

HB 307 – SUPPORT
Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission
House Judiciary Committee
2/12/2019

Good afternoon Chairman Clippenger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland writes in support of HB 307, to establish a Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Since 2008, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has worked for truth-telling and justice regarding the Church's involvement and complicity with slavery, and the ways that history still impacts our churches and communities. Our work has led us to understand that the impact of lynching served only as an act of terror to spread fear and to uphold and maintain supremacy over African American people in the economic, social and political spheres. The legacy of lynching is one of the ugly foundations on which racial disparity and division continues in our country.

We urge the committee to support and pass this bill without delay. It is imperative that we continue to find ways to tell the truth about our collective history, not as a means of finding fault or blame, nor to cast judgement or seek guilt. It is imperative because telling the truth about some of our darkest times is the only real path of moving towards healing and reconciliation as a people and nation. It is time to break the silence and face this awful legacy of racial terrorism that still leaves its indelible mark today.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Grey Maggiano, Co-Chairperson
Ms. Heather Neal, Co-Chairperson

Truth and Reconciliation Members:

The Rev. Canon Christine McCloud, Canon for Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Ms. Muriel Berkley, Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore City
Mr. Michael Cobb, St. James Episcopal Church, Baltimore City
The Venerable Ruth Elder, Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
The Rev. Nancy Hennessey, Rector, Sherwood Episcopal Church, Baltimore County
The Rev. Timothy Kroh, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Baltimore City
The Rev. Barnabas Lee, St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City
The Rev. Lauren Welch, Deacon for Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
The Rev. Jane Mayerer, Deacon, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Baltimore City
Mr. Scott King

We urge a favorable report.