UNYAC2022.5: Creation of a Buffalo 10 Scholarship

Book of Discipline (¶): N/A

Book of Resolutions paragraph (¶): N/A

Conference Committee/Agency that would be affected by/responsible for implementation if passed:
Conference Finance Staff

Financial Implications: This petition seeks no funds from the conference budget.

Brief Rationale: On May 14, 2022, a mass murderer motivated by racial hatred killed ten African Americans and injured three other individuals. A group of clergy and laity from the Niagara Frontier District have gathered to discern ways to address the systemic racism that continues to impact residents of the East Side of Buffalo and elsewhere in our region. This petition represents one of several steps in a larger plan.

Whereas ten individuals: Aaron Salter Jr., Celestine Chaney, Roberta A. Drury, Andre Mackniel, Katherine Massey, Margus D. Morrison, Heyward Patterson, Geraldine Talley, Ruth Whitfield, and Pearl Young were murdered in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, 2022, by a white supremacist from Conklin, NY. People from around the nation and the world have taken multiple steps to honor their lives as well as the struggles of those wounded and traumatized by the shooting. However, no ongoing memorial or action is underway in the Upper New York Annual Conference.

Whereas the Jefferson Avenue Tops Supermarket is the only grocery store in the area, reflecting the legacy of residential and economic segregation by race in the city of Buffalo. This is in part why the shooter chose the location.

Whereas initial high-profile efforts to address the emotional, physical, and psychological needs of residents have either ended or been greatly reduced. The lasting trauma of the event persists as well as the systemic inequalities that created a neighborhood with these distinct demographics and economic needs.

Whereas a disproportionate number of children in the city of Buffalo live beneath the poverty line. All available people are needed to create and implement meaningful changes that will dismantle remaining manifestations of racial, economic, health, and educational inequality.

Therefore, be it resolved the Upper New York Annual Conference establish a scholarship in the name of the Buffalo 10 for students from the 14208-zip code attending college.

Be it further resolved that the scholarship funds be housed and distributed by the Upper New York Annual Conference and that the criteria for eligibility and annual selection be determined by a committee of at least three of the undersigned people and the UNY Director of Connectional Ministries.

Be it further resolved that after the committee develops the criteria for eligibility and process for distribution, the committee will share these with members of the Upper New York Annual Conference.
through conference communication channels. In addition, the committee will report on the process and/or winners at the 2023 session of the Upper New York annual conference.

Date of Submission: September 30, 2022

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