) Committee to End Racism; the deputation to the 75th General Convention of

38 the Episcopal Church; and Covenant 5 Justice and Peace Ministry to
39 coordinate efforts to plan, and implement associated activities and events
40 with the consent of the our Diocesan Bishop; and be it further
41

42 *Resolved*, that this convention ask our bishop to name a Day of Repentance
43 and on that day to hold a Service of Repentance at the Cathedral Church of
44 St. Paul's.
45

46 RATIONALE

47
48 The Church is called to be an agent of reconciliation and change. That call
49 is on-going and from time to time needs to be offered repeatedly and in
50 different ways to accommodate the growth and changes in the make-up of
51 this Body of Christ.
52

53 This resolution is one of the most comprehensive attempts offered by The
54 Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. It acknowledges that reconciliation is often
55 times an on-going process and necessary to deter the people of God from
56 repeating past sinful actions.
57

58 The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal church declared
59 unequivocally that the institution of slavery in the United States and
60 anywhere else in the world, based as it is on "ownership" of some persons
61 by other persons, was and is a sin and a fundamental betrayal of the
62 humanity of all persons who were involved, a sin that continues to plague
63 our common life in the Church and our culture; and has begun to
64 acknowledge its history of participation in this sin and the deep and lasting
65 injury which the institution of slavery and its aftermath has inflicted on
66 society and on the church. The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is called to
67 do the same.
68

69 On October 3-4, 2008, the Episcopal Church began a process in which its
70 regret for (a) lending the institution of slavery its support and justification
71 based on Scripture, and (b) for its support of de jure and de facto
72 segregation and discrimination for at least a century after slavery was
73 formally abolished in this country was beginning to be made known. The
74 Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is called to do the same.
75

76 A diocesan Day of Repentance will begin a process that will result in an

77 apology for our complicity in and the injury done by the institution of
78 slavery and its aftermath with the prayerfully expectant hope that this
79 diocese will repent of this sin and ask God's grace and forgiveness.
80

81 The overwhelmingly affirmative vote for Resolution 123-A by both the
82 House of Deputies and the House of Bishops of the 75th General Convention
83 of the Episcopal Church empowered the Executive Council to **urgently**
84 initiate a comprehensive program and to urge every diocese to collect and
85 document during this triennium detailed information in its community on (a)
86 the complicity of the Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery; and to
87 direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to monitor this program and to report
88 to Executive Council each year by March 31st on the progress in each
89 diocese. The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is called to implement the
90 same.

91
92 To enable this denomination and this diocese, as a people of God to make a
93 full, faithful, and informed accounting of our history, the 75th General
94 Convention of the Episcopal Church directed the Committee on Anti-
95 Racism to study and report to Executive Council by March 31, 2008 (which
96 is in turn to report to the 76th General Convention) on how the Church can
97 be "the repairer of the breach" (Isaiah 58:12), both materially and
98 relationally, and achieve the spiritual healing and reconciliation that will
99 lead us to a new life in Christ.

100
101 To mark the commencement of this program, the Most Reverend Katherine
102 Jefferts - Schori was requested to name a Day of Repentance and on that day
103 to hold a Service of Repentance at the National Cathedral, **and requested**
104 **each Diocese to hold a similar service.** This service was held on October
105 3-4, 2008 at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Diocese
106 of Michigan is called to do likewise.