

**Resolution Title:** Formal Adoption of Jonathan Myrick Daniels as Patron of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

**Introduced by:** the Rev'd Peter Alan Helman, the Rev'd Deacon Carolyn Foster, the Rev'd Deacon Tom Osborne, and the Rev'd Deacon Quincy Hall.

**Subject:** Formal Adoption of Jonathan Myrick Daniels as Patron of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

**Date Introduced:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026



**Whereas**, in a spirit of resounding gratitude, this Convention gives thanks for the guidance of the Right Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Twelfth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, whose episcopate has strengthened the Diocese's witness to the reconciling love of Christ. On the eve of her retirement, we especially acknowledge her commitment to the annual Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage, expanding participation, visibility, and influence across The Episcopal Church, as we endeavor faithfully in the ministry of reconciliation at the heart of the Gospel; and

**Whereas**, the Church has long celebrated the great cloud of witnesses and the gift of patron saints, those whose witness to the Gospel in word and deed serves as a guiding light and spiritual presence for individuals and communities of faith; and

**Whereas**, the tradition of patrons reflects the communion of saints, those whose earthly and heavenly lives are bound together in Christ, who encourage the all the faithful in their own pilgrimage of discipleship; and

**Whereas**, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, responded to God's call in August 1965 to march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama, and work for the desegregation of churches and the expansion of voting rights, and gave his life in Hayneville to save his neighbor, Ruby Nell Sales, from a fatal gunshot on August 20 of that year; and

**Whereas**, Jonathan's life and martyrdom incarnate the love of Christ and the words of the prophet Isaiah, '*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me*' (Isaiah 6:8); and

**Whereas**, his devotion and sacrifice have become enduring signs of the Gospel's call to compassion, reconciliation, courage, and solidarity with the poor and the oppressed, and his witness continues to inspire generations of Christians in the state of Alabama and around the world to '*make no peace with oppression*'; and

**Whereas**, the Diocese of Alabama bears a special relationship to Jonathan Daniels's witness, as the land where his faith was tested and his sacrifice made, and where his memory continues to bid the Church to repentance, hope, forgiveness, and transformation; and

**Whereas**, the Collect for the Feast of Jonathan Myrick Daniels prays:

*"O God of justice and compassion, you put down the proud and mighty from their place, and lift up the poor and the afflicted: We give you thanks for your faithful witness Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another; and we pray that we, following his example, may make no peace with oppression; through Jesus Christ the just one, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."*

and thus, champions both the cost and the joy of discipleship in the way of Jesus Christ.

**Therefore, be it Resolved,** that the 195<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Alabama formally adopt Jonathan Myrick Daniels as Patron of the Diocese of Alabama, commending his example as a companion in faith and exemplar of Christian discipleship, encouraging all who seek to follow Christ's reconciling love in this land; and

**Be it further Resolved,** that the Diocese of Alabama, honoring Daniels's witness, renew its commitment to the work of racial justice, reconciliation, and healing, trusting that his witness steadies us against complacency and fear, and emboldens us to answer readily God's call with courage: 'Here am I; send me'; and

**Be it further Resolved,** that in thanksgiving for the witness of our patron, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, and in the hope that his holy living and holy dying may tether the mission and ministry of this Diocese even more closely to the way of Christ's reconciling love, the resolution commends to every congregation the following practices and commitments, as joyful expressions of our common life in Christ to do justice and love mercy, as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and promote the dignity of every human being:

- (1) Recommend all clergy, vestries, parish and diocesan staff, and lay delegates to Diocesan and General Conventions to complete anti-racism and racial reconciliation training; and
- (2) Establish a diocesan Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage fund or grant to assist parishes and youth groups in traveling to the annual pilgrimage in Hayneville; and
- (3) Create a diocesan award or recognition in Jonathan Daniels' name, given annually at diocesan convention to a layperson, clergy member, or youth embodying Daniels' witness to justice, reconciliation, and sacrificial love.