

Resolution: # 4

From: Peace in the Valley, Nelson Parish, and The Rev. Judy Parrish

Concerning: Tribal Recognition

Be it resolved that the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, January 25-27, 2008, stands with our Native American brothers and sisters in the Commonwealth of Virginia and supports the resolution from The New Jamestown Covenant Summit of the Episcopal Church which met in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 1-3, 2007, calling upon The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C. and the Bishops and Episcopalians of the Dioceses of Virginia, Southwestern Virginia, and Southern Virginia to call upon their elected officials in support of the federal tribal recognition of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Monacan Indian Nation, the Chickahominy Tribe, the Eastern Chickahominy Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe; and

Be it further resolved that we call upon the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations and the Bishops and Episcopalians of the Dioceses of Louisiana, Long Island, Georgia, Atlanta, Hawaii, and Fond du Lac to advocate in their respective spheres of influence for the federal tribal recognition of the United Houma Nation of Louisiana, the Shinnecock Tribal Nation of New York, the Southeastern Cherokee Council, Inc. of Georgia, the Native Hawaiian Nation, and the Brothertown Nation of Wisconsin; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C, the Bishops of the Dioceses of Louisiana, Long Island, Georgia, Atlanta, Hawaii, and Fond du Lac, and a courtesy copy be sent to the Episcopal Native American Ministries Office.

Explanation: The New Jamestown Covenant Summit of The Episcopal Church gathered in Williamsburg, Virginia, for the 400th Anniversary of the first encounter of English colonists and Native Americans and to inaugurate a new "Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation." The Summit was comprised of Episcopalians from 28 dioceses and representing 39 tribes. They heard from tribal members in the Commonwealth of Virginia as well other tribes in other states about their struggles, desires, and stalled attempts to receive federal recognition of tribal status and subsequent opportunities for health benefits, educational opportunities, economic development, and equal voice with other tribes in Washington, D.C.

We submit this resolution in the spirit of General Convention Resolution 1985-B007 which called upon "all agencies of the Church to advocate and support the honoring of all Indian treaty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes."