

Notes on the Resolutions

SWC Annual Meeting 2020

Delegates at the 2020 SWC Annual Meeting will consider two resolutions. Both resolutions will be introduced during business on October 3. Hearings will be held for each resolution that afternoon.

Resolution hearings will be conducted according to the standing rules using the hearing process for resolutions established by General Synod as a guide. During hearings delegates have an opportunity to:

- clarify their understanding of resolutions,
- amend them,
- recommend approval,
- recommend disapproval,
- or refer the resolution back to the executive board with feedback

All amendments to a resolution must be in keeping with the intent of the resolution.

Awakening to Racial Justice

This resolution is being submitted to the annual meeting by the SWC Executive Board.

The resolution was modeled on a similar resolution adopted in the New Hampshire Conference in 2018. The first draft was sent to moderators of all congregations of color and clergy of color with standing in the SWC, the participants in our Deep Dive: Journey to Racial Reconciliation program, the ad hoc committee advising our Conference Minister about steps toward becoming a racial justice conference, the executive board and the SWC staff. On behalf of the Conference we owe our gratitude to

Cydne Bolton
Derrick Elliot
Pamela Hines
Tom Martinez

Carol Reynolds
Deris Rice
Risha Sharma
Herman Tui

Susan Valiquette
Alberta Wallace
Kathryn Winscher
Terri Young

for their contributions to this resolution. There were common threads garnered from the wisdom and experiences that shaped the proposed draft.

This resolution is an expression of the moral imperative to strive for racial justice as people of faith. The resolution is not a political statement. If adopted as recommended by the Executive Board, it will have an immediate impact on our life in covenant together and set several priorities for our shared ministry.

The resolution “confesses our collective sin of racism; calls local churches and communities of the Southwest Conference to take intentional action to inform themselves about racism and the often overlooked, minimized and denied experiences of oppression of People of Color and Indigenous People; invites SWC members to become Interrupters in the continued cycle of

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prejudice, bigotry, White privilege, White fragility, and White supremacy; creates a process whereby ministry settings can be designated as Awakening to Racial Justice and support one another in that process; and defines a moment when we may declare ourselves to be a Conference Awakening to Racial Justice.”

International Decade for People of African Descent

This resolution was originally written by the New Hampshire Conference and intended for General Synod 2019, but procedural issues prevent it from coming to Synod delegates. Over a year ago the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson invited the Southwest Conference to cosponsor this resolution with the New Hampshire Conference at the upcoming General Synod. The draft presented to the SWC annual meeting reflects updates from the 2019 version that reflect the current situation in America, more inclusive language, and other minor changes.

If adopted by the SWC the resolution will be sent to the other sponsoring conferences for committee work to reconcile the various drafts before being sent to the General Synod business committee. If included in GS business, the resolution will undergo a committee process before coming to delegates. The draft we are considering is certain to undergo several re-writes. The specific wording of this resolution is not our primary consideration. Our foremost consideration is whether the Southwest Conference is willing to co-sponsor this resolution and move it along in the General Synod resolution process. This resolution represents one way to live into the commitments into which we are calling ourselves in the Awakening to Racial Justice resolution.