

1 **Resolution B: Diocesan Year-Long Pilgrimage of Seeing the Face of God in Each Other**

2 **Resolved**, that, with the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church this 84<sup>th</sup> Convention  
3 of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester recommit to the work of responding to the continued  
4 systemic racism in our society; and be it further

5 **Resolved**, that this Convention declare a Diocesan wide “Year Long Pilgrimage of Seeing the  
6 Face of God in Each Other” with support of the Diocese, the Anti-Racism Committee and a  
7 Steering Committee appointed by the Bishop, and be it further

8 **Resolved**, that this Pilgrimage will conclude with a Day of Repentance, Healing, and  
9 Reconciliation in conjunction with the 85<sup>th</sup> Convention of this Diocese in 2016.

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11 **Explanation**

12 The Episcopal Church program, *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*, is designed to make us  
13 all more aware of how society's racist past still haunts us today. Through self-examination and  
14 sharing our stories, we come to learn more about how our behavior affects others, and how our  
15 society, institutions and churches affect how we think and feel about others.

16 At each General Convention since 1991, the Episcopal Church has committed to address racism  
17 within our church, society, and the world. At the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention this past summer, the  
18 church re-affirmed this commitment in Resolution A182: Using Education, Community  
19 Dialogue, and Internal Audit to Respond to All Forms of Racial Injustice (the text of that  
20 resolution is attached). Many of us recognize when obvious racism, discrimination or oppression  
21 occurs, but are unaware of the subtle racism that occurs everyday all around us and how we  
22 might be involved in perpetuating it. To better educate ourselves about the underlying racism in  
23 our daily lives and institutions, all lay and ordained leaders in the Episcopal Church are required  
24 to attend antiracism training. Each and every member of the church can be involved in the effort  
25 to end the institutional racism that exists in the church. Together we can make our church a  
26 welcoming place, devoid of racism. Each of us has a part in eliminating racism in the church,  
27 society and world. In order to truly love our neighbors as ourselves, we must walk in one  
28 another’s shoes and understand how our behavior affects those around us. Changing our own  
29 behavior is just the beginning; creating change in our institutions is the next step. While the  
30 church is a collection of its individual members, it will not change unless we work together to  
31 make change happen and to eradicate institutional racism from our churches.