

R-4a Supporting the Impact Fund for Racial Justice and Healing

Resolved, by the 227th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that:

1. We acknowledge that our Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, organized in 1785, and with worshipping communities dating to 1607, has benefited from chattel slavery, the effects of which extend far beyond the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863; and
2. We reiterate our commitment to learning about and discerning ways to atone for the sin and repair the damage of failing to live by our theology that we are all created in the image of God and that we are all beloved children of God; and
3. We endorse the creation and management by the Executive Board of an impact investment fund to be called “The Impact Fund for Racial Justice and Healing” with initial investment of \$500,000, with all decisions about the fund’s purpose, investment strategy, and disbursements to prioritize opportunities within our Diocese supporting racial justice and healing, and with the fund’s impact on mission to be assessed annually for the next ten (10) years; and
4. We request that the Executive Board report to the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia on these matters; and
5. We urge communicants, congregations, regions, and related organizations of the Diocese of Virginia to contribute to The Impact Fund for Racial Justice and Healing.

Submitted by the Executive Board of the Diocese of Virginia: The Rev. Jo Belser, Mr. Garway Bright, The Rev. Catherine Campbell, Mr. Karl Colder, Ms. Mary Ann Cowherd, the Rev. Webster Gibson, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Ms. Cheryl Groce-Wright, Mr. Sergio Gutierrez, Ms. Cindy Helton, Ms. Sandra Kirkpatrick, the Rev. David Lucey, the Rev. Barbara Marques, Ms. Barbara McMurry, the Rev. Chris Miller, the Rev. Andrew Moore, the Rev. Jay Morris, Mr. George Omohundro, Mr. Ken Royston, Mr. Preston Sudduth, and Ms. Alda White.

Background

Our Diocese of Virginia has done much work to begin to acknowledge and atone for the racial injustice and harm of our past. The 2013 document [Meet Me in Galilee](#) written by the diocesan Race Relations Committee provides much of this history. Unutilized land owned by our Diocese of Virginia in both New Kent County and Henrico County was recently sold for approximately \$185,000 and approximately \$110,000, respectively. The proceeds of the two unutilized properties were broadly allocated by the Executive Board for racial justice and healing work. An impact investing strategy seeks to generate societal benefit in addition to financial return.