

Diocesan Convention approves six resolutions

Committee on Reference rendering causes confusion, original language restored

The Committee on Reference, which is charged with reviewing and recommending action on resolutions to Diocesan Convention, edited and published Resolutions 1, 2, and 6 in ways that the originators opposed. The resolutions were restored to their original wording—not the wording published in pre-convention materials. Resolutions 1 and 2 passed in their original form, and Resolution 6 was discharged at the recommendation of the bishop.

RESOLUTION # 1

SUBJECT: Taking a Stand for the Stewardship of Creation

ORIGINATORS Cathy Behnke, St. George's Church, Milford; Ann Larimore, Church of the Incarnation, Pittsfield Township

CO-SPONSORS: Covenant 5, Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry, TBLG Concerns Committee

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan urge President Obama and Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow to commit the United States to a course of action, in collaboration with the other nations of the world, to rapidly lower atmospheric carbon (CO₂) to no more than 350 parts per million (ppm); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan endorse the call for a Global Day of Climate Action on October 24, 2009, to join together as one planet to commit to making the changes necessary to preserve this Earth into future generations, and be it further

RESOLVED, That as Convention, being held on October 24, 2009, the Global Day of Climate Action, urge the 350+ members of Convention to sign postcards provided to this Convention by Covenant 5 to notify President Obama, and Senators Levin and Stabenow of our commitment and to request their support to lower CO₂ to the sustainable level of 350ppm as soon as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as Christians, charged with the stewardship of Creation, we individually and corporately commit ourselves to examine and continually work to lower our carbon footprints so that we may be better stewards of Creation and with God's help sustain life on earth.

RESOLUTION # 2

SUBJECT: Renew and Strengthen Economic Justice Ministry

ORIGINATORS: Cathy Behnke, St. George's Church, Milford; Ann Larimore, Church of the Incarnation, Pittsfield Township

CO-SPONSORS: Covenant 5, Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry, TBLG Concerns Committee

RESOLVED, That in accordance with 2009 General Convention resolution CO49 (concurring in both houses) the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge each Episcopal Congregation to build relationships with and among the marginalized of their community and to form local partnerships with agencies that work with low income people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge each Episcopal congregation to begin or continue to engage in the traditional acts of mercy in which many congregations and Jubilee Centers participate: food pantries, clothing closets, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan to continue and to deepen its economic justice advocacy, often in concert with the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and to advocate for legislation that provides adequate levels of support and opportunities for low income people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge congregations to promote and participate in church-based community organizing whereby people of the local community exercise the power of numbers and



Leonard Coombs, St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor

conviction to bring their needs to the attention of and promote effective action by elected officials and governmental bodies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge Diocesan Council and the EDOMI where possible to support and participate in various models through which low income people and their co-workers can take control of their own lives and meet their own needs: models such as community development corporations, housing corporations and co-ops, small business development, and land trusts and Convention urges congregations where possible to do likewise; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge Diocesan Council and the EDOMI whenever possible to make loans and deposits and encourage parishes and individuals to make loans and deposits to community development financial institutions (community loan funds, community development banks and credit unions, and micro-loan business funds) to support local community development, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan urge that the actions in support of the above Resolves be as follows: 1) The Resolves be printing in *The Record Weekly* and in the earliest possible hard copy available issue, 2) That within 2 weeks of this Diocesan Convention, Covenant 5 make available resources and suggestions for possible responsive actions on its website and that at the earliest publication date thereafter, *The Record Weekly* report the post-

ing and the link, 3) That a time for formal discussion of and response to these Resolves be held at the earliest possible meeting of Diocesan Council, at the earliest possible meeting of each Clericus and each deanery, and that delegates to this convention request that their parish or vestry set aside time to discuss and formulate actions in response to these resolves, 4) That among possible early responses, the Trustees of the Diocese, Diocesan Council and congregational governing bodies be urged to develop a portion or all of their church-owned accounts in community development banks or credit unions, and 5) That Covenant 5 prepare a report for the next Diocesan Convention summarizing the response to and actions taken to implement these resolves.

RESOLUTION # 3

SUBJECT: Michigan partnership relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic

ORIGINATORS: The Very Rev. Scott Hunter, Cathedral Church of St. Paul; The Rev. Beth Scriven, St. Clare of Assisi, Ann Arbor; Herb Gunn, *The Record*

RESOLVED, that the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, in response to the exploratory trip of Michigan's Episcopal dioceses to the Dominican Republic, commissions the Diocesan Council and the bishop to establish a Discernment Team to explore a partnership relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the Diocese of Western Michigan and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

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RESOLUTION # 4

SUBJECT: Continuing the Ministry of the Healing of Racism

ORIGINATORS: The Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr.; Mrs. Karen S. Robinson, Whitaker School of Theology; The Healing Racism Task Force (Mrs. Jacqueline Spann, Chair); Covenant V; Union of Black Episcopalians: Bishop H. Irving Mayson Chapter; The Reverend Ronald Byrd; Oasis Ministry TBLG Outreach; TBLG Concerns Committee

RESOLVED, that the 175th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan renew its commitment to the elimination and healing of racism in the Church and in secular society; and that the diocese promote the ongoing ministry of the Healing Racism Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, that diocesan staff and those seeking election or appointment to the several standing commissions, other committees, related boards and auxiliary



Susan Dougherty, All Saints', East Lansing

organizations of the Diocese must have had instruction in the ministry offered by the Healing Racism Task Force in the Diocese of Michigan (or its counterpart if completed while resident in another diocese) no more than five (5) years prior to their election or appointment or agree to have this instruction within six (6) months after their election or appointment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan or a person(s)

designated by the Bishop of this diocese be empowered to review credentials of current and future elected and appointed servants to the several standing commissions, other committees, related boards, auxiliary organizations and agencies of the Diocese, to inform the Bishop and those who serve the diocese of those who are not in compliance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this convention request our diocese to pray for the continuing ministry offered by the Healing Racism Task Force.

RESOLUTION # 5

SUBJECT: Affirm the Tithes as the minimum Standard of Giving

ORIGINATOR: Simon (Pete) Ross, St. Clare of Assisi, Ann Arbor

RESOLVED, That the 175th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan affirm the tithes as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians.

RESOLUTION # 6 discharged

Resolution 6 titled (and calling for) "Diocesan Funding for the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries and Social Service Support Ministries of the Diocese of Michigan," proposed by the same originators of Resolution 7 (see below), filed a resolution in May requesting the level for the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries be maintained at \$18,545 and the level of funding for Social Service Support Ministries be restored to \$100,000, "with part coming from the investment income from the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund and part coming from the Extended Ministries Fund."

When Diocesan Council built the proposed 2010 budget, council deferred a decision on this Covenant V funding to Diocesan Convention.

However, when the Committee on Reference prepared the resolutions for convention consideration, the committee edited Resolutions 1, 2 and 6 in a manner to which the (same) originators objected. The originators requested that Resolutions 1 and 2 be restored to the original language when brought to the floor of convention.

During the pre-Convention Committee on Reference hearings on Friday afternoon, originators also objected to the editing of Resolution 6, which reduced their specific financial request to maintaining "a strong witness for Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries."

When members of the Diocesan Council and the chair of the council's budget committee also raised concerns at the hearing, the committee chair and secretary of convention agreed to return to the original language, which requested a specific financial commitment.

However, when that resolution was brought to the floor for discussion during convention's budget debate, Bishop Gibbs ruled the request out of order since it asked for funds from the EMF.

As a compromise measure, Gibbs recommended and received convention consent to discharge the resolution and urge the Diocesan Council and Diocese of Michigan Trustees to increase investment in the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund from which interest income supports the Social Service Support Ministries.

RESOLUTION # 7

SUBJECT: Solicitation of financial support for the Justice and Peace Advocacy and Social Service Support Ministries of the Diocese of Michigan

ORIGINATORS: Cathy Behnke, St. George's Church, Milford; Ann Larimore, Church of the Incarnation, Pittsfield Township

RESOLVED, That in recognition of the stated Diocesan Mission and Ministry Commitment to Justice, Peace and Diversity, the 175th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan authorize the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries (formerly referred to as Public Advocacy or abbreviated as Advocacy Ministries,) and Social Service Support Ministries, (formerly called the Social Justice Ministries of the Diocese of Michigan) to solicit funds from the governing bodies of recognized congregations and individual members of congregations in support of the following ministries:

SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

Absalom Jones Center
Alternatives for Girls
Bound Together
The Breakfast Program at St. Andrew's
Crossroads
Emmanuel Community House
Lansing Area AIDS Network
Oasis Ministry TBLG Outreach
St. Peter's Free Clinic
St. Peter's/Spirit of Hope Community Gardens
Sunshine Community Preschool
Village Builders of Northwest Detroit

JUSTICE AND PEACE ADVOCACY MINISTRIES

May include but are not limited to:

Covenant 5
Action of Greater Lansing
Criminal Justice Advocacy
Disability Awareness
Economic Justice Commission
Environmental Concerns
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Head Start School (St. Philip's)
Michigan Equality/ Canterbury MSU
Plant a Row for the Hungry (St. Barnabas)
Removing Church Walls (St. Barnabas)
St. Peter's Social Forum Faith Witness
Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay Concerns C'ttee