

*Passed as amended, September 12, 2020*

## **Resolution 2020-06**

### **Title: Racial Restitution and Reconciliation**

Submitted by: Diocesan Council

RESOLVED, that this 236th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland encourages and affirms the creation of a reparations fund by the Diocesan Council with an initial seed investment of \$1,000,000 from diocesan resources to the work of reparations. The Diocesan Council will ensure sound fiscal management and administration of the fund and its use in coordination with the committee appointed for such work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 236th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland urges all congregations and affiliated schools in the diocese to prayerfully consider committing a percentage of their endowments or other resources to this fund. Percentages would be determined by each congregation and affiliated school independently; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 236th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland urges the Diocesan Council to intentionally foster opportunities to engage in racial, reconciliation, restitution and restoration arising from the Diocese of Maryland's complicity in supporting the practice of chattel slavery and the legacy of immense harm caused by systemic and institutional racism which continues today:

### **Explanation**

Our call by God as the Body of Christ in the world today is to participate in God's reconciling work in the world. The centuries of damage and harm caused by institutional racism calls for our continued leadership as a Church to do our part to bring restitution, beginning in our own diocese.

Since an initial reparation resolution was referred to Diocesan Council in 2016, Diocesan Council has been working diligently to explore this issue, create educational and formational opportunities throughout the diocese, and discuss and decide on further concrete actions. The overwhelming support of last year's resolution to affirm the bishop's statement on racial reconciliation has moved Council to bring forth this resolution at this year's convention.

Diocesan Council is charged with overseeing the financial and programmatic life of the diocese, with the annual affirmation of the Convention and the assistance and support of other diocesan committees, such as the Investment Committee, Financial Advisory Board and Grants Committee. As we have continued to discuss the establishment of a fund, we seek the input and affirmation of the convention and its congregational representatives.

To oversee such a fund, Council will appoint a specific committee to make recommendations to Council to include representatives from the Reparations Committee, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the **Rev. Dr.** Pauli Murray Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.