**A Resolution for Informational Briefing by the Province III Synod on May 2, 2022**

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**Resolution #D014
Resolution to Encourage Usage of The Sacred Ground Curriculum**

Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that this 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby direct and encourage the continued church-wide usage of the Sacred Ground Curriculum.

**Explanation:**

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is a 10-part film-and-reading-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, which encourages small groups to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism. While it is purposely designed to help white people talk with other white people, the carefully selected collection of readings and films are designed to be enlightening and transformative for all races.

More than a teaching tool, Sacred Ground aims to call those who take the curriculum into intentional, sustained circles in which they pray, watch, share their own stories, reflect, wonder, reckon, heal, and commit to action. It is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community- where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God.

On April 29, 2021, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry conducted a virtual gathering to discuss the Sacred Ground Curriculum, which was attended by over 4,000 individuals. During the event it was revealed that the curriculum was being used by 92 dioceses, that there were 1,712 circles in existence, which meant that over 13,000 people have participated in the curriculum in the little over two years since it was first launched. The success of the curriculum in bringing about constructive dialogue on issues of race and racism is obvious.

As was stated earlier, the curriculum was primarily designed for white people; however, in September of 2019, The Union of Black Episcopalians partnered with others, including the creator of the Sacred Ground Curriculum, Katrina Browne, and was awarded a Becoming Beloved Community Grant, to identify best practices and methods (the “Best Practices Project”) for people of color to participate in the curriculum. This was necessary because the curriculum found a place in multicultural and interracial settings where participants sought fresh and timely information to enhance their awareness of racial dynamics. The Best Practices Project was designed to examine the Sacred Ground curriculum and structure through the lens of Episcopalians of color to see how it might be strengthened to ensure its proliferation, effectiveness, and continued use. The aim was to develop non-intrusive ways in which communities of color may affirm the work of white circle groups as well as hold those circle groups accountable for gathering again after course completion and examining such questions with brothers and sisters of color: (i) Where do we go from here; and (ii) How might we take what we have learned and put it into action?

While we affirm our support of our brothers and sisters who have engaged in the journey, our hope is that the continued church-wide usage of the Sacred Ground Curriculum will lead to fresh conversations on dismantling racism and allow for the creation of the Beloved Community.