

## Resolution 2025-3: On Racial Healing and Justice

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of this 142nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina gather in fellowship and faith, acknowledging the sacred call to love God and neighbor; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize with profound sorrow that our society and, at times, even our own faith communities have been tainted by falsehood, bigotry, and systemic injustices that perpetuate racial division and oppression; and

**WHEREAS**, we observe with deep concern that the transformative words and teachings of Jesus Christ, which call us to radical love, justice, and reconciliation, are too often twisted and misused to justify or rationalize the marginalization and oppression of minority communities and that our society's tolerance and promotion of classism often serve as an egregious cover for racism; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that true faith demands active engagement in dismantling structures of sin and promoting the dignity and flourishing of all people, particularly those who have been historically and presently disenfranchised; and

**WHEREAS**, the Racial Healing Commission has been established with the vital mandate to continue the work of racial healing, to confront historical and present-day injustices, and to foster genuine reconciliation within and beyond our religious body; and

**WHEREAS**, the Racial Healing Commission raises awareness of racial injustice within society and our church, bears witness to the ongoing need for reconciliation, provides education and supports participation in initiatives such as Sacred Ground, and identifies pathways for collaboration among parish churches and the Diocese, fostering healing and unity to strengthen our communities, Diocese, state, and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Racial Healing Commission recognizes the power of music, especially jazz, as a unifying aesthetic that brings people together across racial, cultural, and generational lines, honoring a tradition born from the African American struggle and creativity and is historically significant to the story of racial healing in this country; and

**WHEREAS**, this commitment finds vibrant expression in our Jazz and Race Symposiums, where the art form of jazz becomes a living testimony to resilience, dialogue, and the sacred work of reconciliation, offering a creative space for truth-telling, listening, and community building;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this 142nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the ongoing work of racial healing and justice, as led by the Racial Healing Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we commit to:

- **Actively combat all forms of racism, bigotry, and discrimination** within our congregations, institutions, and the wider society, challenging both overt acts and subtle biases;
- **Educate ourselves and our communities** on the historical roots and contemporary manifestations of racial injustice, fostering a deeper understanding of the experiences of marginalized communities;
- **Reclaim and uphold the authentic teachings of Jesus Christ**, emphasizing their call to liberating love, radical hospitality, and unwavering solidarity with the oppressed, and actively refuting any interpretations that promote division or oppression;
- **Advocate for policies and practices** that promote racial equity, justice, and human dignity in all spheres of life, including education, housing, employment, and the justice system;
- **Engage in intentional acts of repentance and reconciliation**, acknowledging our complicity, both active and passive, in systems of injustice, and seeking forgiveness and renewed relationships;
- **Cultivate diverse and inclusive leadership** within our religious body, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all racial and ethnic groups are heard and valued; and
- **Support and empower the Racial Healing Commission** with prayer, financial resources, and participation to effectively carry out its mandate of fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and systemic change.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon all members of the Diocese of East Carolina to join in this sacred work, to pray for racial healing, and to embody the transformative love of God in their daily lives, so that together we may build a more just, equitable, and beloved community for all.

Adopted the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025 by the 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Shurley Ray Weddle

Secretary of Convention