

**168A – SEASON OF TRUTH AND HEALING**

1 **RESOLVED**, that in order to continue the work of Racial Justice, Healing and  
2 Reconciliation, the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa commit to a “Season of Truth and  
3 Healing” from Epiphany 2021 until Easter 2022 during which we will take tangible  
4 and enduring actions towards healing the sins of slavery, indigenous genocide  
5 and displacement, and racism through earnest and sacrificial actions, and,  
6 during this season,

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to ensure that efforts to help heal these sins include  
8 thought, word, and deed, a Reparations Task Force be appointed by the Bishop  
9 in consultation with the Beloved Community Initiative Advisory Council, and to  
10 begin a multi-year effort to examine how the diocesan community might take  
11 leadership in repairing the effects of generations of racism in our own context,  
12 with responsibilities to include but not be limited to:

- 13 ● Identifying a working definition of “reparation” to be used in this diocese
- 14 ● Identifying and recommending changes that combat systemic racism in  
15 the structures of this diocese
- 16 ● Reviewing and sharing the history of Iowa's and our churches' part in  
17 benefitting from the legacies of slavery and indigenous genocide and  
18 displacement
- 19 ● Exploring the ramifications of slavery and indigenous genocide and  
20 displacement, including the need for emotional, spiritual and  
21 psychological reparations for generations of injustice visited upon Black  
22 and Indigenous communities; and examining how in terms of financial  
23 implications, the Diocese of Iowa could join other episcopal institutions  
24 such as the Dioceses of New York, Texas, and Maryland and Virginia  
25 Theological Seminary in designating significant funds to provide for  
26 financial reparations in the form of investments in scholarships, affordable  
27 housing, business and financial institutions ownership by Black and

28           Indigenous people and/or other investments in Black and Indigenous  
29           communities

- 30           ● Working in close partnership with the Advisory Committee of the Beloved  
31           Community Initiative, will provide a quarterly progress report to the  
32           Diocesan Board of Directors

33   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in addition to providing dismantling racism training  
34   for every church leader, each parish will submit an annual report to the  
35   Diocesan Convention describing how they have engaged in racial justice  
36   conversation, study, and action designed to heal the sins of slavery and  
37   indigenous genocide and displacement.

### **EXPLANATION**

Over decades, the General Convention of The Episcopal Church has called us to accountability around racial justice, healing and reconciliation. As is often the case, the actions and reports of various dioceses are often inconsistent with what has been requested.

In this season of pandemic and events that testify to the reality of racial injustice and indigenous genocide across this land, it is incumbent on the church, wherever we are, to take the lead in dismantling systems and reforming structures that will begin to make things right.

The Diocese of Iowa has, to its credit, established the Beloved Community Initiative for racial justice, healing and reconciliation. While the Diocese has provided housing and some funding for this endeavor, the ministry has been largely funded by outside grants. The grants are about to run out at a time where a recommitment to dismantling racism is an undeniable call to people of faith everywhere.

This commitment to a season will both focus our efforts and provide time to re-examine history and evaluate assets to be appropriated for this work. For example, while the Beloved Community Initiative is housed at Old Brick in Iowa City, there is no reason it must be. The building is one of our most valuable assets, but it may well have served its purpose, especially as we've been forced by the pandemic to look at new ways of being church. This is just one way the Diocese might help generate the significant funds and take the concrete steps required to live out this commitment.

As Dr. Catherine Meeks, mentor to the Beloved Community Initiative and Director of the Absalom Jones Center in the Diocese of Atlanta has written:

“True reparations must ask the hard questions about our systems and work for change.”

In the Diocese of Maryland, where years of work has been done on education and working to repair the breach, we draw from the wisdom of Bishop Eugene Sutton, who has shared these words:

The subject of reparations is mired in emotion; it is often mischaracterized and certainly largely misunderstood. It is a complex issue that involves economic, political, and sociological dimensions that are difficult to grasp without a willingness to engage more deeply than having a quick emotional response to the word. The issue highlights the racial divide among us, creates varying levels of resentment and suspicion, and accentuates a pain that has long plagued our country since its founding.

Reparations, at its base, means to repair that which has been broken. It is not just about monetary compensation. An act of reparation is the attempt to make whole again, and/or to restore; to offer atonement; to make amends; to reconcile for a wrong or injury.

Isn't that our work in this broken world? As the Church, our primary mission is “restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” (BCP, p. 855). This is our primary call and charge, and we take on this responsibility by praying, worshipping, proclaiming the Gospel and promoting justice and love. Our mission is further met by understanding and living out our Baptismal Covenant (BCP, p. 416), not only with one another, but in the world as witnesses to God's love for all of God's people. We reaffirm these covenant vows whenever we baptize, confirm, or receive into this communion.

Our own commitment to this vision will require honest reflection and a holy devotion to reconciliation. Forgiveness alone is but one step in the long journey to reconcile our past with the present. We need to repair the broken places and wounds that we have all inherited from centuries of the degrading treatment of our fellow human beings.

## **168B SAFE HARBOR**

(Human Trafficking)

- 1 **RESOLVED**, that the 168<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
- 2 hereby urges the Iowa Legislature to vote for the Immunity of a Minor stating
- 3 that an individual who is a minor at the time of offense is not criminally liable or
- 4 subject to juvenile delinquency proceeding for prostitution and for labor
- 5 trafficking crimes committed as a direct result of being a victim of human
- 6 trafficking.

### **EXPLANATION;**

Nationally, the Uniform Law Commission released the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking. Actually, 31 states have passed this kind of legislation, called Safe Harbor. The whole idea is in support of adopting some or similar language to protect child trafficking survivors, providing both immunity from prosecution and rehabilitation services. Still, the Iowa Department of Human Services could help victims in a non-judicial way. Those under eighteen years of age would not be charged with prostitution or other forced crimes done during their exploitation. Whereas, the State of Iowa prioritizes the care and welfare of child victims of human trafficking. In 2011, the American Bar Association (ABA) passed a resolution urging states not to charge child trafficking victims with prostitution and related offenses but to instead provide services. In 2013, The Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking was released that clearly and unequivocally recommends the immunity model for child victims of trafficking. The Uniform Act also broadens the scope of safe harbor that recognizes child victims of labor trafficking, who are forced to commit crimes during their exploitation also should be provided with the same protections as victims of Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Submitted by:

Maggie Tinsman

Secretary, Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery Chair,  
Braking Traffick Advisory Council

## **168C HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY**

1     **RESOLVED** that this 169<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of  
2     Iowa hereby urges and encourages the Iowa Legislation to vote for a pilot  
3     partnership between the Department of Public Safety, Private Social Services  
4     and Retired Trafficking Investigators Program to help Iowa Law Enforcement  
5     gain more information from survivors in order to prosecute and stop human  
6     trafficking.

### **EXPLANATION:**

The Office of Human trafficking in the Department of Public Safety needs more information from survivors so that they may initiate prosecution of pimps and buyers. Social Services providers and Retired Law Enforcement Investigators will act as advocates for survivors so that victims, who are often afraid of law enforcement, will be aided and protected.

Submitted by:  
Maggie Tinsman  
Secretary, Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery  
Chair, Braking Traffick Advisory Council

## 168D ERA

Resolution in support of S.J. Resolution 6 Eliminating the Ratification Deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution

- 1 **RESOLVED** that the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa supports the certification of the
- 2 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and
- 3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa urges the Senate to
- 4 pass S.J. Resolution 6 eliminating the time limit for ratification of the Equal Rights
- 5 Amendment to the United States Constitution, as proposed by Congress on
- 6 March 22, 1972, thereby permitting the United States Archivist to certify its final
- 7 ratification.

### EXPLANATION:

On March 22, 1972, the U.S. House and Senate, each with a 2/3 vote, passed the following language:

“The following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years of its submission by the Congress:

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex.

“Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

“Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

Current legislation amending the ERA (H.J.Res.79 and S.J.Res.6) reads as follows.

“Strike all that follows after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the United States Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.”

On January 6, 2020, the Office of Legal Counsel, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice, issued an opinion asserting that Congress cannot

remove the ERA's ratification deadline without offering support from the language in Article V of the Constitution. This opinion opposes the 1977 conclusion of a previous Office of Legal Counsel.

U.S. Archivist David Ferriero, based on the Jan. 6, 2020 opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel, said he would not certify the ERA and put it into effect, although he had already certified Nevada's and Illinois' ratifications of the ERA.

On January 15, 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA.

On January 16, 2020, the House Committee of the Judiciary issued its Report on Removing the Deadline for the Ratification of the Equal Right Amendment [116-378]. The report addressed the history, continuing need for the ERA, and Congress' authority to extend the ratification deadline of the ERA. It also found that to pass the proposed amendment to remove the ratification deadline from the preamble of the ERA the following conditions were true.

- A simple majority vote, not a supermajority 2/3 vote, is sufficient.
- The president's signature is not required.
- The Congress then in session when the 38th state ratifies the ERA should determine whether prior purported rescissions are valid. This finding is based on the 1978 Committee Report.

Objections were from Office of Legal Counsel's opinion that Congress now cannot remove the deadline for the ERA's ratification, and the minority's dissenting views that "the ERA would lead courts to strike down any restrictions on abortion including restrictions on State funding for abortion" and "would require sex integration of single-sex organizations, e.g. sororities and fraternities, also Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts".

The U.S. House passed H.J.Res. 79 on February 13, 2020, eliminating the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. The amendment was proposed to the states in House Joint Resolution 208 of the 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972. The amendment shall be part of the Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

S.J.Res. 6, which has language identical to H.J.Res.79, must be passed by the Senate. It currently has one sponsor and 46 co-sponsors. To pass, the bill requires 51 Yeas. In order for the Senate to consider the bill, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) must call it to the floor for a vote. However, after H.J.Res. 79 passed in the House, McConnell announced that it would be dead on arrival in the Senate. No further action has been taken at this time.

The United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes. The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin. State laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced. The people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults. The Equal Rights Amendment provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex". The Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections. The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 38 states, including Iowa, the most recent being Virginia on January 15, 2020. The time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble. The House of Representatives passed a bill in February 2020, and the Senate has chosen not to consider a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA. The Episcopal Church promotes gender equality around the world, and condemns all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Cornforth, North Cedar Valley Chapter  
Convener



## 168E EQUALITY ACT RESOLUTION

- 1 Resolved, That this 168th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
- 2 hereby urges a re-introduction of S.788, the Equality Act, to the Senate of the
- 3 116<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States of America to add among other things,
- 4 sexual orientation and gender identity to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair
- 5 Housing Act.

### **Explanation:**

In March of 2019, the Senate Bill, S.788, was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Markey. The House passed its bill, H.R. 5, in May of 2019. No progress has been made since that time.

“The Equality Act was first developed in 1974 by Representatives Bella Abzug (D-NY) and Ed Koch (D-NY). It has been introduced in every legislative session since 2015, where it died in committee until this year.

In addition to adding sexual orientation and gender identity to civil rights legislation, the Equality Act also updates the definition of sex to include “sex stereotype, sexual orientation or gender identity, and pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition” and says that a “public accommodation” is not limited to physical locations.”- [Alex Bollinger](#) Thursday, May 2, 2019 LGBTQ Nation

## 168F PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CANON 2 OF THE CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF IOWA

1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that canon 2 (1) of the Canons of the Diocese of Iowa be  
2 amended as follows:

3 CANON 2 OF LAY MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION

4 Sec. 1. Lay Delegates from Parishes, to either Annual or Special  
5 Convention, shall be elected by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, at a  
6 meeting held as provided in Article III, Sec. 3 of the Constitution. *This*  
7 *election shall take place at the Vestry meeting next following the Annual*  
8 *Meeting. The delegates (and alternates) so elected shall serve at any*  
9 *regular and special Conventions held prior to the next Annual Parish*  
10 *Meeting). A vacancy in the delegation shall be filled as provided for in*  
11 Article III, Sec. 3 of the Constitution.

**168G PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULE 18 OF THE RULES OF ORDER**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Rule 18 of the Rules of Order for the Convention of the  
2 Diocese of Iowa be amended as follows:

3 18. Resolutions must be presented to the Secretary of the Convention at  
4 least forty (40) days prior to the Convention. The Secretary shall cause same  
5 to be duplicated and distributed to each parish and mission of this Diocese  
6 prior to the Convention. The Committee on Resolutions shall then separate  
7 submitted resolutions into Consent and Debate Calendars. Resolutions on  
8 the Consent Calendar shall receive no debate and simply be voted on as  
9 presented. Resolutions may be moved from the Consent Calendar to the  
10 Debate Calendar by vote of twenty-five (25) members of the Convention.  
11 ~~The exceptions to this process are that the Convention may at any time~~  
12 ~~consider given resolutions submitted from the floor, providing that each~~  
13 ~~resolution thus submitted receives the necessary majority vote to suspend~~  
14 ~~the rule, as provided in Rule 19; the Committee on Credentials and the~~  
15 ~~Committee on the Dispatch of Business may submit from the floor such~~  
16 ~~resolutions as required to conduct the business of the Convention; and the~~  
17 ~~Resolutions Committee may present to the Convention such courtesy~~  
18 ~~Resolutions as it deems appropriate.~~

19 Replace with:

20 Late resolutions may be brought to the floor for discussion and vote  
21 provided that:

- 22 a) They shall have been received on the Friday of the week preceding the  
23 week of Convention. (8 days ahead of time).
- 24 b) A majority vote in favor of consideration is achieved during the first  
25 presentation of the Resolutions Committee.

26 With the exception of procedural and courtesy resolutions, late resolutions  
27 made during the convention itself may only be considered on a vote of 2/3  
28 majority.

## 167D PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

*Second Reading, Vote by orders*

1 **RESOLVED**, that Section 4(a) of Article III of the Constitution of the Episcopal  
2 Diocese of Iowa be amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 4(a). The representation of Congregations in the Convention shall be  
4 determined by the number of communicants in good and regular standing  
5 in the Congregation. Each Congregation with fewer than 100 such  
6 communicants shall be entitled to two delegates. Each Congregation with  
7 at least 100 but fewer than 375 such communicants shall be entitled to  
8 three delegates. Each Congregation with at least 375 but fewer than 450  
9 such communicants shall be entitled to four delegates. Each  
10 Congregation with 450 or more such communicants shall be entitled to five  
11 delegates."

