

56TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION**2016 RESOLUTION**

TITLE: Declaration of September as Prison Awareness Month for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

Names of submitter(s)

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Church Name: The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona Prison Ministry Program

Church City: Phoenix, AZ

Endorsed by: Rev. Kimberly Crecca, Convener

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 56th Diocesan Convention confirm the following that the month of September be declared as Prison Awareness Month for The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona and that this declaration, as provided by the Diocesan Prison Ministry Program, be communicated by the Diocese Canon for Communication to each parish and congregant, to the media, and to the community;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 56th Diocesan Convention request churches within The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona utilize the list of suggestions available on the Diocesan Prison Ministry website (www.prison.azdiocese.org) to actively engage in the areas of education, worship, outreach, support, and advocacy to raise awareness, encourage specific advocacy efforts, and increase action by their congregations and community regarding the social justice issues regarding mass incarceration and the death penalty during Prison Awareness Month particularly and continue those engagements throughout the year;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 56th Diocesan Convention request each parish to report their activities to The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona through an online survey prepared by the Prison Ministry Program and distributed by the Diocese Canon for Communication, prior to each Convention; describing the actions taken by their

congregations during the previous Prison Awareness Month as well as their ongoing commitment to continuing action.

Funding: None

Explanation: In Matthew 25:34-40, Jesus specifically instructed his followers to care for those in prison. In response, the 78th General Convention encouraged all dioceses, congregations, schools, and other faith communities of The Episcopal Church over the next triennium to commit to studying one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time, "mass incarceration" and once again declared their opposition to capital punishment.

The 55th Diocesan Convention passed a resolution declaring its opposition to capital punishment and requiring that this declaration be communicated to each parish, to the media and to legislators.

It is the fervent prayer by those submitting this resolution that establishing September as Prison Awareness Month will provide a means for parishes and congregants to comply with resolutions passed by the 78th General Convention and the 55th Diocesan Convention.