

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C047
TITLE: Establish ERD Sunday
PROPOSER: Diocese of Michigan
COMMITTEE: Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

Directly Related: (attached)

2000-A109 Commend and Endorse the Presiding Bishop's Capital Fund Campaign
2000-B010 Express Gratitude to PBFWR and Endorse Adoption of a New Name
1985-A082 Affirm the Church's Response to Global Hunger
1985-A103 Reaffirm the Church's Central Mission of Ministry With the Poor and Oppressed
1982-A154 Call Upon Congregations to Increase Their Ministry to the Poor

Indirectly Related:

2006-D022 Establish the Millennium Development Goals as a Mission Priority
2003-D006 Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals
1988-A111 Call Upon Members to Work on Behalf of the Poor and the Common Good

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.



Resolution Number: 2000-A109
Title: Commend and Endorse the Presiding Bishop's Capital Fund Campaign
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention commend to the church the proposed capital campaign of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and heartily endorse this effort to develop a significant endowment to increase the Fund's ability to address the root causes of poverty, ill health, illiteracy, and economic injustice, and for the support of necessary administration of the Fund.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 500.



Resolution Number: 2000-B010
Title: Express Gratitude to PBFWR and Endorse Adoption of a New Name
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its profound and abundant thanks to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, which for sixty years has responded faithfully and well to people in need throughout the United States and the world. Since its founding in 1940 through the vision of people of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Fund has served as the foremost tangible expression of relief and development through this Church; and be it further
Resolved, That this General Convention, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, rejoice in the adoption of the new name of "Episcopal Relief and Development" under which this great work will continue and grow in response to human need in the service of Jesus Christ; and be it further
Resolved, That this General Convention call on the people of the Episcopal Church to respond generously to Episcopal Relief and Development as an expression of our Christian compassion and in response to the Baptismal Covenant to love and respect the dignity of every human being.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 277.



Resolution Number: 1985-A082
Title: Affirm the Church's Response to Global Hunger
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 68th General Convention affirm the response of the Episcopal Church to global hunger and famine; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the Episcopal Church observe October 16 of each year as World Food Day and use the week which includes this date to join with religious and secular organizations in local communities everywhere to study the root causes of hunger at home and abroad; and be it further**

Resolved, **That the National Hunger Committee and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, through their networks, continue to provide opportunities and educational resources to assist Episcopalians to work actively towards eradication of hunger through:**

1. **Generous gifts for relief, rehabilitation and developmental aid;**
2. **Participation in local hunger relief programs;**
3. **Public policy advocacy to encourage domestic and international relief and to promote just distribution of the world's resources; and**
4. **Worship, prayer, education and reflection;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That Episcopalians be encouraged to use the opportunities afforded by the diversity of the Anglican Communion to institute partnership programs in development which address basic issues of hunger, disease, poverty, discrimination, and illiteracy; and be it further**

Resolved, **That congregations be encouraged to develop programs and to share their discoveries and responses through the networks of the National Hunger Committee and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 204.



Resolution Number: 1985-A103
Title: Reaffirm the Church's Central Mission of Ministry With the Poor and Oppressed
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 68th General Convention reaffirm the conviction that a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people is at the heart of the mission of the church.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 158.



Resolution Number: 1982-A154
Title: Call Upon Congregations to Increase Their Ministry to the Poor
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Submitted
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That, after hearing the Presiding Bishop's challenge to this Church to listen to the cries of the poor and to respond with true commitment to this "next step," this 67th General Convention endorse that challenge and call upon each congregational grouping in the Church, large or small:**

1. **To increase, to the limit of its ability, its ministry to the poor in its own neighborhood, and**
2. **To share a portion of its financial resources with the larger Church to provide needed assistance so that all congregations may minister more effectively to the poor, such offerings to be administered by the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and the Coalition for Human Needs;**

and be it further

Resolved, **That the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council are hereby directed to devise a plan of action for this next step.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, New Orleans, 1982* (New York: General Convention, 1983), p. C-137.

TOPIC/TITLE: Establish ERD Sunday

PROPOSER: Diocese of Michigan

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church dedicate the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development
3 Sunday and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief
4 & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help
5 heal a hurting world.
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EXPLANATION:

In 2008, the Presiding Bishop designated the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and as an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief & Development's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons. ERD representatives and deputies across our Church will be considering resolutions similar to the one presented here. The Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty and disease around the world is lived out in a variety of ways. Advocacy with our government for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is one vital way. Another is through the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development, which, as the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church, works globally to alleviate hunger, fight disease, and strengthen communities.