Resolution of Acknowledgement & Equity

Submitted by: The Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart (ret.), Erika Gilmore (St. George's, DC), Embry Howell (All Souls, DC), The Rev. Glenna Huber (Church of the Epiphany), The Rev. Peter Jarrett-Schell (Calvary), Caroline Klam (Church of the Epiphany), The Rev. Michele Morgan (St. Mark's, Capitol Hill), Gigi Nelson (Church of the Atonement), Cathy O'Donnell (St. John's Norwood), Andrea Pringle (St. Luke's, Bethesda), Gail Russell (Christ Church, Clinton), Susan Schulken (Grace Episcopal, DC), Anton Vanterpool (St. Alban's. DC), The Rev. David Wacaster (Grace Church, Georgetown), The Rev. Richard Weinburg (St. Margaret's, DC), The Rev. Creamilda Shirley Wulck-Nortley Yoda (Christ Episcopal Church, Clinton)

WHEREAS this Diocese of Washington has earnestly started engaging in the conversation of reparations over the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2025, The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington stood before the congregants in the Washington National Cathedral, and offered a magnanimous gesture, publicly repenting on behalf of the Diocese of Washington. This humbled and most sincere act of repentance was expressed against the intentional, and unexamined harms perpetuated against the Black congregations of the Diocese, as well as the Black community at large over decades of the Diocese's existence.

RESOLVED, that this Diocese joins the Bishop in admitting to past harms to the Black congregations, Black worshipers, as well as the Black community at large and that we will work to correct and repair the damage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations are to create and exhibit, with God's help, a culture of equity across the Diocese where no one group is to be treated as more valued or relevant than others. Congregations are encouraged to examine their liturgy, hymnody, iconography, and Christian education curricula to expand parishioners' understanding of the universality of the Body of Christ. Congregations will also examine and commit to transforming diocesan governance practices in order to promote a culture of equity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting delegates of Convention be encouraged to take anti-racism training such as "Sacred Ground", "Internalized Oppression", or other similar programming; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Congregations are encouraged to study and accurately record their racialized histories, taking steps where needed to right the wrongs. Altered histories that omit actions or contributions involving non-white parishioners shall be corrected. The Diocese commits to providing support for these resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Congregations are encouraged to share their histories with groups such as Congregational History Partners, the Reparations Committee, and the Bishop's office.

EXPLANATION: Since the establishment of the Diocese of Washington in 1895, there has been a culture of intentional exclusion. In more recent years, it has involved more inclusion, but that term itself still establishes a baseline of one culture "allowing" others to move within established culture circles. We seek to be a culture of Equity where no one culture dominates. By starting to live in that life, we can truly grow in God's Love.