

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Membership

Mr. Daniel McNeel ‘Neel’ Lane, <i>Chair</i>	West Texas, VII	2018
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Mr. Franklin Berger	New York, II	2016
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The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	North Carolina, IV	
Dr. Robert W. Radtke, President, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	New York, II	
The Rev. Geoffrey T. Smith, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	New Hampshire, I	

Key Staff:

Ms. Mary Carr, Manager of the Executive Office & Director of Special Projects

Ms. Esther Cohen, Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Abigail Nelson, Senior Vice President for Programs

Representation at General Convention:

Dr. Robert Radtke is authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report at General Convention.

Mandate

Episcopal Relief & Development is a compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development faithfully administers the funds that are received from the Church and raised from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies, and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.

Our mandate comes from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25:

Lord, when was it that We saw you hungry and gave you food?
We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
We saw you sick and took care of you?
We saw you in prison and visited you?
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

– Matthew 25:37-40 (NRSV)

Summary of Work

CORE VALUES

As part of the Episcopal branch of what our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, calls The Jesus Movement, seeking and serving Christ in all people near and far, everything we do and the way in which we do it is inspired by five (5) core values:

Faith

Faith in Jesus is at the center of our mission as an organization. It gives us the power and the courage to follow Jesus' example by reaching out in compassion to serve the most

marginalized and respond to human suffering.

Dignity

We respect the dignity of every human being, seeking and serving Christ in all people as they, in turn, empower themselves and transform the communities in which they live and work.

Relationship

Our relationships are the foundation upon which all our work is built. As we accompany and serve our partners, we nurture and sustain our relationships, thereby unlocking abundance wherever it may be.

Leadership

We lead through learning and collaboration, inspiring creativity and innovation in all aspects of our work, and cherishing the many gifts God has given to our partners and to us.

Excellence

Being, doing, and giving our very best is how we are good stewards of God's abundance.

Every action we take is measured against these core values.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] also known as the Global Goals, build on the work of the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]. Established by the international community in 2000, the MDGs were eight (8) goals focused on reducing the number of people who live in extreme poverty by the end of 2015. The MDGs targeted a range of development issues such as poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality and access to clean water and sanitation. Inspired by these global goals, all of Episcopal Relief & Development's international development programs seek to mobilize local resources and expertise toward sustainable, community-led programs that address poverty, hunger and disease.

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH

Episcopal Relief & Development's international partnerships address challenges in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists. In many of these places, the Church is often one of the few institutions people trust and turn to for help in the absence of government systems and services.

Instead of imposing "one-size-fits-all" solutions, we support unique, local long-term initiatives that address the effects of poverty, disaster and disease. Through our Asset-Based Community Development methodology, we work with communities to recognize their existing skills, gifts and resources. Thus, we empower and work alongside local leaders and residents who are best equipped to identify and address the most pressing needs.

Working with local church partners around the Anglican Communion as well as local organizations and ecumenical agencies, our integrated programs use local resources and expertise to help communities transform themselves. We partner with three (3) million people in close to forty (40) countries.

COMMITMENT TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Since our founding in 1940, as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, in the midst of World War II we have been committed to providing disaster relief. We are committed to responding to disasters and rebuilding communities by reaching those at risk of falling through the cracks, and accompanying them through a full and sustained recovery.

To this end, Episcopal Relief & Development is working with global Anglican partners to better prepare for and respond to disasters, whether natural or human-made. At the core of this goal is our Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Initiative and new "Pastors and Disasters" tool-book of core competencies and standards, best practices and case studies.

Our U.S. Disaster Program connects, equips and inspires leaders of U.S. dioceses to prepare for hazards that might affect their communities, to mitigate the impact of disasters and to help vulnerable people make a full and sustained recovery. We have a full on-line resource library, network of diocesan coordinators, expert volunteer consultants and regional trainings.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Unlocking Abundance: A Strategic Plan to Serve Communities and Families Around the World is our theme for 2019-2021. It is taken from John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

In late 2015, as we were concluding our 75th Anniversary Celebration, Episcopal Relief & Development began a deep and searching strategic planning process. We engaged the entire staff, the board, and stakeholders across The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and around the world in a discernment process to identify the key priorities of the organization for its next strategic period. The work was guided by an ad-hoc committee of the board under the leadership of The Right Reverend Prince Singh.

Over the course of the planning process, several questions guided our discernment process:

- What makes Episcopal Relief & Development unique?
- Are there any distinctive competencies or strengths that set the organization apart?
- Compared to other relief and development organizations what does Episcopal Relief & Development do that other organizations cannot or do not do as well?
- Looking forward, in the next three (3) to five (5) years, where do you think Episcopal Relief &

Development's biggest opportunity to make a difference will be?

The answers to these questions shaped the plan and the priorities, goals and objectives that we have identified as we, on behalf of The Episcopal Church, work to end extreme poverty. Out of this process our work will focus on three (3) programmatic priorities:

Early Childhood Development

Thanks to our work at the household level, Episcopal Relief & Development and our partners are uniquely placed to reach children (who are usually the most vulnerable members of communities) and to support life-saving behaviors and improve lives.

All the evidence across multiple indicators shows that early interventions, starting at conception and up to sixty (60) months, lead to healthier children and better outcomes for a lifetime. In this work, health interventions target the prevention and treatment of malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia along with the key drivers of wellbeing, including water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition.

Furthermore, in this work we have the opportunity to build on the foundation of our award-winning NetsforLife® program partnership, through which we have trained thousands of community health workers, and our current work focused on helping children impacted by HIV/AIDS. We should seize it, sharing our experience and knowledge broadly, to drive change beyond the footprint of our own work.

Combatting Gender-Based Violence

Combatting Gender-Based Violence [GBV] is a ministry of reconciliation that is vital to our work. GBV is both traumatic and an expression of trauma. Furthermore, it is deeply entrenched in the communities where Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners are present, particularly in post-conflict societies.

Faith leaders and communities have a unique role to play in addressing GBV and healing individuals and communities. Often people suffering from GBV turn to the Church for help. At the same time, the Church and faith leaders are sometimes part of the problem in communities. Educating and equipping faith leaders and their communities to recognize, address and fight GBV is something that Episcopal Relief & Development can do that others are less able to do. The initial results of this work hold the promise of changing not only individual lives, but the way the world addresses this critical challenge.

Resilience & Climate Change

Churches and church communities have an important role to play in building resilience and helping those around them reduce the risk of and prepare for disasters on their own behalf and on behalf of vulnerable members of their communities. Houses of worship are the first place that people turn to in times of disaster. Furthermore, faith communities remain essential actors long after the television cameras have been turned off and attention moves on. Episcopal Relief & Development is unique

amongst organizations in the United States and throughout the Anglican Communion in equipping faith leaders for ministry in preparation for and in times of disaster.

Moreover, we have learned from our work in the international context that there is a close relationship between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption and mitigation. In the United States, we are already responding to the increase in natural disasters brought about by climate change. However, we do not yet have the answers to how we should address climate change adaption and mitigation from a strategic perspective as part of our U.S. program. We will study and reflect on how we can move from being reactive to being proactive in this emerging area in the United States.

Holistic Approach

These three (3) programmatic priorities, Early Childhood Development, Combatting Gender-Based Violence and Resilience & Climate Change, are high-leverage opportunities for Episcopal Relief & Development. We have unique capacities in these areas and, if we can use them effectively and holistically, the communities we serve will be better off. Furthermore, we can provide leadership in the relief and development community, sharing our knowledge and experience and driving change above and beyond our own programmatic reach.

At the same time, it is important to emphasize that while the organization will continue focus on these three (3) priorities and leveraging its expertise to drive change both where we work and more broadly, we will continue to offer a rich menu of programs that complement and support these priorities.

We are not abandoning our work in micro-finance, clean water, or climate-smart agriculture. Indeed, success in these areas is essential to accomplishing our goals in the three (3) priorities named above and are vital to the overall viability of our programs. Nothing sustainable can be achieved with respect to our three (3) priorities without a fully integrated and holistic approach to development.

“Go with the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they have. Build on what they know. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say, ‘We have done this ourselves.’”

– Lao Tsu, Chinese Philosopher, 700 B.C.