

Proposed Resolutions 235th Annual Convention

#001

Resolved that the 235th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina publicly express gratitude to our Lutheran siblings in Christ who have shown radical hospitality to Episcopalians of the Diocese of South Carolina who have been displaced due to the 2012 schism.

Explanation: As Episcopal communities needed places to worship after 2012, five Lutheran Churches opened their doors to welcome Episcopal communities to worship in their buildings.

1. Pastors Nathan and Andrea Rice of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Summerville have welcomed The Church of the Good Shepherd since October 2024. Good Shepherd continues to worship at St. Luke's Historic Chapel during the construction of their new church.
2. Pastor Mark Scott of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on Bees Ferry Road welcomed the West Ashley group of St. Francis to worship in their space beginning in 2019. After Pastor Scott's departure, Pastor Jeff Shealy continued to offer the group space until Fr. Fred Thompson invited the group to begin worshipping with St. Mark's in the fall of 2021.
3. Pastor Ryan Lyles of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Avondale welcomes worshipers from St. Peter's Episcopal Church (West Ashley) to worship one Sunday a month in their worship space. They also provide office space and meeting rooms as needed.
4. Pastor Jason Lee of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach welcomed The Episcopal Church of The Messiah from fall 2014 to February 2020.
5. Pastor Steven Gallego of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Florence welcomed St. Catherine's Episcopal Church beginning in 2012.

We wish to extend our deep gratitude for the space these Lutheran Churches have provided. These pastors and their communities have modeled radical hospitality over the years. We request that a copy of this resolution be shared with the three Lutheran Congregations, and with Bishop Ginny Aebischer of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker
The Reverend Dow Sanderson

#002

Resolved that the 235th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina, commend, across the diocese, the observance in worship of the Emanuel Nine, Martyrs on or near June 17 annually, using the attached liturgical resource (see Exhibit “A”), and that said liturgical observance recognize each of the Emmanuel Nine by name: Reverend Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Mrs. Cynthia Graham Hurd, Mrs. Susie J. Jackson, Mrs. Ethel Lee Lance, Reverend DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, Reverend Daniel Lee Simmons, Sr., and Mrs. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson; and be it further

Resolved, that this observation be forwarded by The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina to the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church, for consideration of proposing a resolution regarding such observance of the Emanuel Nine at General Convention, for trial use by the Episcopal Church, and ultimate inclusion of the observance of the Emanuel Nine in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, A Great Cloud of Witnesses* and/or The Book of Occasional Services, other appropriate location.

Explanation:

It has been ten years since a self-avowed White Supremacist gunman shot and killed nine African American church goers, including the church’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, at Mother Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston. The martyrdom of these nine Christian souls, and the powerful and inspiring way in which the Emanuel Nine family members summoned their faith to reverse the spread of hate with a message of unyielding love and forgiveness, expresses the spiritual excellence, grace, and hospitality that are present in the Church of Jesus Christ within communities of African descent. This horrific event took place in our diocese, and as members of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, we should commemorate their memory and their Christian witness and pray with the universal Church for an end of the fear and of the lies that continue to perpetuate racism and racist acts even to this very day. This resolution aims to memorialize their memory for us and the wider church.

Submitted by the “Three Churches United” (St. Stephen’s, St. Mark’s, and Calvary Episcopal Churches, Charleston), and the Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker, The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer and The Rev. Ricardo Bailey, as commended by the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Exhibit “A” – Emanuel Nine Resolution

THE EMANUEL NINE

Martyrs – June 17, 2015

Charleston, South Carolina (U.S.A.)

On Wednesday evening, June 17, 2015, at the Mother Emanuel African Episcopal Church in Downtown Charleston, South Carolina, a recently radicalized White Supremacist named Dylann

Roof, age 21, entered into Mother Emanuel that evening and violently murdered:

Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, (Pastor of Mother Emanuel & SC State Senator) age 41,

Cynthia Graham Hurd, age 54,

Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, age 45,

Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, age 26,

Ethel Lee Lance, age 70,

Susie J. Jackson, age 87,

Rev. DePayne Middleton - Doctor, age 49,

Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, Sr. - age 74, and

Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, age 59.

At the time of the massacre, all nine of these Church members were engaged in their regularly scheduled Bible Study. These nine Church members invited Roof into their Church and prayed with him when he, during the prayer, shot the nine members involved in the Bible Study. It was later noted by law enforcement officials that Roof had compiled a list of Black Christian Congregations that he had planned on targeting in the same manner in the metro Charleston area as well.

The martyrdom of these nine Christian souls expresses the spiritual excellence, grace, and hospitality that are present in the Church of Jesus Christ within the communities of African descent. As members of The Episcopal Church, we celebrate their memory and their Christian witness and pray with the universal Church for an end of the fear and of the lies that continue to perpetuate racism and racist acts even to this very day. For the greater glory of God, may their lives and their souls be a blessing to us all.

COLLECT (Rite II Language)

Almighty and gracious God, you equip your Church in every generation to imitate the hospitality, availability, and love of your Beloved Son. As we remember the lives of the Emanuel Nine of Charleston, South Carolina, help all of us to embrace the call to see one another as bearers of your holy and blessed image. May the liberating gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, empower us to proclaim to the world that hate, false racial ideologies and the narratives of fear have no place in your Kingdom and in your Church. May we be courageous in our journey with your Son and may we also be transformed by the power of your Amazing Grace. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Proposed by Reverend Eric S. C. Manning, Sr. Pastor, Mother Emmanuel AME Church

Lamentations 3:22-25

Psalm 147:1-3

Ephesians 4:32

Matthew 18:21-22

Litany of Remembrance, Courage, and Strength For the Emanuel Nine, Survivors, and Congregation

Leader: Today, we remember. We remember the nine precious lives taken at Mother Emanuel—Their names etched in memory. Their faith, their laughter, their legacy, never forgotten. We honor the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, the Rev. Depayne Middleton- Doctor, Myra Thompson, and Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr.

Congregation: May their names be spoken always. May their lives inspire justice, peace, and holy perseverance.

Leader: To the survivors who bear the weight of memory, who keep the candle of courage burning, and who are still standing—Polly Shepard, Felicia Sanders, Jennifer Pinckney, and two minor children. We see you, we honor you, we thank God for you.

Congregation: God of comfort, strengthen those who have endured. May they walk with power, wrapped in Your care and peace.

Leader: Psalm 34:18 declares: “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; He saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Today, we lean into that promise.

Congregation: Draw near to us, O God. Heal every wound. Fill every empty space with hope and healing.

Leader: As a church, as a people, as a city—we commit to walking in the light. We will remember; we will rise; we will not grow weary.

Congregation: We will sow seeds of unity and justice. We will love as Christ loved. We will walk boldly in the Spirit's power.

All Together: God of justice, God of mercy, God of healing— make us instruments of peace, builders of hope, bearers of light, and a people who remember, believe, and proclaim: Love will always have the final word. *Amen.*