

PROPOSER

Executive Council Jubilee Ministries Advisory Committee

ENDORSED BY

SPONSORED BY

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HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, that a faithful response to the
2 Gospel as well as the Five Marks of Mission in this time of growing economic
3 inequality and political gridlock requires that we "respond to human need by
4 loving service" and "seek to transform unjust structures of society"; and be it
5 further

6 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church commit to a triennium of teaching,
7 preaching, organizing, advocating, and building mutually transformative
8 relationships with those who are poor to focus our hearts and the mission of our
9 congregations and dioceses on reducing poverty and increasing economic and
10 racial justice; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, that the church cultivate mindfulness about poverty in our
12 communities and world, as well as the poverty into which Christ calls us, by
13 including in our prayer and in every meeting agenda, time for prayer and
14 reflection on how our work engages issues of poverty and economic and racial
15 justice networks; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, that we identify and build strong partnerships within The Episcopal
17 Church as well as with interfaith organizations and secular agencies and
18 institutions to increase our learning and to maximize our investment of time and
19 treasure; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church encourage congregations to join local faith-
21 based organizing networks such as PICO (People Improving Communities
22 Through Organizing), IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), Gamaliel Foundation,
23 The DART Network (Direct Action and Research Training Center), and the Inter-
24 Valley Project to build power and to increase our effectiveness in strengthening
25 our communities; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, that congregations and dioceses seek out training in and use the tools of
27 Asset Based Community Development recognizing that God has blessed each of
28 us with gifts for the good of the kingdom and that we strengthen our communities
29 not by implementing programs from outside but by identifying and building from
30 the assets already existing in the community; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church continue its strategic and prophetic

32 investment in locally defined community development initiatives in Native
33 People's communities through an annual commitment of \$100,000 during the
34 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further
35 *Resolved*, that through asset based community development grants, community
36 organizing grants, and Jubilee Ministry grants that The Episcopal Church
37 support local ministries and regional trainings that increase the church's capacity
38 to reduce poverty and increase economic and racial justice through an annual
39 commitment of \$300,000 during the 2013-2015 triennium using available social
40 media networks of the Offices of Missions and Communication of the DFMS to
41 communicate availability of funds and provide reports on program activity and
42 grants made; and be it further
43 *Resolved*, that The Episcopal Church's commitment to reducing poverty and
44 increasing economic and racial justice be facilitated, encouraged, inspired, and
45 supported by the Mission Program Office of the Domestic and Foreign
46 Missionary Society and by an Executive Council Advisory Committee on
47 Domestic Poverty; and be it further
48 *Resolved*, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on
49 Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$400,000 for the
50 implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

Through Jubilee Ministry, the Church has long committed itself to a joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people wherever they are found to meet basic human needs and to build a just society. Continuing today, the over 600 Jubilee Ministries that have been designated by bishops and affirmed by acts of the Executive Council hold up before the congregations, institutions, dioceses, and offices of the Episcopal Church our commitment putting faith into action. Jubilee Ministry granting funds, though modest when dispersed across the church, assist dioceses with local network support and development while also allowing targeted strategies for ministry as indentified by Diocesan Jubilee officers to be encouraged such as the Health and Nutrition grants focused on strategic responses to food deserts.

The introduction of Asset Based Community Development and culturally based community healing as offered by the White Bison Movement is leading to locally defined community development initiatives among and by Native Peoples. Though nascent in its introduction, there are palpable signs of hope and encouragement emerging in local communities as Native Peoples begin to imagine and articulate lives lived in harmony with their creator and among one another. Their witness may very well become a symbol of hope that guides the larger Episcopal Church community into a new future filled with abundant possibilities as a people of faith who are willing to place their complete trust in God as they care for one another. Likewise, the experience of listening is bringing us, as the Church, into a more vulnerable relationship with those among whom God has placed us to serve. Expanding the opportunities for listening to more communities in need of hope is an invitation to encounter the breadth and depth of healing God is offering us as a people of faith in search of our own healing.

Summer Camp programs designed for Children of Incarcerated Parents are programs that transform the lives of staff, volunteer and child alike. No one engaged in these ministries leave unaffected by their experience of the other in their midst. There are no more clear opportunities before the Church today where we can be more intimately affected by the offerings we make than when we make those offerings on behalf of children who have never been able to imagine a future that did not include incarceration as an inevitable step ahead of them. Through these summer camp programs we are able to liberate children as prisoners of their own captivity by

offering them affirmation and the possibility of hope filled futures. While these camp programs cost many thousands of dollars to run, the modest \$1,000-2,000 grants these funds provide affirm our partnership with them in practical ways that can be leveraged by matching funds they can attract.

Taken as a whole this funding for mission supports the following Mission Priorities:

- (1) Networking the members of the Body of Christ: (a) Establishing and supporting collaborative efforts within and among dioceses and congregations to promote vibrant ministry in service to God's mission
Alleviating Poverty and Injustice; (b) Addressing, domestically and abroad, the challenges and consequences of a failing global economy; (c) Advocating for and working to provide education, healthcare, employment, housing, and equal rights for all of God's beloved.
- (3) Claiming our Identity: (a) Exploring and discovering who we are as The Episcopal Church, within the comprehensive reality of our complex culture and in relationship to others; (c) Telling Christ's story and our story, utilizing current technology and a vibrant contemporary communications network.
- (4) Growing Congregations and the Next Generations of Faith: (b) Making Evangelists of all communicants; (c) Teaching and developing the spiritual discipline of giving; (d) Supporting congregational vitality and development, with particular attention to immigrant, indigenous, and underserved populations.
- (5) Strengthening Governance and Foundations for Ministry: (b) Moving from programmatic structures to ministry structures.