



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WYOMING

Resolution 2025-02

A Resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery

Whereas, The 76th General Convention (Resolution 2009-D035) repudiated and renounced the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God, and required that this declaration be proclaimed among our churches and shared with the United Nations and all the nations and peoples located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries;

Whereas, This doctrine, which held that Christian sovereigns and their representative explorers could assert dominion and title over non-Christian lands with the full blessing and sanction of the Church, continues to be invoked, in only slightly modified form, in court cases and in the many destructive policies of governments and other institutions of the modern nation-state that lead to the colonizing dispossession of the lands of indigenous peoples and the disruption of their way of life;

Whereas, The Episcopal Church is reviewing its policies and programs with a view to exposing the historical reality and impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and eliminating its presence in its contemporary policies, program and structures;

Whereas, General Convention Resolution 2009-D035 encourages each diocese within The Episcopal Church to reflect upon its own history, in light of these actions and encourage all Episcopalians to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States and other nation states located within The Episcopal Church's boundaries, and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected;

Resolved, That the 59th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming repudiates and renounces the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God, and requires that this declaration be proclaimed among our churches;

Resolved, That the 59th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming examine its history, culture, policies, and programs to uncover the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and eliminate its presence in the lives of its churches by encouraging all Episcopalians in the diocese to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected.

This Resolution was approved and adopted by the 59th Diocesan Convention on the 11 day of October, 2025.

This resolution was prepared by the Rev. Melinda Bobo and is presented for approval by the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

Approved as to Form:

Elizabeth B. Lance

[Elizabeth B. Lance \(Oct 20, 2025 11:02:43 MDT\)](#)

Chancellor

10/20/2025

Date