

Jubilee Ministry Advisory Committee

Membership

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, <i>Chair</i>	Iowa, VI
Ms. Dianne Aid	Olympia, VIII
Ms. Nell Bolton	Louisiana, IV
The Rev. Rebecca Jones	Colorado, VI
Mr. Jay F. Lehnertz	Kansas, VII
The Rt. Rev. D. Bruce MacPherson	Western Louisiana, VII
Mr. Phillip G. Mantle	Chicago, V
The Rev. Kathleen McAdams	Massachusetts, I
Ms. Katie Mears	New York, II
The Rt. Rev. James H. Ottley	Long Island, II
The Rt. Rev. David M. Reed	West Texas, VII
The Rev. Noreen P. Suriner	Central New York, II
The Rev. Winnie Varghese, <i>resigned 6/2011</i>	New York, II
The Rev. Deacon Terry Star, <i>EC Liaison</i>	North Dakota, VI
The Rev. Christopher A. Johnson, <i>Staff</i>	

Summary of Work

The Committee is, by mandate, an advisory committee charged with engaging the Church in the needs and issues of poverty and oppression among congregations and dioceses. The Committee met three times: in April, 2010, at the Robert Treat Hotel in the Diocese of Newark; in November, 2010, for Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) training in Waterloo, in the Diocese of Iowa; and in July, 2011, at the Cathedral Domain in the Diocese of Lexington. The Committee has performed a wide range of work, on a number of General Convention Resolutions and focus areas.

Jubilee Ministry Capacity Building (1982-A080, 2009-A154)

Diocesan Jubilee Officers

A training event was offered July 6–9, 2011 in the Diocese of Lexington and another is being planned for the fall of 2012.

Jubilee Ministry Grants

Approximately \$300,000 in grant funds were provided over the three year period based on recommendations from the network of Diocesan Jubilee Officers. Focus was placed on Diocesan Development needs as directed by Jubilee Officers and their bishops; Health & Nutrition with an emphasis on food deserts as promoted by the United States Dairy Association's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" program; for "Building a Just Society" projects specifically focused upon and emerging from local communities in response to poverty alleviation goals; and finally, in support of making two-day Asset Based Community Development workshops available in dioceses focused on local organizing.

Evangelism and Congregational Development

By the end of the triennium, twelve or more dioceses will have introduced Asset Based Community Development workshops to interested congregations, ministries, and task forces. These workshops have been presented to make connection between the roots of our Christian faith and the communities we worship in, such as the prophet Jeremiah teaches: "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (29:7) or as Jesus teaches: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40) In November 2010, an article was published in Anglican Theological Review under the title, "Jubilee Ministry: The Bridge between Loving God and Loving Neighbor," for the purpose of informing the missional basis of Jubilee.

Publications

Networking and communication development has focused on the introduction of Jubilate, a quarterly e-newsletter circulated to Jubilee Ministry partners church wide; the inclusion of local Jubilee Ministry news stories on the Jubilee web pages; the addition of Facebook, blog, and Twitter pages linked to the website; and a listserv for communication to the network of Diocesan Jubilee Officers on timely issues.

A series of 2012 Asset Based Community Development local workshops supporting current efforts towards sustainability and diocesan mission in Latin American dioceses are being planned in collaboration with the Officers working for Latin American & the Caribbean and for Province IX.

Poverty Alleviation (2009-A155)

Approximately \$140,000 will have been invested during this triennium to provide opportunities to participate in Asset Based Community Development and White Bison designed workshops in direct response to invitations extended by leaders of Native American communities. Workshops were hosted or are planned to be hosted on the Reservations in White Earth, Navajoland, Standing Rock and Pine Ridge. Additional gatherings were or are being organized in Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Albuquerque, Denver, and Los Angeles. Approximately \$140,000 will have been invested funding development initiatives that have emerged from local Native American communities.

Approximately \$30,000 will have been invested in initial development work with the Office of Black Ministries. This includes a 2011 ABCD training workshop, gatherings of Black Ministries leaders and communities in Atlanta, Texas and Florida, with a specific interest to explore the issue that has been defined as the school to prison pipeline.

Approximately \$15,000 will have been invested in initial development with the older adult task force in response to health care impact on poverty among senior citizens.

Summer Camps for Children of People who are in Prison (2009-C075)

Visitations were made to the Dioceses of Easton, Maryland, The Rio Grande, and the Central Gulf Coast to support grass roots organizing in support of non-federal prison ministry, including focus on summer camp programs for children of people who are incarcerated. During 2011 and 2012 \$50,000 in grant funds were awarded in support of these vital local initiatives.

A Strategic Plan for Establishing Domestic Development Programs for the Episcopal Church in the 2013–2015 triennium and beyond (as required in resolution 2009-A155)

The very process for Establishing Domestic Development Programs for the Episcopal Church is the key to assuring that poverty alleviation initiatives emerging out of local communities are sustainable. That process calls the Episcopal Church to create holy listening opportunities where local communities, religious and civic, are invited to come together to give voice to their shared hopes and to identify those realities which threaten the realization of those hopes. In response to these holy listening conversations, locally driven Domestic Development Programs for the Episcopal Church can emerge.

There are four components of a Strategic Plan for Establishing Domestic Development Programs for the Episcopal Church in the 2013-2015 triennium and beyond:

- We, The Episcopal Church must take seriously our covenant with God expressed in what Jesus identified as the first great command, that, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30; Matthew 22:37; Luke 10:27). Taking seriously means that we open ourselves to the possibility of discovering a sacramental relationship with God such that everything we do outwardly reflects the inward spiritual grace that sustains and animates us.
- We, The Episcopal Church must take seriously our covenant with God expressed in what Jesus identified as the second great command, that, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31; Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27). Taking seriously means that we claim our neighbor’s welfare as if it were our very own, that when our neighbor suffers, we suffer with them and when our neighbor rejoices, we rejoice with them.
- Like the rich young man who inquired of Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-22), we, The Episcopal Church must take responsibility for our own wealth of resources and our stewardship of those resources. Endowments and empty church structures that are used only for the purpose of creating space for worship and to gather the members of our congregations and institutions reflects a form of stewardship that fails our very commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
- Like the scribe who made the connection between piety and action to which Jesus declared “You are not far from the kingdom of God” (Mark 12:34) we, The Episcopal Church must make the connection between piety and practice; between professing our love of God and neighbor and how we choose to steward the wealth of resources that have been entrusted into our care.

The Strategic Plan that follows grows out of our Church's work that began during this 2010–2012 triennium as visions and voices of local Native People's emerge that welcome the gifts of ABCD and culture based healing through partnerships with the White Bison Movement. While the work has only begun, it invites our Church to look truthfully at itself from its many and varied contexts and then to follow the lead they are modeling for the sake of healing aspects of our own impoverishment, or as Paul has written in his second letter to the Corinthians, "I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little" (8:13-15).

These four strategies, and their fourteen actionable steps, are expanded in order as follows:

Strategy 1: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Theological Basis: (Philippians 2:5-8)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Catechism: (Book of Common Prayer, 857-858)

Sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace...by Grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.

Baptismal Covenant: (Book of Common Prayer, page 304)

Persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

Actions:

- Create opportunities that invite our congregations, institutions, dioceses, and corporate offices of the Episcopal Church to make public our own particular narratives around what the outward expressions of our ministries reflect about the spiritual grace we are being given. And importantly, to reflect upon those expressions of our ministries that are in need of grace and how we can invite God to forgive, enlighten, stir and strengthen us so we can offer ourselves in Christian service more freely and fully in those areas.
- Make public, in ever widening circles, these narratives of transforming hope and need for renewal that are being revealed to our communities as we communicate regularly within our congregations, institutions, dioceses, and the corporate offices of the Episcopal Church.

Strategy 2: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Theological Basis: (Jeremiah 29:7)

Seek first the welfare (shalom) of the city where I have sent you and pray for it, for in its welfare (shalom) you will find your welfare (shalom).

Catechism: (Book of Common Prayer, page 845)

We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God...we are free to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation.

Baptismal Covenant: (Book of Common Prayer, page 305)

Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself

Actions:

- Invite local conversations to recognize that God has created us for relationships of interdependence, remembering that no one exists who is not worthy of Christ's redeeming love. Through these conversations we must ask ourselves individually and collectively who we are excluding from our communities as congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of The Episcopal Church.
- With this spirit of interdependence in mind, the congregations, institutions, dioceses and corporate offices of The Episcopal Church must introduce in their local communities the principles of Asset Based Community

Development as a tool for initiating holy listening conversations that identify and build upon a growing awareness of each local community's capacity to act, the elements of their shared hopes and dreams for a healthy future as a community, and a spoken awareness of those challenges that can be faced only as they act on behalf of their commonweal.

- Commit to intentional organizing as a community to support the shared visions of hope that emerge which help our members claim one another's joys and sorrows as their own. While paid community organizers can be helpful as a strategy for bringing members of a local community together, long-term sustainability rests upon the depth of commitment to building a future together.

Strategy 3: "Practice Congregational, Institutional, Diocesan and Corporate stewardship rooted in a theology of abundance."

Theological Basis: (Isaiah 58:6-7,11)

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ... The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Catechism: (Book of Common Prayer, page 861)

The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world

Baptismal Covenant: (Book of Common Prayer, page 305)

Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

Actions:

- Map our assets and trust that our welfare (shalom) as congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of the Episcopal Church will be secured only as we diligently and faithfully strive to orient all of those resources that have been entrusted into our stewardship towards the ongoing fulfillment of the shared hopes and dreams held by the communities to which we have been called by God to live among.
- As congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of the Episcopal Church we must seek to share the abundance of those resources entrusted into our stewardship through collaborative partnerships with other congregations, institutions, dioceses and corporate offices of communities we can be in relationship with as a witness to our interdependence as people of God.

Strategy 4: "Make the connection between worship and action, between our love for God and with our love for Neighbor."

Theological Basis: (Mark 12:34)

You are not far from the kingdom of God.

Catechism: (Book of Common Prayer, page 855)

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church promotes its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Baptismal Covenant: (Book of Common Prayer, 305)

Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

Actions:

- Include our shared visions of hope and concerns to be overcome in the ongoing prayers of our congregations, institutions, dioceses, and corporate offices of the Episcopal Church.
- Communicate the value we place on our shared visions of hope and concerns to be overcome publicly through our bulletins, newsletters, and other media utilized by our congregations, institutions, dioceses and corporate offices of the Episcopal Church as our strategies for public engagement.

- Explore opportunities for our congregational, institutional, diocesan, and corporate stewardship to support our shared visions of hope and to overcome our concerns, by inviting and valuing public conversation that informs our planning as much as we invite and value our own internally motivated conversation.
- We must not be afraid to sell or give away our possessions, especially if they are preventing us from loving God and our neighbor.
- Create opportunities for both public lament and public celebration in the context of liturgical expression that gives full expression to our trust in God and our care for each other and creation as valued creatures of God.

Proposed Resolutions

Resolution A134 Refocus the Mission of the Jubilee Advisory Committee for Poverty Alleviation

Resolved, That the Executive Council Jubilee Advisory Committee be renamed as the Executive Council Advisory Committee on Poverty Alleviation to reflect the realities of organizational changes implemented in the Mission Program Office of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society since its initial establishment in January, 2000; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee shall be an advisory committee charged with engaging the Church in the needs and issues affecting the alleviation of poverty and oppression among those served through the congregations, institutions, dioceses and corporate offices of the Episcopal Church. That the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee on Poverty Alleviation shall include: Serving as a council of advice to the Officer of Social and Economic Justice; Working with the Office of Social and Economic Development on such matters as training, education, program and network development; Promoting all aspects of Jubilee Ministry to the Church at large as established by General Convention resolution 1982-A080 and its subsequent years of development; Providing a forum for partnership and collaboration with Episcopal affiliates engaged in ministries of service and/or advocacy on behalf of poor and oppressed people such as Episcopal Community Services in America, National Episcopal Health Ministries, and Churches in Metropolitan Areas; Advocating at every level of the Church nationally and internationally for the alleviation of poverty and oppression, while promoting an emphasis on programs that respect human dignity and empower people who have been historically marginalized in their local contexts to act, such as Asset Based Community Development and Congregation Based Organizing; Advocating for opportunities to direct economic assets of congregations, institutions, dioceses and the corporate offices of the Episcopal Church towards programs focused on the alleviation of poverty and oppression; and Producing the Blue Book Report on Poverty Alleviation in collaboration with the Officer of Social and Economic Justice for inclusion with the Executive Council's Blue Book Report; and it further

Resolved, That the Committee shall consist of nine–twelve members, including the chair, to be appointed by the Presiding Bishop. At least one member of the Committee shall be a member of the Executive Council and act as liaison between the Committee and the Executive Council, at least one member of the Committee shall be a member of the House of Bishops, and at least three members of the Committee shall be Diocesan Jubilee Officers. Four other members may be persons actively engaged in ministry among

poor and oppressed people. The Presiding Bishop is encouraged to appoint persons who are broadly representative of the Church with respect to orders, geographical location and Province, age, sex, ethnic background and experience. Each member of the Committee shall be appointed for a three-year term and no member shall serve more than three consecutive partial or full terms. The Committee shall meet at least once annually in a location that provides access to direct conversation with people who are suffering under the burden of poverty or oppression for the sake of identifying with their struggle and being blessed to learn from them in ways that will inform their planning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee shall regularly report to the Executive Council through the Director of the Mission Program Office or the Director's appointed representative.

Resolution A135 Focus Mission Funding on Alleviating Poverty and Injustice

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention re-affirm its commitment to the Jubilee Ministry Grants program as a continuing line item in the church's budget at a minimum funding level of \$100,000.00 per annum during the 2013-2015 triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention re-affirm its commitment to Poverty Alleviation through locally defined community development initiatives in Native People's communities and that it expand the Church's capacity to encourage and respond to local initiatives focused on the alleviation of poverty among other populations of poor and oppressed people by adding a line item in the church's budget at a minimum funding level of \$300,000 per annum during the 2013-2015 triennium;

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention re-affirm its commitment to summer camp programs for children of parents who are incarcerated as a line item in the church's budget at a minimum funding level of \$50,000 per annum;

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$450,000 per annum for the 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 identified 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

The Executive Council

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.

Budget Report

The Executive Council Jubilee Ministry Advisory Committee will have met 4 times during the 2013–2015 triennium. The Committee will meet 4 times in the 2013–2015 triennium. This will require \$7,500 for 2013, \$15,000 for 2014, \$7,500 for 2015 for a total of \$30,000 for the triennium.