

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D074  
**Title:** Renouncing the Theology of Slavery held by the Rev. James Craik, 11th President of the House of Deputies  
**Proposer:** Pankey, The Rev. Dr. Steve  
**Topic:** Racism, Reconciliation

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2009-A143      Extend 2006 Resolution to Examine and Repent for Complicity in Slavery  
2009-A144      Reaffirm a Resolution on Truth, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice  
2006-A123      Study Economic Benefits Derived from Slavery  
2006-C011      Support Legislation for Reparations for Slavery

**Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D074 - Renouncing the Theology of Slavery held by the Rev. James Craik, 11th President of the House of Deputies

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Pankey, The Rev. Dr. Steve

**Endorsed by:** Hart, The Rev. Benjamin, Merrick, The Rev. Barbara, Shafer, The Rev. Dr. Lee, Norman, Ms. Camille, Carter, Shelley

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Directs an Interim Body:** Yes

**Directs Dfms Staff:** Yes

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 05 - Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:**

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church renounce the theology of slavery held by the Rev. James Craik, the 11th President of the House of Deputies as described in General Convention Memorial 2024-M003; and be it further,

*Resolved*, That General Convention acknowledge the role our leadership played in the institution of chattel slavery; and be it further,

*Resolved*, That the General Convention repent of the ongoing benefits procured unto us by the same; and be it further,

*Resolved*, That the General Convention urge the Canonical Archivist and Director of the Archives of the Episcopal Church and the Archives Advisory Committee to update the entry for the Rev. James Craik on the website of the Archives of the Episcopal Church to include

information about the theology of slavery he espoused as well as a link to the pamphlet he published.

## **Explanation**

The Episcopal Church continues to engage in our long-term commitment to work toward racial reconciliation, healing and justice guided by the framework laid out in “Becoming Beloved Community”. According to that framework, *“Reconciliation, healing, and new life require **telling the truth** about The Episcopal Church’s racial composition and complicity in systems of racial justice and injustice – past and present.”*

*As a part of telling the truth, the Episcopal Church has a responsibility to publicly acknowledge how the complicity of our past leaders, including the Rev. James Craik, has shaped our Church’s governance, theology, and mission as well as the actions of General Convention.*

*As the Archives of the Episcopal Church noted in its 2022 report to General Convention, “Our historical records are part of a revered account of God’s acting within our branch of the Body of Christ. At the same time, the Body of Christ is also a flawed human institution that carries its past into every occasion. Just as Moses urged the ancient Hebrew people to choose to remember their past lest they forget, Episcopalians need the records of our history to be safely preserved for access so that they may guide us as we continue to adapt to new ways to serve and know God, and with new insights.”*

Acknowledging the Rev. James Craik’s theological commitment to chattel slavery and including this information in public records of his ministry in the Church provides those seeking information a more full and transparent account of the full range of beliefs which animated his actions.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A143  
**Title:** Extend 2006 Resolution to Examine and Repent for Complicity in Slavery  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church agree to extend Resolution A123, which was passed at the 75th General Convention, through the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That, as directed by Resolution 2006-A123, the General Convention encourage each diocese to continue over the next six years a process to gather information in its community on (1) the complicity of The Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery and in the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination, (2) examples of resistance to slavery and discrimination and (3) the economic benefits derived by The Episcopal Church from the transatlantic slave trade and the institution of slavery; and be it further*

*Resolved, That dioceses consult with the anti-racism officer of The Episcopal Church for resources to aid them in doing this work; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the information gathering be used as the foundation for truth telling, confession, apology, forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each diocese, as requested by Resolution 2006-A123, name a Day of Repentance and on that day hold a Service of Repentance; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention require all dioceses to report their results to the 77th and 78th General Conventions.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 711.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-A144  
**Title:** Reaffirm a Resolution on Truth, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church agree to extend Resolution 2006-A127, which was passed at the 75th General Convention and that the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism report back to the 77th General Convention in 2012.***

**Resolution Number:** 2006-A127  
**Title:** Endorse Restorative Justice and Anti-Racism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 140-141.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A123  
**Title:** Study Economic Benefits Derived from Slavery  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery in the United States and anywhere else in the world, based as it is on “ownership” of some persons by other persons, was and is a sin and a fundamental betrayal of the humanity of all persons who were involved, a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participation in this sin and the deep and lasting injury which the institution of slavery and its aftermath have inflicted on society and on the Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That we express our most profound regret that (a) The Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture, and (b) after slavery was formally abolished, The Episcopal Church continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church apologize for its complicity in and the injury done by the institution of slavery and its aftermath; we repent of this sin and ask God’s grace and forgiveness; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church through the Executive Council urgently initiate a comprehensive program and urge every Diocese to collect and document during the next triennium detailed information in its community on (a) the complicity of The Episcopal Church in the institution of slavery and in the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination and (b) the economic benefits The Episcopal Church derived from the institution of slavery; and direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to monitor this program and report to Executive Council each year by March 31 on the progress in each Diocese; and be it further*

*Resolved, That to enable us as people of God to make a full, faithful and informed accounting of our history, the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Committee on Anti-Racism to study and report to Executive Council by March 31, 2008, which in turn will report to the 76th General Convention, on how the Church can be “the repairer of the breach” (Isaiah 58:12), both materially and relationally, and achieve the spiritual healing and reconciliation that will lead us to a new life in Christ; and be it further*

*Resolved, That to mark the commencement of this program the Presiding Bishop is requested to name a Day of Repentance and on that day to hold a Service of Repentance at the National Cathedral, and each Diocese is requested to hold a similar service.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 664-665.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-C011  
**Title:** Support Legislation for Reparations for Slavery  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention, affirming our commitments to become a transformed, anti-racist church and to work toward healing, reconciliation, and a restoration of wholeness to the family of God, urge the Church at every level to call upon Congress and the American people to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery in the United States and of proposals for monetary and non-monetary reparations to the descendants of the victims of slavery.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 666.