R-3a Repudiating Christian Nationalism

Resolved, That this Convention repudiate Christian nationalism, an ideology that conflates Christian and national identity, equates national purposes with God's purposes, and uses the Christian faith to justify domination, exclusion, or unequal civic standing, as theological error and the sin of idolatry, contrary to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the catholicity of the Church, and our baptismal promises; and be it further

Resolved, That the 232nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia affirm the action of the 81st General Convention in adopting Resolution 2024-A081, "Combat Rising Religious Nationalism"; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm that, baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God and promise to follow and obey Jesus Christ as our Lord, and that no nation, race, political party, or earthly ruler may therefore claim the allegiance owed to God alone; and affirm that this repudiation is directed not against love of country or faithful participation in public life, but against the idolatry that makes any nation an object of worship; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention call the Diocese to repent of the Church's own participation, beginning from the time of its colonial establishment in Virginia, in the sacralization of national power and racial hierarchy, and to confront Christian nationalism wherever it appears, including within our own congregations and institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention call upon every congregation and institution of the Diocese to teach and preach against Christian nationalism and to equip its members to resist its influence, drawing upon Holy Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, the House of Bishops Theology Committee report *The Crisis of Christian Nationalism*, and educational resources recommended by the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church; and, in keeping with Resolution 2024-A081, to report incidents of violence and intimidation associated with Christian nationalism to the appropriate authorities and to the public, with care for the safety and privacy of those affected; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention direct the Council of Deans, in consultation with the Bishop, the Regional Presidents, and the Treasurer, to coordinate implementation of this resolution through appropriate diocesan and congregational ministries; to collaborate with the Office of Government Relations and with interreligious and ecumenical partners in strengthening coalitions within Virginia that bear public witness against Christian nationalism and stand with the communities it threatens; and to report on implementation to the 233rd Annual Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention adopt the attached resolution, with its explanation, for submission to the 82nd General Convention, and request that the Virginia Deputation advocate for its adoption and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Diocese of Virginia (the "Filing Officer"), is directed to submit this resolution and supporting materials through the General Convention's Governance and Legislative System for consideration by the 82nd General Convention, and is authorized, in consultation with the Bishop and Deputation, to make such changes to the form, structure, and wording of this resolution and its explanation as the Filing Officer determines are necessary or appropriate to conform it to the applicable portions of the Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order of The Episcopal Church, provided that each such change is consistent with the material terms and intent of the resolution as adopted by the 232nd Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.

Explanation

This resolution continues General Convention's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (2009-D035), its commitment to racial justice and reconciliation (2015-C019), and its affirmation that every Episcopalian is called to a lifelong vocation of dismantling white supremacy (2022-A125).

Resolution 2024-A081 acknowledged and lamented the harm of religious nationalism, encouraged education in collaboration with the Office of Government Relations and its established de-radicalization program, and urged the reporting of associated violence and intimidation. Its explanation identified the Christian nationalist movement, but its adopted text did not name Christian nationalism or repudiate it as theological error. This resolution makes Virginia's repudiation explicit, assigns responsibility for implementation, and submits corresponding legislation to the 82nd General Convention.

The House of Bishops Theology Committee's 2024 report, *The Crisis of Christian Nationalism: Report from the House of Bishops Theology Committee*, traces the ideology's roots in white supremacy and describes it as "fundamentally an apostasy." Addressing the House of Bishops on March 21, 2025, the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, declared: "Christian nationalism is theologically illegitimate and must be called by its proper names: idolatry, blasphemy and heresy."

This is not a rejection of patriotism. Christians may love their country and seek its welfare (Jeremiah 29:7), but no nation may claim the allegiance owed to God alone. The Church belongs to Jesus Christ, not to any nation, race, or political movement, and its catholicity embraces peoples across every national boundary. Christian nationalism contradicts this confession by using Christian identity to sanctify national power and privilege. Repudiating it is an act of faithfulness to the Gospel and a rejection of idolatry.

Scripture forbids rival objects of worship (Exodus 20:3–5). The baptized have clothed themselves with Christ, in whom distinctions of people and status no longer divide (Galatians 3:27–28). We confess Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:5–11), and our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

Sharing one bread, we are one body (1 Corinthians 10:17), awaiting a multitude from every nation and language (Revelation 7:9). In Baptism we renounce the evil powers of this world and covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 302–305).

Constitutional and Canonical Consistency

This resolution does not conflict with the Constitution or Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Financial Impact

No additional diocesan appropriation is requested.

Submitted by: The Very Rev. Peter Frazier-Morris, The Rev. Valerie Hayes, The Rev. Laura Minnich Lockey, The Rev. Kathleen Murray, The Rev. David J. Rose, The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walter, The Rev. Dr. Marian K. Windel

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Attachment for the 82nd General Convention

Title: Repudiating Christian Nationalism

Proposed by: The 232nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia,

Resolved, That the 82nd General Convention, building upon Resolution 2024-A081, "Combat Rising Religious Nationalism," repudiate Christian nationalism, the ideology that conflates Christian and national identity, equates national purposes with God's purposes, and uses the Christian faith to justify domination, exclusion, or unequal civic standing, as theological error and the sin of idolatry, contrary to the lordship of Jesus Christ, the catholicity of the Church, and our baptismal promises; and be it further

Resolved, That the 82nd General Convention affirm that, baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God and promise to follow and obey Jesus Christ as our Lord, and that no nation, race, political party, or earthly ruler may therefore claim the allegiance owed to God alone; affirm that this repudiation is directed not against love of country or faithful participation in public life, but against the idolatry that makes any nation an object of worship; and call the Church to repent of its own participation in the sacralization of national power and racial hierarchy; and be it further

Resolved, That the 82nd General Convention call upon the dioceses, congregations, and institutions of The Episcopal Church to teach and preach against Christian nationalism and to equip their members to resist it; urge them, with interreligious, ecumenical, and Anglican Communion partners, to bear public witness against Christian nationalism, stand with the communities it threatens, and continue reporting associated incidents of violence and intimidation, as Resolution 2024-A081 urged; and direct the Office of Government Relations, within existing resources, to update the educational resources it offers under Resolution 2024-A081 so that they address Christian nationalism by name, in English and Spanish, and draw upon the House of Bishops Theology Committee report *The Crisis of Christian Nationalism*, and to report on this work to the 83rd General Convention.

Explanation

Resolution 2024-A081 addressed religious nationalism through lament, education, and the reporting of violence and intimidation. Its explanation identified the Christian nationalist movement, but its adopted text did not name Christian nationalism or repudiate it as theological error. This resolution supplies that declaration, defines what it repudiates, and gives the Office of Government Relations a concrete task within existing resources.

The theological foundation is God's prohibition of idolatry (Exodus 20:3–5); the new identity given in Baptism, in which distinctions of people and status no longer divide (Galatians 3:27–28); the lordship of the crucified and exalted Christ (Philippians 2:5–11), whose followers hold their citizenship in heaven (Philippians 3:20); and the gathering of God's people from every nation (Revelation 7:9). The baptismal renunciations, promises, and Covenant require resistance to evil, repentance, justice, and respect for the dignity of every human being (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 302–305). Christians may love their country and seek its welfare (Jeremiah 29:7); what the Church may not do is give any nation the allegiance owed to God alone.

The House of Bishops Theology Committee's 2024 report, *The Crisis of Christian Nationalism: Report from the House of Bishops Theology Committee*, analyzes the ideology and its roots in white supremacy and is available in a bilingual English–Spanish edition. This resolution continues the commitments of 2009-D035, 2015-C019, and 2022-A125 and calls the Church to faithful witness and repentance.

Financial Impact

No new appropriation is requested.