

The 144th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

Subject of the Resolution: Furthering the Jesus Movement in Western Michigan

Submitting Committee or Group: General Convention Deputation

Be it resolved, that this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan is committed to the priorities of the Jesus Movement as articulated by the Presiding Officers of The Episcopal Church at the 79th General Convention, namely racial reconciliation, the care of creation, and evangelism, and be it further Resolved, that this Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan recognizes with gratitude the work done by the **Commission on Dismantling Racism** of the Diocese toward racial reconciliation, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention desires to further the priorities of the Jesus Movement, continuing progress toward racial reconciliation as a matter of urgent necessity and adding work in the areas of care of creation and evangelism, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention requests that the Bishop appoint new diocesan commissions for the Care of Creation and for Evangelism and Church Planting, while continuing the Healing Racism Commission in conversation with its existing members and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention requests that the Bishop appoint a liturgical commission to collect, reflect, teach and share liturgical resources as part of the process of prayer book revision with the Task Force for Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision established by General Convention, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention requests that the names of the commission members be published to the diocese, by March 1, 2019, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention recognizes the interrelationship between care of creation, racial reconciliation and evangelism and therefore urges these commissions to coordinate work through some shared meetings, and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention requests that the co-chairs of such commissions as may be appointed report to the 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan regarding the scope of their work, the goals they set for themselves, and any challenges and opportunities they see for the furthering of the identified priorities of the Jesus Movement in Western Michigan.

Rationale: The diocesan deputation to the 79th General Convention recognized that there exists a gap between the espoused values of the Jesus Movement as articulated by the Episcopal Church's Presiding Officers and the lived reality on the ground in Western Michigan. We believe our diocese has the capacity to close that gap with greater intentionality about the deployment of all orders of ministry towards these ends, which we see as deeply aligned with the values and priorities articulated in our diocesan vision. Having successfully completed our internal restructure, the time is ripe for us to make progress to live out Jesus' incarnational way of love by organizing ourselves towards the priorities of The Episcopal Church. We recommend that the commissions for Racial Reconciliation, Care of Creation, and Evangelism and Church Planting be co-chaired by laity and clergy and be made up of not fewer than five and not more than ten members. We recommend an application process be used and publicized throughout the diocese before appointments are made to these commissions, and that in keeping with our Diocesan vision, the recruitment and appointment of young adults should be a priority.