

A Brief summary of a Resolution proposed by the Diocesan Anti-Racism and Reconciliation Commission
(the "ARRC") for consideration by the 180th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Florida

The ARRC was appointed by Bishop Howard in 2019 to improve racial relations in our Diocese. During the past year the ARRC has begun its work in earnest, even as many in the Diocese have met to learn about and to act toward racial healing through programs such as Sacred Ground, book and film studies and the pursuit of relationships to promote truth telling, understanding and healing. The ARRC has proposed a resolution to the upcoming Annual Convention which it believes is the next step in its work, is consistent with Bishop Howard's vision for the Diocese, is a way to live into our Baptismal Covenant wherein we agree, with God's help, to strive for justice and peace among all people, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to respect the dignity of every human being. The proposed resolution is part of the Diocese's effort to become Beloved Community now and into the future.

The ARRC asks all in our Diocese to prayerfully read and reflect on the proposed resolution to support the efforts of the ARRC and to resolve themselves to strive to make our Diocese a place for Beloved Community.

In brief, the proposed resolution refers to the 70-year effort of the Episcopal Church to tell the truth about our past, to lament the participation of the church in a past that has too often been marked by support for or indifference to all manner of wrongs towards people whose skin color is not white. It commits the Diocese to proclaim God's vision for Beloved Community as described in our Baptismal Covenant. It seeks to help us to practice Jesus' way of love, and then sets the ARRC, the Diocese, and, we hope, all in our Diocese, to do the hard work of repairing the breach in our society and institutions. The resolution also contains some background material that may be interesting to and productive for anyone seeking to live into the promises we routinely make in our Baptismal Covenant.

The ARRC is under no illusion that the work we propose is easy or can be fully accomplished in a short time, but we ask that you support our efforts by supporting the resolution and by doing all you can to promote becoming Beloved Community in our Diocese and on this fragile earth, our island home.