

The Social Justice Commission

Resolution to the 124th Diocesan Convention

The Title: An act establishing new language for the Pioneer Valley Corridor

Submitted by:

Clergy members of the Social Justice Commission

The Rev. Vicki Ix, Canon for Communications

The Rev. Steven Wilco, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Tim Crellin, rector, St. Paul's, Gardner

The Rev. Dr. George Porter, rector, Southwick Community Episcopal

The Rev. Dr. Nina Ranadive Pooley, rector, St. Stephen's, Pittsfield

The Rev. Jimmy Solano Pickett, priest-in-charge, St. John's, Athol

The Rev. Meghan Mantler, rector, Nativity, Northborough

Co-Sponsored by:

The Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill, rector, St. David's, Agawam

The Rev. Jane Beebe, All Saints', South Hadley

The Rev. Michael Bullock, priest-in-charge, St. Philip's, Easthampton

The Rev. Heather J. Blais, rector, Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield

The Rev. Tom Synan, rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst

The Rev. Anna Woofenden, rector, St. John's, Northampton

The Resolution:

RESOLVED that the 124th Diocesan Convention commits to new language in our naming of, and reference to, the corridor that runs from Franklin County, through Hampshire and Hampden counties; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Pioneer Valley Corridor is renamed **Connecticut River Corridor** in deference to the pain caused to native neighbors in referring to this expanse of land, water and sky as the Pioneer Valley.

Explanation:

Our diocese has committed to the work of becoming beloved community since 2015 and supported antiracism training, Sacred Ground Circles and book studies that reflect our call to racial justice. The Social Justice Commission continues the work of beloved community with regard to indigenous justice.

While this is a relatively small matter in terms of altering the Diocesan Directory and our patterns of speech, it is an opportunity to grow in our awareness of native culture flourishing around our congregations. It is a small but not insignificant step in acknowledging the generational trauma of neighbors who survived the colonial expansion and the federal genocide. How we speak about the land on which we live, worship, and do God's mission matters and not just to us.