

# Resolution Submitted to the 183rd Annual Diocesan Convention

A resolution on "A Diocesan call to prayer, dialogue, and community bridge-building"  
Originally Proposed by The Mission Council of St. Anselm's Church, Nashville  
and revised by the General Resolutions Committee of Convention

*Whereas*, on the night before He suffered and died, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to "love one another" (John 13:34), and

*Whereas*, in response to His commandment we are aggrieved by the recent tragic events in Ferguson, Staten Island, New York City, Cleveland, Denver, and other parts of the country; and

*Whereas*, the Christian vocation demands the proclamation of "God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" manifest itself in the striving for justice and peace among all people; and

*Whereas*, everyone is diminished when the dignity of any human being, created in the image of God, is compromised; and

*Whereas*, it is incumbent upon the church to speak, challenge, lead the call to repentance, and assist with the kind of bridge building that will participate in the unfolding Kingdom of God; now be it therefore

*Resolved*, the 183rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee call on all of its members, lay and ordained, to pray for those whose lives have been personally and painfully affected by these events. Petitions should include prayers for the injured, the deceased, their families, those whose businesses were destroyed in the ensuing protests, local law enforcement teams, first responders, elected officials, and those who live in communities polarized by the national debate over local guidelines governing the use of police force; and be it further

*Resolved*, that resources of the *Book of Common Prayer, 1979* (e.g. the Baptismal Covenant, the Litany of Penitence, the Great Litany, the Supplication) and the Passion narratives, be read, taught, prayed, and preached for the equipping of the saints to confront the sin of racism, the culture of violence that it fosters, and the indifference to injustice that undermines the pursuit of holiness; and be it further

*Resolved*, that all Rectors, Vicars, Chaplains, and Wardens in the parishes, chapels, and missions of the Diocese, labor to create opportunities for dialogue among church members, the communities served by the local church, and local law enforcement officials, that the highest degree of safety, mutual respect, and understanding might be fostered; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the clerks of each parish, mission, and chaplaincy shall report to the Standing Committee of the Diocese on such dialogues 60 days prior to the 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee. The Standing Committee shall publish a summary of these reports in anticipation of the same convention.