



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE

The 180th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan

October 24/25, 2014 - Lansing, Michigan

1 **RESOLUTION #1**

2
3 **ORIGINATOR:** Bruce Donigan

4
5 **SUBJECT:** **Diocesan Funding for the Social Service Ministries of the Diocese of Michigan**

6 **RESOLVED:** that the 180th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan direct Diocesan
7 Council to allocate in its budget funding for the Social Service Support Ministries at the level of
8 \$58,214.

9 **RESOLVED:** that funding for these ministries come from the investment income from the Opportunity
10 Resource Fund and if needed, from the operating budget of the Diocese of Michigan.

11 **RESOLVED:** that Diocesan Council supervise a process to make recommendations about the allocation
12 of the \$58,214 for these ministries, and that there be a public, participatory and transparent process
13 for the allocation of these funds with final approval of Diocesan Council until a new way of funding
14 them is in place.

15 **RATIONALE/EXPLANATION:**

16 The Social Service Support Ministries witness to the fourth Baptismal Covenant to “seek and serve
17 Christ in all persons,” especially the young, the poor and the marginalized. In these challenging
18 economic times it is critical that our Diocese witness to those in need with hands-on support.

19 Support of this resolution allows for continuation of the Social Service Support Ministries of the
20 Diocese of Michigan so that they are able to carry out our “hands-on” ministry of witness in the Church
21 and in the world. Drastic cuts or elimination of present support would create a severe and negative
22 impact on those ministries we support that help children and feed the hungry. It also means that the
23 Episcopal Church would lose our prophetic voice in these areas of ministry, in that our “corporate
24 response” as a diocese to the needs of others would be diminished.

25 This resolution also designates the source from which the funds are to come in 2015, as the diocese
26 continues its visioning process to determine how future ministry will be continued, enhanced, and
27 adequately funded.

28 Finally, Covenant 5 supports the process created by Diocesan Council that involves the people active in
29 the ministries in proposing how the funds could best be used.

1 **RESOLUTION #2**

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3 **ORIGINATOR:** Bruce Donigan

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5 **SUBJECT: Diocesan Funding for the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries**

6 **RESOLVED:** that in continued recognition of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Commitment to Justice,
7 Peace and Diversity and recalling our fifth Baptismal Covenant, the 180th Annual Convention of the
8 Episcopal Diocese of Michigan direct Diocesan Council to maintain in its 2015 budget the 2014
9 Diocesan funding of \$18,545 for the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries which in 2014 included
10 funding for Covenant 5, and the following ministries under its umbrella: American Friends Service
11 Committee Michigan Criminal Justice Program; Church of the Incarnation Criminal Justice Advocacy;
12 Disability Awareness (including Alliance to Abolish Bullying); Economic Justice Commission; St.
13 Katherine’s Adult Day Care Center (advocacy component); St. Peter’s Manna Works; St. Stephens’ Troy
14 Dream in Action; Transgender Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Concerns Committee; St. Clements’ New
15 Vision; and Word and World.

16 **RESOLVED:** that for the fiscal year 2015 the 180th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of
17 Michigan direct Diocesan Council to continue its funding of Covenant 5 and the Justice and Peace
18 Advocacy Ministries in the amount of \$18,545 from the operating budget of the Diocese or
19 alternatively from the Extended Ministry Fund.

20 **RESOLVED:** that the persons active in Covenant 5 and Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries continue
21 to make recommendations about the allocation of the \$18,545 for those ministries, in accordance with
22 existing procedures and with final approval of Diocese Council.

23 **RATIONALE/EXPLANATION:**

24 In February, 2014, after hearing presentations by ministry representatives present and reviewing
25 written submissions, Covenant 5 made grant allocation recommendations for the ministries listed in
26 the body of the above resolution. As always, we received requests totaling more than the amount we
27 were able to award in grants. Each year Covenant 5 receives new advocacy funding requests and is
28 faced with the prospect of funding them at levels less than requested.

29 The times in which we live indicate that more funding is needed to show true Christian commitment to
30 ministries that support peace, justice and advocacy, and it remains crucial that our present level of
31 witness be strengthened by maintaining and whenever possible increasing financial commitment to
32 the ministries that we support.

33 The first resolve speaks to our continued funding of diocesan-wide public witness ministries. Our core
34 beliefs as Gospel Christians require that we imitate Jesus Christ who engaged in a public ministry that
35 addressed the plight of captives, the poor and oppressed (Luke 4: 16-19). Each time we renew the fifth
36 covenant of our Baptismal vows, we commit ourselves (with God’s help) to strive for justice and peace

37 among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being (BCP, p.305). Our continued support
38 of this resolution aids in this commitment.

39 The pursuit of Justice, Peace and Diversity is one of the Five Marks of Mission of the national Church
40 and of this diocese. Our Diocesan Canons lift up baptismal ministry, including serving others and
41 striving for justice and peace as foundational, and all of us are to provide for the full expression of the
42 ministry of all baptized persons (Diocesan Canon 5.4). The Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries of the
43 Diocese of Michigan work at a diocesan level to carry out these ministry priorities and to provide
44 justice and peace resources and witness in the Church and in the world.

45 The ministries funded by Covenant 5 do not just impact the lives of a few individuals or congregations.
46 They continue to impact and have transformed the lives of many within the geographic boundaries of
47 the Diocese of Michigan. We believe that these ministries should continue to have ongoing diocesan
48 input, participation and funding support, and that reducing support in 2015 would be detrimental to
49 our witness and our ability to carry out our Baptismal Covenant at the Diocesan level.

50 This resolution also designated the source of these funds in 2015 as the diocese continues its visioning
51 process to determine how future ministry will be continued, enhanced and adequately funded.

52 Finally, Covenant 5 reaffirms its commitment to the process that involves the people active in the
53 ministries in recommending how the money is allocated, so that the people most involved in the
54 ministries may contribute to the process, and decisions may be made on the basis of accurate
55 information, experience and recommendations, together with oversight by Diocesan Council.

1 **RESOLUTION #3**

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3 **ORIGINATOR:** Bruce Donigan

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5 **SUBJECT: Reauthorizing the Ability to Solicit Financial Support for the Justice and Peace**
6 **Advocacy and Social Service Support Ministries of the Diocese of Michigan**

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8 **RESOLVED:** that in recognition of the stated Diocesan Mission and Ministry Commitment to Justice,
9 Peace and Diversity, the 180th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan authorizes the
10 Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries and Social Service Support Ministries to solicit funds from the
11 governing bodies of recognized congregations and individual members of congregations in support of
12 the following ministries:

13
14 **SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT MINISTRIES**

14 **JUSTICE AND PEACE ADVOCACY MINISTRIES**

- 15 Catholic Community Response Team Pontiac
- 16 Bound Together Pontiac
- 17 Crossroads of Michigan
- 18 Grace, Mt. Clemens Community Supper
- 19 Holy Faith, Saline Paper Pantry
- 20 Mariner’s Inn, Detroit
- 21 Messiah, Detroit
- 22 OASIS/LGBT Program
- 23 St. Andrew’s, Ann Arbor Breakfast
- 24 St. Katherine’s, Williamston Forster Woods
- 25 St. Michael’s, Lincoln Park
- 26 St. Michael’s/All Angel’s, Cambridge Junction
- 27 St. Paul’s, Lansing
- 28 St. Peter’s Hillsdale Free Clinic, Hillsdale

- 15 Covenant 5
- 16 American Friends Service Committee Michigan Criminal Justice Program
- 17 Disability Awareness and Abolish Bullying Ministry
- 18 Economic Justice Commission
- 19 Church of the Incarnation, Pitts. Township Criminal Justice Advocacy
- 20 St. Katherine’s, Williamston Forster Woods Adult Day Care Advocacy
- 21 St. Peter’s Manna Works
- 22 St. Stephen’s Dream In Action
- 23 St. Clements’ New Vision
- 24 TBLG Concerns
- 25 Word and World

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30
31 **RATIONALE/EXPLANATION:**

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33 Support to needed and faithful Christian ministry occurs at several levels, from the “corporate” -- the
34 largest possible gathering -- to the individual. This resolution allows the Justice and Peace Advocacy
35 Ministries and the Social Service Support Ministries to engage in solicitation for support at several
36 levels should the adopted budget support prove insufficient for the respective ministries to operate,
37 due to difficult diocesan budget cuts or other unforeseen occurrences. The ministries that are
38 permitted and encouraged to raise funds will do so to strengthen the ministries so that the witness of
39 the Church may grow, and so that support to those in greatest need can continue.

40
41 The Scriptures, the Baptismal Covenant, the Canons of General Convention and Title V, Section 5.4 of
42 our Diocesan Canons affirm that all members of the Church share in the servanthood ministry of our
43 Lord Jesus Christ, and that we support the ministry of all baptized persons. Striving for justice and
44 peace as well as loving and serving our neighbors is foundational, and we have, individually and as the
45 Body of Christ, the responsibility to keep this covenant.

1 **RESOLUTION #4**

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3 **ORIGINATOR:** The Very Rev. Ellis Clifton

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5 **SUBJECT:** **Building Bridges Through Faith-Rooted Organizing**

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7 **RESOLVED:** that the 180th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan re-affirms the
8 commitment of the Fifth Baptismal Covenant to strive for justice and peace among all peoples and to
9 respect the dignity of every human being;

10
11 **RESOLVED:** that this Convention affirms faith-rooted community organizing as one faithful and
12 effective means of fulfilling this commitment and implementing RSVP/RUACH Social Justice & Outreach
13 Goal 3, "Increase Advocacy for Social Justice Issues";

14
15 **RESOLVED:** this Convention acknowledges the leadership of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the
16 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) which passed a similar resolution in support of faith-
17 rooted organizing at its Synod Assembly in May 2014;

18
19 **RESOLVED:** that congregations, leaders, and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan be
20 encouraged to join with other people of faith to advocate for a just and compassionate society.

21
22 **EXPLANATION/RATIONALE:**

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24 At the May 2014 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
25 (ELCA) passed a similar resolution on Faith-Rooted Organizing. The Episcopal Church has a Full
26 Communion agreement with the ELCA and this resolution will serve as a new and hopeful expression of
27 this cooperative denominational partnership.

28
29 Faith-rooted community organizing is an effective means of bringing together people of faith both to
30 **raise awareness** of ways in which injustice, oppression, and hardship afflict our neighbors and to
31 **advocate** for those changes that will promote the common good.

32
33 Working with people of different traditions and faiths in promoting the common good becomes a great
34 joy and blessing as friendships are created and lives are enriched. Movements and organizations that
35 are bringing together people of faith to work for the common good are already doing amazing things
36 and provide all of us the opportunity to participate in how God is breaking chains, bearing burdens and
37 bringing hope into our communities. Among them are: Bread for the World, Church World Service,
38 Detroit Action Collaborative, Detroit Clergy Gathering, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, Metro
39 Coalition of Congregations, Michigan United, Michigan Prophetic Voices, National Action Network
40 Inkster and the Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition.

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42 joy and blessing as friendships are created and lives are enriched.
43 Movements and organizations that are bringing together people of faith to work for the common good
44 are already doing amazing things and provide all of us the opportunity to participate in how God is
45 breaking chains, bearing burdens and bringing hope into our communities. Among them are: Bread for
46 the World, Church World Service, Detroit Action Collaborative, Detroit Clergy Gathering, Interfaith
47 Council for Peace and Justice, Metro Coalition of Congregations, Michigan United, Michigan Prophetic
48 Voices, National Action Network Inkster and the Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition.

1 **RESOLUTION #5**

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3 **ORIGINATOR:** The Rev. Charles Swinehart

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5 **SUBJECT: Further Enactment of General Convention 2012 Resolutions by Diocese of Michigan**
6 **Congregations**

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8 **RESOLVED:** that the 180th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan commends the congregations who
9 have chosen to enact one or more of the resolutions adopted by General Convention 2012, thus
10 implementing RSVP/RUACH Social Justice & Outreach Goal 3, "Increase Advocacy for Social Justice
11 Issues".

12
13 **RESOLVED:** that other congregations be encouraged to engage in similar choice and enactment, thus
14 implementing RSVP/RUACH Social Justice & Outreach Objective 2.6, "Help Congregations to Establish
15 Social Justice/Outreach Programs".

16
17 **RESOLVED:** that when there is interest by two or more congregations in the enactment of a particular
18 resolution, we encourage a collaborative effort. As well, we encourage one or more deaneries to
19 choose to enact (a) particular resolution(s).

20
21 **EXPLANATION/RATIONALE:**

22
23 Diocesan Convention 2013 adopted a resolution supporting congregational enactment of General
24 Convention 2012 resolutions. See below, list of congregations (as of 06-30-14) implementing General
25 Convention 2012 resolutions on Social Justice and/or otherwise engaging in Social Justice/Advocacy
26 Ministry.

27
28 "Almighty God, who has created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil
29 and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to
30 employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your
31 holy Name. . . ." (BCP, p.260)

32
33 **LIST OF PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS:**

34
35 **All Saints, East Lansing** - D011 Reform Unequal Immigration Law; D067 Dream Act (Pathway to US
36 Citizenship for Undocumented Youth and Young Adults); Work through ACTION of Greater Lansing to
37 address the needs of critically-ill children, to promote pre-school education, to reduce high-school
38 drop-out rates, and to address fair-housing issues and disability concerns

39 **Christ Church, Pleasant Lake** - A140 Advocate for Maternal & Infant Health

40 **Christ the King, Taylor** - A140 as above; A136 Affirming the Compatibility of Science & the Christian
41 Faith

42 **Grace, Mt. Clemens** - A139 Gender Violence; D018 End Discrimination vs. Same-Sex Marriage

43
44 **Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.** - A077 Model Prison Ministry: For a system of justice that seeks
45 to provide prisoners with assistance both before and after their release; A079 American Civil Liberties;
46 C086 Urges Congregations to "build relations seeking to address the root cause of poverty", to create
47 venues for dialogue and shared stories, to develop and train leases within (poor) communities, to be a

48 prophetic voice; D003 Gun Free Zones;D018 as above; Received and affirmed "Call to Partnership", the
 49 communique presented to the United Nations Summit by participants in the Consultation of Religious
 50 Leaders on Global Poverty, the work of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the
 51 work of the Church's officers, dioceses, congregations, baptized members, and Episcopal Relief &
 52 Development in undertaking and supporting partnerships for global development in impoverished
 53 countries and called for the expansion of this work (A010)
 54 **St. Clement's, Inkster** - D080 Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline (Rite of Passage)
 55 **St. George's, Milford** - D022 Churchwide Response to Bullying
 56 **St. Katherine's/Forster Woods Adult Day Care Center** - Advocates for important programs affecting
 57 the elderly and those with age-related disabilities, including Adult Day Services; advocates for the
 58 support of essential programs and services for Alzheimer's
 59 **St. Luke's, Allen Park** - A140 as above; A136 as above
 60 **St. Luke's, Shelby Twp.** - A140 as above
 61 **St. Michael's & All Angels, Cambridge Junction** - A140 as above
 62 **St. Patrick's, Madison Heights** - A035 Commit to Continued Interreligious Engagement; A0125
 63 Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism; A057 Continue Using "Enriching Our Worship"
 64 **St. Paul's, Brighton** - D022 as above

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 66 **LIST OF ENACTED 2012 GENERAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS BY RESOLUTION NUMBER**
 67
 68 A010 Received and confirmed "Call To Partnership" Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.
 69 A035 Commit to Continued Interreligious Engagement St. Patrick's, Madison Heights
 70 A057 Continue Using "Enriching Our Worship" St. Patrick's, Madison Heights
 71 A077 Model Prison Ministry Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.
 72 A079 American Civil Liberties Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.
 73 A125 Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism St. Patrick's, Madison Heights
 74 A136 Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith Christ the King, Taylor, St. Luke's,
 75 Allen Park Trinity, St. Clair Shores
 76 A139 Gender Violence Christ Church, Pleasant Lake, Christ the King, Taylor , St. Luke's, Allen Park,
 77 St. Luke's, Shelby Twp. , St. Michael's and All Angels, Cambridge Junction
 78 C086 Build Relationships to Address Root Causes of Poverty Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.
 79 D003 Gun Free Zones Incarnation, Ann Arbor/Pittsfield Twp.
 80 D011 Reform Unequal Immigration Law All Saints, East Lansing
 81 D018 End Discrimination *re*: Same-Sex Marriage Grace, Mt. Clemens
 82 D022 Churchwide Response to Bullying St. George's, Milford , St. Paul's, Brighton , St. Paul's, Lansing
 83 D067 Dream Act St. Paul's, Lansing
 84 D080 Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline (Rite of Passage) St. Clement's, Inkster

1 **RESOLUTION #6**

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3 **ORIGINATOR:** The Rev. Charles Swinehart

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5 **SUBJECT: Child Well-Being: Focus on Education and Poverty**

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8 **RESOLVED:** that the 180th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan encourages the Michigan legislature
9 and governmental agencies to address child education and poverty in Michigan, by: restoring the
10 education funding that has been cut since the start of the Great Recession, with a focus on making sure
11 children can read by the end of third grade; supporting families earning the least through tax credits
12 and more robust food and cash assistance; increasing child-care payments to help working parents;
13 investing in strategies to reduce the 8.4 percent of Michigan babies born too small, particularly in
14 communities of color; supporting the expansion of *Healthy Kids, Dental* to all eligible children,
15 especially the more than 400,000 low-income children in Oakland and Wayne counties.

16
17 **EXPLANATION/RATIONALE:**

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19 The 2014 KIDS COUNT Data Book, by the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, marks a quarter-
20 century of bringing attention to national and state-level data on the well-being of children. In this
21 year’s report (2014), Michigan is ranked No. 32, placing it behind 31 other states for overall child well-
22 being, down one slot since last year.

23
24 See: [http://www.mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Michigan-news-release-final-
25 nonembargoed.pdf](http://www.mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Michigan-news-release-final-nonembargoed.pdf)

26
27 *Healthy Kids, Dental* is a public-private partnership between the Department of Community Health and
28 Delta Dental of Michigan. The program is available to Medicaid-eligible children under age 21 in all but
29 three counties. The program, administered by Delta Dental, uses Delta’s commercial network of
30 dentists and pays higher rates than Medicaid.

31
32 See: <http://www.mlpp.org/healthy-kids-dental-program#sthash.nD8Cgoam.dpuf>

33
34 We are called to "respond to human need by loving service" (third of "Five Marks of Mission") and to
35 implement RSVP/RUACH Social Service and Outreach Goal 2, "show Christ's love to others".

36
37 "Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State the spirit of
38 wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to
39 promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord." (BCP, p. 822)

1 **RESOLUTION #7**

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4 **ORIGINATORS:** Heather Jones, Michael Blair, Margaret Maycock, George Port, Karen Kienbaum,
5 Helen Santiz, Mark High

6
7 **SUBJECT: Solutions to Gun Violence**

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9 **RESOLVED:** that the 180th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, in response to the impact on
10 Michigan communities of deaths from gun violence, join with other faith communities calling for the
11 following steps to be taken by Federal and State lawmakers:

- 12
13 1. Requiring and enforcing universal background checks on **all** gun sales;
14 2. A clear ban on all future sales of military-style semi-automatic weapons, high-capacity ammunition
15 magazines and high-impact ammunition (i.e. ammunition more deadly than ordinarily used in hunting);
16 3. Making gun trafficking a Federal crime; and be it further,

17
18 **RESOLVED:** that lawmakers advocate for public policy and adequate funding to provide community-
19 based services, hospital care and research into the causes and treatment of mental illness.

20
21 **EXPLANATION/RATIONALE**

22
23 The Episcopal Church supports the U.S. Constitution’s protections of the rights of law-abiding citizens
24 to keep and bear arms; but, we also stand for public policies to ban gun violence and assault weapons.
25 Further we, the undersigned, believe that the victims of gun violence extend beyond the grave of those
26 lost to these tragic shootings. Access to guns with rapid fire ability and high capacity magazines are a
27 common, deadly ingredient in these repeated killings. Wholesale murder is made possible because,
28 those without proper moral guide have easy access to these assault weapons. We as a society must
29 face these hard truths. We must have federal and local legislation to ban assault weapons, limit the
30 capacity of gun magazines, and institute universal background checks for all purchasers of firearms.

31
32 *From the Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs*

33 “As an Episcopalian committed in baptism to seeking justice and peace and promoting the dignity of
34 every human being, I commit to being part of the solution to the violence in our culture that claims the
35 lives of 2000 innocent children through gun crimes each year. I commit to the pursuit of laws that keep
36 guns out of the hands of criminals, prioritize the needs of at-risk children, provide care for those
37 suffering mental illness, and address the many ways in which our culture trivializes violence. I commit
38 to holding my lawmakers, my community, and my own household accountable”.