

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
235th CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 10, 2018

R-8

Designated contact person for this resolution:
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Advocate Resolution 2018

RESOLVED, that this 235th Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania vigorously affirms the presence and ministry of the George W. South Memorial Church of the Advocate—past, present, and future—as a powerful and continuing sign in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the entire Episcopal Church, and indeed to the nation of the Gospel mandate to do justice and to love, in the name of Jesus Christ,

AND BE IN FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention ask the Bishop of Pennsylvania, with the Vicar of the Church of the Advocate, to appoint and convene a special Task Force of no more than nine clergy and lay members of the Diocese of Pennsylvania to carry out a wide-ranging exploration of how to sustain this powerful witness and ministry well into the future and to report back to the next Convention of the Diocese with its specific recommendations.

Explanation:

The powerful and continuing Gospel Voice of the Church of the Advocate at 18th and Diamond Streets in Philadelphia emanates from a church building nationally historically landmarked for architecture and activities. The Advocate daily lives into its name.

Arguably, the Church of the Advocate is an institution and prophetic witness of extraordinary significance because of its role in standing alongside of those who actively claim justice and human dignity as a birthright and inheritance for every human being by living into the assertion that God intends all people, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin or circumstance, sexual orientation or gender identity, to be vessels of divine power (cf. <http://www.churchoftheadvocate.org/civil-rights-period.html>). The Advocate's unremitting advocacy on behalf of marginalized and oppressed persons, in particular African American people, women, and now those seeking sanctuary and healing from violence and tyranny has been and continues to be a beacon in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, in the Episcopal Church, in the City of Philadelphia, in the United States of America, and in the world.

References:

www.churchoftheadvocate.org

Barbara C. Harris, *Preface*, *Anglican and Episcopal History*, Vol. 83, No. 2 (June 2014), pp. 121-125

Renee McKenzie, *Being the Advocate*, *Anglican and Episcopal History*, Vol. 83, No. 2 (June 2014), pp. 165-176

Paul Washington and David Gracie, *Other Sheep I Have: The Autobiography of Father Paul M. Washington*, Temple University Press, 1994