

September 20, 2020

Mr. Jeff Butcher
President of BOSA
620 S. 3rd Street Suite 203
Louisville, KY 40202

RE: Trinity Episcopal Church's Hartford chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew resignation

Dear Mr. Butcher,

The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church (TEC) Hartford has read the statement "Racial Strife in the United States" submitted for adoption by Joe Mc Daniel and the ad hoc committee, including John Robinson of TEC to the National Organization. The statement accurately and persuasively describes the sin of racism and a path to reconciliation through courageous conversations.

John Robinson is a beloved and respected member of our parish, longstanding member of BOSTA, and until recently the Brotherhood's Province I president.

We are deeply saddened and disillusioned by the inability of the BOSTA administration to adopt this statement as drafted. Our faith and fellowship community must address the systemic nature of racism within our society. In the recent statement from our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "We are in a moment of decision, chaos or community". He also states that the way to "be right and reconciled with each other" is the way of Love.

By not supporting the "Statement of BOSTA on Racial Strife in the United States" as submitted by the ad hoc committee, BOSTA is not following "the way of Love" and in not accepting the words of its own committee, is not building community with Love.

Only when we have examined our history of inequitable treatment of people of color in our country can we begin the courageous conversations to which BOSTA has committed itself.

The Vestry of TEC Hartford supports the words and actions of John Robinson and our local chapter's withdrawal from the Brotherhood as documented in the letter from John Reik to your office dated August 18, 2020.

We pray for reconciliation and community over chaos, and that the horrors of racism can be removed by the way of Love.

Respectfully,

Vestry members of Trinity Episcopal Church,
Hartford, CT