Acts of the 210th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

Act 2025-1 (Resolution 210.1) On the Sandhills Convocation

Pursuant to Canon D-III.6, Section 1, the 210th Convention hereby transfers Stanly County including Christ Church, Albemarle from the Charlotte Convocation to the Sandhills Convocation.

Act 2025-2 (Resolution 210.3) On Migration with Dignity

Resolved, that the 210th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina recognizes the adoption of the 81st General Convention resolution <u>2024-C031</u>, "Support Migration with Dignity," and joins in support of "Migration with Dignity" for all migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and those who cross borders in search of opportunity, including the following human rights within the "Migration with Dignity" framework:

- A universal right of movement, including freedom to leave and return to one's country of origin, freedom of movement within one's country of origin or country of settlement.
- The right to be secure: from sexual violence including rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery, forced labor and arbitrary and abusive detention.
- The right of equality, to include: 1) equal treatment with no discrimination under the law based on color, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin; and 2) equal opportunity for upward mobility.
- Rights to a basic quality of life, including employment rights, housing rights and food rights.
- The right to access services such as health care, education and legal representation.
- Civil and political rights guaranteeing the right to identity, to use of one's language, and to freedom of speech and religion; and

Further resolved, that as people of faith who believe that all people are created in the image of God, the 210th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina advocates the "Migration with Dignity" framework, which resonates with the teachings of Jesus and our baptismal promise to "respect the dignity of every human being," including all migrants, whether refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, or those who cross borders in search of better opportunity; and

Further resolved, that the 210th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina affirms "Migration with Dignity" as a framework to guide our ministry to, with, and for migrants, calling upon all parishioners, congregations, and diocesan institutions (1) to join ongoing efforts through direct action to support the immediate basic needs of our migrant

neighbors and (2) to advocate for these principles of dignity in our local communities so that migrants might experience God's loving welcome within our Diocese.

Act 2025-3 (Resolution 210.5) On Reparations and Restitution Ministry

Resolved, that the 210th Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina recognizes that the founding and foundations of our Diocese are inextricably linked with the institution of slavery, and that the legacy of slavery continues to persist in our diocese and in the Episcopal Church in America; and

Further resolved, that we recognize that despite this mistreatment, our Black congregations have been wellsprings of community flourishing and spiritual liberation thanks to the leadership of Black clergy and laity who, working through the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, transcended the structures of oppression and white supremacy that worked against them, to establish lasting institutions and legacies here in North Carolina; and

Further resolved, that we are convicted that our true history must be preserved, shared widely among the Diocese, and acknowledged through confession and repair. Only then can the type of transformative change that shifts us toward justice become possible; and

Further resolved, that the Diocese continues its reparative work uplifting the stories of joy and thriving within our Black worshiping communities, addressing current manifestations of the legacy of slavery, and establishing efforts to combat generations of harm and neglect; and

Further resolved, that Reparations work in the Diocese will walk alongside Black worshiping communities and their descendants, support the growth and development of Black leadership, and, using historical archives, records, and familial storytelling, identify Black communities within the Diocese that have been harmed by the actions of the Diocese of North Carolina and its members; and

Further resolved, that this Convention affirms the ongoing work and mission of the Reparations and Restitution Ministry to name, address and guide a response to this legacy. This ministry includes inviting worshiping communities into examining and reckoning with their racialized history; lamenting past harms done and acknowledging wounds still open; calling us all into a ministry of repentance, repair, and restitution by providing diocesan-wide offerings centering on Scripture, worship, prayer, and fellowship; and accompanying the clergy, laity, and diocesan governing bodies in discerning tangible ways of offering redress.

Act 2025-4 (Substitute Resolution 210.2) On Reaffirming the Ministry of Evangelism and Christian Formation

Resolved, that the 210th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina reaffirm our shared vocation, rooted in our Baptismal Covenant, to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ," recognizing the deep longing for hope, belonging, and spiritual meaning in our communities; and giving thanks for the many ways evangelism and Christian formation already find expression in our parishes through worship, fellowship, service, creation care, and the daily witness of love and hospitality; and

Further resolved, that Diocesan Council be invited to hold evangelism and formation before it as ongoing areas of reflection and discernment within its regular life, and to consider opportunities that help congregations extend invitation and deepen Christian practice across every expression of the faith; and

Further resolved, that the Bishop Diocesan appoint an Evangelism and Formation Task Force, including lay and ordained representatives from congregations of varied size, geography, and ministry settings, to gather and develop a Toolkit of Practices to support congregations in community engagement, inviting and welcoming newcomers, and accompanying them in the life of faith; and

Further resolved, that the Task Force work in partnership with the Bishop's Office to identify and recommend potential staffing structures, funding needs, strategic priorities, and resourcing models that will effectively support this work across the Diocese; and

Further resolved, that the Task Force deliver a report of its findings, recommendations, and potential implementation strategies to Diocesan Council and at the 211th Annual Convention, including proposed next steps for equipping congregations in evangelism, discipleship, and long-term vitality.

Act 2025-5 (Substitute Resolution 210.4) On Conflict in the Holy Land

Resolved, that the 210th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina both welcomes progress in peace negotiations to end conflict in the Holy Land and recognizes that the fragility of these developments calls for monitoring by people of faith; and

Further resolved, that the Convention requests that the Bishop appoint a Holy Land Subcommittee under the Chartered Committee on Global Mission, with a mandate to monitor current and ongoing developments in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as The Episcopal Church's responses to those developments, and to promote means by which the Diocese of North Carolina may advocate for peace and justice in the Holy Land and partner with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and

Further resolved, the Convention grieves and decries the mass killing of civilians in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and murders and harassment on the West Bank, and the displacement of civilians from their homes, the destruction of churches, hospitals, and schools, and the intentional use of sexual violence, starvation, deprivation, and exposure as weapons, in violation of human rights and international agreements; and

Further resolved, that this Subcommittee's work acknowledge applicable General Convention resolutions including the call for immediate humanitarian relief (the 81st General Convention resolution 2024-D007) and the 81st General Convention resolution 2024-D013 envisioning a future Palestinian state; and

Further resolved, that the Convention affirms the faithful work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in continuing to serve those most in need in Gaza and the West Bank, and directs the Subcommittee to work with our Diocese and parishes as they seek to align their efforts and support with those of the expressed needs and hopes of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the people of the Holy Land as they seek peace and resources to rebuild; and

Further resolved, that the Holy Land Subcommittee be formed in no more than 60 days, with a membership of 6-9 clergy and lay representatives reflective of the diversity of the diocese, and report to the Chartered Committee on Global Mission at each of the Chartered Committee's meetings, and to the Bishops, Diocesan Council, and the broader diocese annually, with the first report no later than October 1, 2026, and to the 211th Annual Convention of the Diocese; and

Further resolved, that the Convention rejects any efforts to declare criticism of specific actions by the State of Israel as by definition anti-Semitic, per the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism; and

Further resolved, that the Convention will pray, and encourages all congregations to pray for peace, justice, the protection of human rights, and security in the Holy Land.