

**2021 Resolution Regarding
Inclusion of Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris
to the Calendar of the Church Year**

Resolved, that this 120th Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts submit the following resolution to the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church meeting in 2022:

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that the 80th General Convention include and enter Barbara Clementine Harris, Bishop, to the Calendar of the Church year to be celebrated on March 13.

Explanation:

When Barbara Harris was confirmed in the Episcopal Church as a young girl the bishop wore gloves so his hands would not have to touch the heads of the black people he was confirming. In spite of this demeaning and undeniably racist "welcome" to the church, Barbara Harris was undeterred in her commitment to Christ, living her life as a powerful example of faith, both as dedicated and engaged lay woman and as the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion. Her humble but unrelenting and heroic witness to those on the margins of the church and larger society, her warmth and generous spirit and her tireless energy and humor made her one of the most beloved and noteworthy bishops in the church, if not the world.

The criterion for inclusion: "Before a commemoration is included in the Calendar, proposers must establish that significant, enduring local and regional commemoration in corporate worship exists." Such local commemorations have occurred in the Diocese of Massachusetts (where Bishop Harris served) at St. Paul's Cathedral; St. Elizabeth's Sudbury; Trinity Church, Boston; St. Peter's, Weston; St. Paul's, Brookline; St. Peter's, Osterville, Grace Church, Newton and Christ Church, Needham. Commemorations in the wider church include (at least) Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, The Diocese of Los Angeles, the National Union of Black Episcopalians, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and the Diocese of Missouri at the consecration of Deon Johnson as Diocesan Bishop.

By the time of General Convention there will have been another year of local commemorations, here and throughout the Church.

Respectfully Submitted by: The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Chair, for Western Massachusetts
Deputation to the 80th General Convention

Endorsed by:

Ms. Maggie Sweeney

Ms. Meg Galbreath

Mr. John Cheek

Ms. Zena Link

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud

The Rev. José Reyes

The Rev. Samuel Smith

The Deputation for Western Massachusetts