

Task Force Concerning the Participation of the Episcopal Diocese of New York in the Slave Trade

Proposer of the Resolution: The Rev. Owen C. Thompson

Organization: Diocese of New York

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Title of the Resolution: Task Force Concerning the Participation of the Episcopal Diocese of New York in the Slave Trade

Whereas, following the direction of its Reparations Committee, the Episcopal Diocese of New York committed itself to a Year of Lamentations in 2017-2018, and a Year of Repentance/Apology in 2018-2019, and will now commit to a Year of Reparation in 2019-2020; and

Whereas, the complicity of the State of New York and the Episcopal Diocese of New York in the American slave trade right up to the threshold of the Civil War is well documented.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION(S)

[1] Resolved: that this 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York ask the Bishop of New York to convene a task force to study the legacy of our participation in the slave trade; identify those areas of our structures, patterns and common life by which people in our diocese of African descent still carry the burden of the unfairnesses, exclusions and biases born out of the legacy of slavery; propose means of remedy by which repair of that legacy may be effected; and report their findings and

recommendations to the 244th Convention of the Diocese of New York;
and further

[2] Resolved: that that task force be called into being within thirty days of the 243rd Convention, carry out its mandate through 2020, conclude its work before the 244th Convention, and be retired at that convention; and further

[3] Resolved: that that task force be comprised of no fewer than four representatives of the existing Reparations Committee, of no fewer than four representatives of the existing Anti-Racism Committee, and of additional persons appointed by the Bishop of New York to reflect the geographic, racial and ethnic diversity of The Episcopal Diocese of New York; and further

[4] Resolved: that this Convention direct the Trustees of the Diocese of New York to designate \$1,100,000 of the endowment of the Diocese to be made available to the Bishop of New York to fund those measures which the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, having received the report and recommendations of the task force, may adopt and by which this diocese may make reparation for its part in the American slave trade and in the legacy of injustice which has continued in this our diocese to our own day.

Explanation

This resolution is offered in response to the annual address of the Bishop of New York to the 243rd Convention of the Diocese of New York, and the explanation for this resolution may be found in that address.