

Amendment R23-3 Resolution on Mental Wellness

RESOLVED, that the Bishop appoint a Task Force on Mental Wellness for God's People, five (5) of whom shall be from the clerical order; five (5) of whom shall be from the lay order; three (3) of whom shall be recommended by the Youth Commission of the Diocese; three (3) of whom shall be recommended by the Commission on LGBTQ+ Ministry; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, that a Task Force on Mental Wellness for God's People be created consisting of at least five (5) clerical members and at least five (5) lay members; that the Youth Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta recommend at least three (3) members; that the Commission on LGBTQ+ Ministry recommend at least three (3) members; and that additional members be appointed to create a task force representative of the Diocese of Atlanta and including persons of a variety of marginalized identities; and be it further~~

RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall research resources concerning the role of the Church in addressing the current mental health crisis and possible uses of such resources in the Diocese, particularly among young members, LGBTQ+ Episcopalians, Episcopalians of color, and those in senior or assisted living communities, and propose ways in which the Diocese could support the mental wellness of members of the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the 118th Annual Council.

Explanation

In recent years, mental health has become a crisis as a sense of despair and loneliness pervades people across age, gender, racial, and religious lines. The

COVID-19 pandemic especially contributed to these feelings of isolation as the Church, a place where the weak are strengthened and the despairing are comforted, became a distant reality to many, especially youth, those in senior or assisted living communities, people of color, and LGBTQ+ persons. The role of God's Church in this mental health crisis is clear: comfort the afflicted and the desperate. This resolution forms a new Task Force to research and report on the ways that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta can assist in this mental health crisis from a spiritual and communal lens with input from clergy, laypersons, and a variety of identities from across the spectrum of the Church.

Submitted by Luke Netto, Youth Delegate from the Marietta Convocation