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## 2023 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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The Committee on Resolutions received three proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2023 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, by Zoom conference, at which proposers had an opportunity to amend their original proposals, and following which the Committee met and decided on recommendations. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report.

As provided by the Rules of Order, proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

*Respectfully submitted,*

The Rev. Susanna Paige Cates, Chair  
The Rev'd Amy S. Cornell  
The Rev'd Dr. John P. Mitchell  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq.  
Mr. Curtis Hoberman  
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

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### RESOLUTION 2023-1:

*Subject: To establish a Pastoral Mental and Spiritual Health Committee in the Diocese of New Jersey*

*Be it resolved,* That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey affirm the importance of good mental and spiritual health for all members of the diocese; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Diocese of New Jersey establish a Pastoral Mental and Spiritual Health Committee to develop and oversee programs to promote good mental and spiritual health within the diocese, to consist of ten persons appointed by the Bishop and to be representative of the breadth of the diocese and include a roughly equal number of lay and ordained persons.

*SUBMITTED BY: The Reverend Alan Leonard, Church of the Advent, Cape May; the Reverend Gregory Wilson, Trinity Episcopal Church, Swedesboro; the Reverend Canon Joanne Izzo, Interim Canon to the Ordinary and Transitions Officer of the Diocese of New Jersey; Ms. Martha Francis, Church of the Advent; Cape May; Ms. Kimme Carlos, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton*

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*Statement in Support of Resolution 2023- 1 by Proposers:*

The Mental and Spiritual Health Committee ("MASH") will focus on five primary areas:

1. MASH will seek to change the culture within the diocese around issues of mental and spiritual health, aiming to cultivate a strengths-focused perspective toward mental and spiritual health. In doing so, MASH will seek to incorporate and engage the breadth of the diocese culturally, with regard to gender and sexual expression, geographically, and among all points of the life journey. This work will include the facilitation of continuing education to support spiritual and mental health among clergy and laity.
2. MASH will gather and disseminate mental and spiritual health resources within the diocese. The MASH team will draw insight from the secular world, the wider church, the diocese, and local congregations. This task includes maintaining a list of counseling and treatment program resources upon which clergy and others may draw
3. MASH will oversee the ongoing work of safe church training.
4. MASH will address emergent situations in congregations with a Pastoral Response Team ("PRT"). This work already exists within the diocese and will now be encompassed within the structure of MASH. From time to time bad things happen to good congregations and/or clergy. Such tragic events impact the heart and soul of the congregation and clergy. Often that impact may become more than a congregation can or should be expected to bear alone. The MASH PRT will be uniquely positioned to respond to such needs. When clergy of a congregation notify the Bishop of an adverse event, the Bishop and/or Canon to the Ordinary will assess the needs and subsequently contact the MASH PRT (if appropriate). The PRT will work with both clergy (spouse/family) and the congregation to help navigate the initial shock of the event, while also normalizing reactions and emotions. The PRT will offer a supportive pastoral presence through a variety of processes, such as (but not limited to) town halls and group and individual listening sessions. The goal of this PRT presence will be to facilitate the recovery of homeostasis within the faith community. When there is need for a higher level of care for specific individuals, the team may offer mental health referrals or resources for ongoing healing.
5. MASH will work to increase opportunities for clergy to build meaningful connections with each other for mutual support.

*Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:*

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

## RESOLUTION 2023-2:

*Subject: Remembering the Victims and Survivors of the Coronavirus Pandemic*

*Be it resolved*, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey commend the reading during the month of November 2023 of the names of those parish members lost to COVID-19; and be it

*Further resolved*, That we continually pray for those who have perished, and for those who survived, and that God's Grace will heal and comfort all those affected and restore them to health; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

*SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church Toms River, the Rev. Lisa Hoffman, the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, the Rev. Joan Pettit Mason, and the Ven. Theodore Foley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2023-2 by Proposers:*

2023 will mark the third Anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the suffering of those who now suffer the effects of "long COVID" and ever evolving variants continue to plague the world. The end of the pandemic is yet unknown, and our resources remain yet strained, but should not be forgotten.

The question to be asked is "Who Will Speak Their Names?" The quote by graffiti artist Banksy has great truth in it: "I mean, they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time." It is with this quote that I offer this resolution, so that all the victims of this pandemic will not be forgotten, that they are remembered in prayer, and that those whom still suffer in body and mind are comforted and healed by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

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## RESOLUTION 2023-3:

*Subject: Remembering the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Victims*

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*Be it resolved*, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm Resolution 2004-1 of the 220th Convention of the Diocese; and be it

*Further resolved*, That that Episcopalians in the Diocese continually pray for all those lost on September 11, 2001, all others lost at the hand of terrorism, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the days since the attacks, those who still suffer in body and mind as a result of terrorist attacks, and all those we call peacemakers; and be it

*Further resolved*, That churches of the Diocese on September 11, 2023 join in observing the Six Moments of Silence that mark the loss of life in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia:

1. At 8:46 a.m., on September 11, 2001, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the upper portion of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.
  2. At 9:03 a.m., hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
  3. At 9:37 a.m., the west wall of the Pentagon was hit by hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, the impact of which caused immediate and catastrophic damage to the headquarters of the Department of Defense.
  4. At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.
  5. At 10:03 a.m., the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 acted heroically to retake control of the airplane and thwart the taking of additional American lives by crashing the airliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and, in doing so, gave their lives to save countless others.
  6. At 10:29 a.m., the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed;
- and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

*SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church Toms River (parents of Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, WTC Victim, Age 26), the Rev. Lisa Hoffman, the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, the Rev. Joan Pettit Mason, and the Ven. Theodore Foley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2023-3 by Proposers:*

September 11th, 2023 will mark the 22nd Anniversary of the attacks upon United States.

A newly consecrated Bishop will lead in remembrance of all those who perished, not only on September 11th, but in the years that have followed, those who suffered in bodily and spiritual loss, prior to their deaths. All those who have suffered and perish should not be forgotten, nor the families that sustained them and are deserving of our continued prayers and blessings.

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The names of the Episcopalians of the Diocese of New Jersey adorn a wall in the Cathedral who were lost that day, and to whom we keep the promise “Never To Forget”, and acknowledge our duty that all of the Victims are not forgotten, by those of us who remain behind, as Bishop Stokes has reminded us.

It is with this reminder that I offer this resolution, so that all the victims of terrorism will not be forgotten, nor the sacrifices made by those we call peacekeepers, in the years that followed. That they are remembered in prayer, and that those whom still suffer in body and mind are comforted and healed by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Resolution 2004-1 is reprinted below for reference.

Resolution 2004-1  
Concerning the World Trade Center Victims

*Whereas*, The unprovoked attack on the United States carried out by international terrorists on September 11, 2001 against targets in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, injury to countless others and the destruction of innumerable lives; and  
*Whereas*, Among the victims of this depraved act were civilian and government workers, military personnel, airline passengers and crew members, and police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, many of whom reside in this State; and

*Whereas*, The remains of many victims of the World Trade Center attacks were never located; and  
*Whereas*, The ash from the World Trade Center site that contains the remains of victims of September 11, 2001 has been held at Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, New York; and

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper for the State and City of New York to honor the victims of September 11, 2001 by returning their ashes to the site of a memorial in their honor, or a suitable resting place other than a landfill; and  
*Whereas*, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey understands that the right to a proper burial is fundamental to the healing process and should be accorded to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack upon the WTC; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey go on record as supporting and endorsing the request of the WTC Families for Proper Burial organization to have the ashen remains of those lost on September 11, 2001 covered and placed in containers to eventually be transported to an appropriate site to become a part of a memorial that will be built at that location, and be it

*Further Resolved*, That, as we continually pray in the Diocese of New Jersey for all those lost, the Secretary of Convention forward a copy of this Resolution to George W. Bush, the President of the United States, the Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, to the Hon. Joseph L. Bruno, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, to the Hon. George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, to the Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, to the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to Mr. Joseph J. Seymour, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to the Hon. James E. McGreevey, Governor of New Jersey, and to the Standing Commission on National Concerns of The Episcopal Church.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**