

Subject: 2009 DWMA Diocesan Convention - Resolution # 1 -- for the 2nd Convention digital mailing

Resolved, Congregations or pairs/clusters of congregations of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts participate in anti-racism training if they have not already done so or renew training that has been previously taken; and be it further

Resolved, congregations or pairs/clusters of congregations of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts are urged to utilize existing resources^[1] or develop programs and ministries during this triennium (2009 - 2012) that demonstrate internally and externally that they have fully embraced the anti-racism learning they have acquired and incorporated all into their ongoing life.

Explanation

The Deputation of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts encourages moving towards a more inclusive church. While anti-racism efforts begin with the effects of racism against African Americans, they have broadened to address racism against all racial and ethnic groups and immigrant populations. The effects of racism continue to affect people of racial and ethnic groups in the United States in general and in our Church specifically, in spite of the election of the first African American President and the appointment of the first Latina to the Supreme Court. The results are:

- Glaring health disparities exist for African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos.
 - In 2003 -2005 Massachusetts Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 were: 4 for non-Hispanic Whites, 10 for non-Hispanic Blacks, 6.5 for Latinos and 4.8 for total. Diabetes death rates in Massachusetts in 2005 per 100,000 were 17.1 for whites and 32.7 for Blacks. In Massachusetts in 2007 AIDS cases per 100,000 were 5.8 for whites, 57.1 for Blacks, 40.6 for Latinos and 9.2 for American Indians/Alaskan Natives.^[2]
- African American, Native American and Latino children continue to lag behind in standardized test and academic achievement.
- African American, Native American and Latino children are disproportionately represented among those living below the poverty level.
 - In Massachusetts 8% of white children live in poverty contrast to 46% of Latino children.^[3]
- Even though the Episcopal Church is growing in the Latino community and among people from the Caribbean (racially African American), there is a dearth of Latino^[4] and African American clergy or other clergy with the cultural competence to serve them.
- At the 2009 General Convention^[5], Deputies of Color were 16% of the Deputations (85 African Americans, 14 Asian, 53 Hispanic/Latino, 16 Native Americans, 4 Native Hawaiians), 15.3% in 2006, 14% in 2003, 12.1% in 2000 and 9% in 1997.

Submitted on behalf the of the DWMA 2009 General Convention deputation by

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[1] Use "Traces of the Trade: A Story of Slavery in the Deep North," a resource on the role of Bristol, Rhode Island, in the slave trade

[2] www.statehealthfacts.org for Massachusetts

[3] National Center for Children in Poverty, 2009

[4] Report to the 76th General Convention, State of the Church Report, page 68

[5] Unofficial Anglican Pages of Louis Crew <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/rel.html>