

# R11-04 Seeking peace and reconciliation and honoring the ministry of James Diamond

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**by Convention**

**published: October 12, 2011**

**Resolved**, that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio reminds the people of the diocese of our call to be peacemakers and reconcilers; and it invites the congregations to study and to implement ways to seek for peace in our communities, state, nation and world, and be it further

**Resolved**, that Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal be encouraged to apply his considerable knowledge of Christian ethics to guide the clergy and laity toward appropriate study materials for theological reflection on peacemaking and reconciliation, and be it further

**Resolved**, that there be a diocesan workshop in 2012 to bring together critical thinkers to help participants think strategically about how the church can strengthen her witness to the Prince of Peace and uphold ministries of reconciliation. This workshop shall be dedicated to the memory of the Very Rev. James Diamond.

## **Explanation**

Violence and war seem to be the way of the world. All around the globe conflict is too often a way of life. Here in the United States our civic conversations are increasingly marked by dissention and anger. The media frequently have two or more persons shouting past one another without any acknowledgment of the other's point of view. Sincere attempts to understand differing perspectives and to seek the common good are rare in public discourse. Religion is often used to justify and even to encourage dissention.

This 137th Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio is meeting in the Richard Holbrooke Convention Center where Ambassador Holbrooke brokered the Dayton Peace Accords for Bosnia and Herzegovina in November, 1995. On the 16th anniversary of those Accords, we are reminded that "Blessed are the peacemakers" in every generation.

The Church has the vocation to hold up a vision of peace and wholeness that arises from the Hebrew affirmation of Shalom. But we also have the responsibility to teach practical skills necessary for families, communities, and even nations to talk about difficult things in ways that can lead to reconciliation and peace. Bishop Breidenthal has fostered many efforts toward dialogue and holy listening here at home and abroad. His academic training in moral theology has resulted in gifts that are particularly useful as we ponder the church's role in the making of peace.

The Diocese of Southern Ohio has two parishes that have been recognized as Centres of Reconciliation by the International Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN): Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, and Christ Church, Dayton. CCN grew out of the bombing of the Coventry Cathedral in England in World War II. The response of that cathedral's members to the devastating loss of their church was not to harbor anger and hate, but to help in the rebuilding of Germany in loving forgiveness after the war.

As president of CCN-North America, Dean Diamond and others from CCN International worked tirelessly for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that led to the Alexandria Declaration, an historical document signed by the Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders in the Middle East that recognized the sanctity of the Holy Land for all three faiths while calling for an end to "the violence and bloodshed that denies the right to life and dignity." Closer to home, Dean Diamond and people from the Christ Church Cathedral worked for racial, inter-faith and gender reconciliation in Cincinnati.

Dean Diamond retired in 2010 and died in July. A diocesan workshop with critical thinkers on peace and reconciliation will be a fitting way to honor and to continue the good work that Jim Diamond began among us.

**Impact on formation and mission**

This helps the people of the diocese live into our common ministry, particularly in serving the common good.

**Impact on budget**

Passage of this resolution will require some of the bishop's time and energy as well as the use of diocesan digital communications. There is a presumption by the author of this resolution that the cost of the 2012 workshop will be paid for by participant fees.

**Presented by:**

The Rev. John Paddock, Christ Church, Dayton

The Rev. Thomas J. Fehr, Grace Church, Pomeroy

The Rev. Paula Jackson, Church of Our Savior, Cincinnati

The Rev. Bruce Smith, St. Mark's, Columbus

The Rev. Philip College, St. John's, Worthington