

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Members

The Rev. Edwin Johnson, Chair	Massachusetts, I	2024
Ms. Melissa Chapman Skinner	South Dakota, VI	2024
The Rev. Canon John Kitagawa	Arizona, VIII	2024
The Rev. Cn. Christine McCloud	Maryland, III	2024
Ms. Dianne Audrick Smith	Ohio, V	2024
The Rev. Meg Wagner	Iowa, VI	2024
The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley	South Carolina, IV	2024
Miguel Bustos, Representative of the Presiding Bishop		2024
The Rev. Isaiah "Shaneequa" Brokenleg, Staff	South Dakota, VI	2024
The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Staff	Long Island, II	2024

Mandate

2022 – Doo4 “A Resolution for Continued Funding of the Beloved Community”

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize the need to continue existing Beloved Community work in the upcoming two years alongside the work that may be underway to establish an Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice dedicated to the long-term work of becoming the Beloved Community, as proposed in Resolution 2022-A125 by the Presiding Officers’ Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the continuation of the Presiding Officers’ Advisory Group for Beloved Community Implementation, with members appointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies, to oversee this biennium’s Beloved Community work in coordination with Executive Council and the staff of the Episcopal Church Center and also with the new Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice as it is established, and to report on this work to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$550,000 for the biennium of 2022-2024 for continuing current efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers, and that such monies be utilized to:

- Make Beloved Community grants to agencies and dioceses and other affiliated entities of The Episcopal Church for the establishment of programmatic activities aimed at addressing the issue of racial reconciliation, such as speaker series, sacred conversations, racial reconciliation workshops, and any such activities that promote the purpose of this resolution, with \$450,000 allocated specifically for these grants;
- Plan and host Building Beloved Community conferences, with a biennium budget of \$100,000;
- Engage conversations with ethnic ministry groups, interim bodies and other church organizations to dialogue about the specific ways systemic racism influences and afflicts ability to participate in building the Beloved Community through their ministries (with the understanding that funds and staff to support virtual meetings is already embedded in the Ethnic Ministries and Racial Reconciliation budgets, and that the General Convention Office can also support virtual meetings with interim bodies);

And be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Commission on Program Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$550,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Summary of Work

Fulfilling their responsibility to organize a Becoming Beloved Community conference (see Resolution D004, 3rd resolve, 2nd bullet), the advisory group partnered with Presiding Bishop's staff and other organizations to host "It's All About Love," a Jesus Movement revival and learning festival held in Baltimore July 9-11, 2023. The festival was organized around three tracks – evangelism, racial reconciliation and creation care. More than 1,300 Episcopalians took part in the festival worship, plenaries and workshops. Under the Beloved Community festival tent, participants were treated to more than 30 workshops and sessions on racial justice, reconciliation and healing, along with an inspiring plenary and a revival worship service centered on Beloved Community.

The advisory group played a critical role in recruiting and selecting dozens of workshop leaders, the reconciliation plenary speaker (noted Asian feminist theologian Kwok Pui Lan) and the revival preacher (Sarah Augustine of the Religious Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery). Throughout the actual event, advisory group members were front-and-center offering public leadership in worship and learning spaces. There is no doubt the festival advanced and expanded Episcopal work toward racial healing, justice and reconciliation, and placed that work in conversation with important movements around evangelism and creation care. We look forward to future opportunities to gather, learn, equip and celebrate one another's ministries in this catalytic setting.

Committed to continuing the work in local contexts the advisory group also coordinated a final round of grants to be dispersed in the Spring of 2024.