

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 146th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK

The Resolutions Committee met on December 19th, 2019 via conference call to review and consider the resolutions submitted by the deadline of November 15, 2019. The texts of the resolutions are enclosed.

There will be hearings on all resolutions at the Convention on Friday, January 31, 2020 beginning at 5:15pm. Location will be announced in the Convention Registration Day Packets. The Resolutions are tentatively scheduled for debate during the afternoon business session on Saturday, February 1st, 2020.

Members of the Resolutions Committee are:

Thomas Bisdale Esq., Grace Church, Westwood [Chair]
The Rev. Kevin PJ Coffey, SCP, Church of the Atonement, Fair Lawn
Sandra Bonnick, Esq., St. Paul's Church, Englewood
The Rev. Deacon Deborah Drake, Deacon
The Rev. Sylvester Ekunwe, St. Andrew's Church, Newark
Ms. Michele Simon, St. Paul's Church, Englewood
Ms. Patricia Yankus, St. Paul's Church, Paterson

Diane Sammons, Chancellor [Ex-officio]
John A. King, Secretary of Convention [Ex-officio]

Resolutions for the 146th Convention:

2020_AC146_01 • Implementing Required Anti-Sexism Training

Resolutions submitted, but not offered on the floor by Committee:

2020_AC146_02 • Diocese of Newark to join Empower New Jersey

RESOLUTIONS – 146AC-R04

2020_AC146_01

RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING REQUIRED ANTI-SEXISM TRAINING

Resolved, that the 146th Convention of the Diocese of Newark implement a three year window for all those required to take the Anti-Sexism Training. Extensions may be granted by the Bishop's office for extenuating circumstances on an individual basis. Those entering the diocese during this three year window will also have to complete the training in this period, or within two years, whichever is longer.

During this phase-in period, completion of this training will not be considered with regard to eligibility for diocesan and church positions, but will be so once this window is closed. The three year period will begin immediately following this 146th Convention, and conclude at the opening of the 149th Diocesan Convention in 2023.

The Anti-Sexism Task Force will offer the training twice each year during this implementation timeframe.

Supporting Information

At the 144th Diocesan Convention, resolution 144AC-R04 was passed, requiring that the Anti-Sexism Task Force, created by that same resolution, be required develop a training program that will be required for all clergy, all lay persons elected to leadership in the Diocese, diocesan search committees, and that will be encouraged for use by all congregational search committees. That training program has been developed and tested, and is now ready for implementation. As it will be required, a phase-in period was needed to allow everyone time to complete the training. Training registration, certification, and tracking will be done by the diocesan staff, in coordination with the Anti-Sexism Task Force, in the same way it is done now for the Anti-Racism Training and Namaste. Additionally, the original resolution (144AC-R04) did not add the changed requirement to the diocesan canons, so this resolution addresses that omission.

The training includes thoughtful discussion, interactive exercises, videos, and presentations. The format is a single day, with a small amount of pre-work in the form of readings and surveys, and will be offered twice/year initially to allow all to complete the requirement within the timeframe proposed by this resolution. One of the two yearly offerings will be at Episcopal House, with the other being at a satellite location, to allow for easy access by those further away from Newark.

Subsequent trainings for those who have completed this initial requirement are being planned, and it is hoped that to produce them as modular courses that can be done online, or in short interactive and easy to access sessions.

Submitted By:

The Anti-Sexism Task Force

Contact: The Rev. Diana Wilcox or Ms. Laura Russell, Co-Chairs

Resolution Submitted; Not Offered

Diocese of Newark to join Empower New Jersey

RESOLVED, That this 146th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark approve the Episcopal Diocese of Newark joining the coalition Empower New Jersey by the end of February 2020 as one of the partner members to support the call to place an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel projects in the state of New Jersey; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all congregations and other faith communities of the Diocese reexamine their stewardship practices on the climate and our environment, and consider joining the coalition Empower New Jersey.

Sponsors:

Molly Williams, St. Luke’s, Montclair, NJ

Kayode Oyegbite, St. Luke’s, Montclair, NJ

The Rev. John Mennell, St. Luke’s, Montclair, NJ

On behalf of

The Climate Committee of St. Luke’s, Montclair, NJ

Supporting Information:

Impacts of global climate change are already affecting the US, as clearly evidenced by the growing number of intense wildfire seasons, droughts, heatwaves, polar vortexes, and floods that the country has been experiencing, and that these impacts will only get worse in the future unless urgent action is taken to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

New Jersey’s average temperature has climbed by close to 2 degrees Celsius since 1895 — double the average for the Lower 48 states. Other impacts include sea level rise, increased storm runoff, dangerous algal blooms in lakes, saltwater incursion into fresh water supplies, more frequent and more severe storms, and worse air pollution, including ground-level ozone.

The Resolution Committee voted unanimously to not offer this resolution on the floor of Convention. (Section VII.E of the Rules of Order)

Rationale:

While the committee did agree that environmental issues are serious and worthy of the attention and of participation of the Diocese in the conversation, the resolution was deemed vague as to what was expected of the Diocese by joining Empower New Jersey and the specifics of positions it proposes to endorse. For instance, would a “moratorium on fossil fuel projects” include projects to lessen the environmental impact of existing facilities? The Resolution as written would appear to offer a blank check endorsement by the Diocese of all initiatives of this independent coalition whether or not a particular initiative aligns with our values as a Diocese.