

2017 Resolution II: Confronting Hate, Racism and Poverty in the Diocese of Oregon

RESOLVED: That the 129th Convention of the Diocese of Oregon declares that it stands firmly against the evil of racism, the divisiveness of hate, and the debilitating effects of poverty. Further, we strive to listen to the heartbeat of God in every human being respecting the rights of all people and continually to seek justice, peace, and dignity for all, proclaiming that love is more powerful than hate. Accordingly, be it further

RESOLVED: That the 129th Convention of the Diocese of Oregon joins the community of faith in expressing our prayers and condolences to the families and friends of those who have been victims of hate murders, such as those events at a community college in Roseburg, a bank in Woodburn, and on a light rail train in Portland. We recognize that wherever hate is not challenged, no one is safe. As a church, we must not stand idly by in the face of intolerance, bigotry, bullying, racism, or xenophobia in our schools, workplaces, houses of worship and public spaces. Twice in our collects for social justice we ask God to *Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression* (BCP p 209, 260). And be it further

RESOLVED: That as Delegates we commit to proclaiming our baptismal vows at our Annual Convention seeking God's help to strive for justice, peace, and dignity. And be it further

RESOLVED: That each parish ensure that all leaders complete Diocesan anti-racism workshops. And be it further

RESOLVED: That the Diocese direct the convening of a task force to develop and disseminate best practices for feeding the hungry as exemplified by the many excellent programs in our parishes and to report these findings to the 2018 Convention. And be it further

RESOLVED: That individual parishes consider organizing justice-centered youth missions to inner cities and rural areas experiencing homelessness, poverty, and addiction as appropriate. And be it further

RESOLVED: That the Convention creates a Commission for Sanctuary to provide guidance on implementing the Biblical imperative to welcome the stranger, building on the groundwork of St. Michael and All Angels (Portland), and to report these findings to the 2018 Convention.

Submitted by: James Baxendale, President of the Columbia Convocation; Mic Fleming, Member, Trinity Cathedral; The Rev. Steve Norcross, Assisting Priest, St. John the Baptist, Portland; Ian Cartwright, M.D., Clergy of the Vestry, Ascension, Portland; The Rev. Esme Jo Culver, Priest-in-Charge, St. Aidan's, Gresham

Action of Convention: ADOPTED