R-84-04: A resolution concerning the government of South Africa's policy on apartheid

Be it resolved, that we, the Diocese of Southern Ohio in its 110th Convention, emboldened by the witness and example of Desmond Tutu, Bishop in the Church of God in South Africa, Nobel Laureate, and recent guest at St. Alban's Parish, Capital University, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Bexley, Columbus, Ohio;

A) Bemoan the South African Government's policy of apartheid to be heretical and blasphemous in the eyes of God in Christ and in His Church; even as we repent the logs of racism in our own eyes within this diocese;

B) Hereby establish the Desmond Tutu Scholarship for Theological Education, to provide an accredited seminary education in this country for a South African student to be named by Bishop Tutu with the approval of his appropriate Council of Advice in South Africa and the concurrence of our own Diocesan and the Diocesan Commission on the Ordained Ministry.

C) Strengthen our resolve, in concert with the approval already initiated by COREC, to link our efforts to eliminate racism within our diocese to those anti-apartheid efforts undertaken at every level of our corporate life: governmental, industrial, educational and inter-cultural.

Therefore, be it resolved that,

1) This Convention calls upon the State of Ohio to place a moratorium on all future investments of state pension fund monies in U.S. corporations and banks involved in South Africa until past laws are abolished, the forced removal of blacks to homelands is permanently discontinued, all laws are amended that force the separation of black families (when the wage earner works in white areas), and equal educational opportunities are available for all in that country.

2) Directs the Secretary of this Convention to communicate this resolution by letter to the Governor of this state, Ohio Senate President Harry Meshel and Ohio House Speaker Vernal Riffe, Jr., as the trustees of the State Pension Funds.