

## **R2025-02: Establishing the Commission on Reparative Justice in the Diocese of Southern Ohio**

**Whereas**, the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls the church to justice, reconciliation, and healing, following the commandment to love God and neighbor; *and*

**Whereas**, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, through the Reparations Task Force, has recognized that racial and economic inequities—rooted in the historic sin of slavery and perpetuated by systemic racism—continue to harm Black communities and other marginalized groups; *and*

**Whereas**, reparations are a faithful act of repentance, healing, and transformation that embody Christ's reconciling love; *and*

**Whereas**, reparative justice strengthens congregations by deepening discipleship, widening witness, and equipping leaders for equity and healing; *and*

**Whereas**, the scope of this work requires a permanent body with authority and accountability to sustain long-term initiatives; *therefore, be it*

**Resolved**, that the 151st Convention establish the Commission on Reparative Justice as a permanent body, succeeding the Reparations Task Force, to lead, sustain, and expand this work; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that the Commission include 9–15 clergy and lay members, appointed by the bishop with consent of Diocesan Council, serving staggered three-year terms with reappointment possible; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that within its first year, the commission develop a three-to-five-year strategic plan with measurable goals, strategies for congregational engagement, and accountability; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that the commission report annually to convention and provide interim updates, including progress on reparative education, financial initiatives, advocacy, reconciliation, and leadership development, all aligned with The Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community framework; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that the commission be funded through the diocesan budget and may seek grants and designated gifts; *and be it further Resolved*, that the diocese affirm reparative justice as central to its mission, fulfilling the Great Commission through acts of repair, equity, and reconciliation.