

AUGUST: Back to school with school equity

Matthew 18:2-6 New International Version (NIV)

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

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“Like other religions and denominations, the Episcopal Church has for many years and in many ways affirmed the importance of quality public education for all children as a justice issue, a moral issue, and a community issue. Since 1985, Episcopalians have passed resolutions at eight General Conventions and participated in ecumenical and interfaith collaborations . . .

However, the quality of US public education has deteriorated over those same decades.

More than twenty years after he was fired for teaching a Langston Hughes poem to Black fourth graders in Boston, Jonathan Kozol spent two years documenting the inequities between rich and poor students in cities like Detroit, New York, San Antonio, and Chicago. He documented in vivid heart-wrenching prose the inequalities between rich and poor children at school. In 1991, Kozol called his landmark book *Savage Inequalities*, and we are required to acknowledge now that our inequalities have become even more savage.

The Church’s statements, agreements, and resolutions have had little impact, which should not surprise us. Resolutions are not enough.”

From Lallie Lloyd in *All Our Children: The Church’s Call to Address Education Inequity*, Church Publishing, 2017

“Public education is a divine right, a human right, and for the common good.” - The Rt. Rev Michael Curry

This month we’ll learn about school inequity from various perspectives. As you see our children returning to school, you might ask yourself: “Are all our children receiving the same quality education in our community?” And, “How might we welcome and nurture all our children, as Jesus bids us to do?”