

***Policy for Action:
The Social Policies of
The Episcopal Church, U.S.A.***
**As adopted at General Conventions and Executive Councils between
1991 - 2003 and prior selected resolutions**

***Faith and Citizenship:
A Guide for Public Policy Advocacy
Outline of Resources***

**Provided to you as a service of:
The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations
Home of the Episcopal Public Policy Network**

Dear friends:

The General Convention gathering is over, but we remain called to fulfill its theme and *Engage God's Mission*. Therefore, I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of Policy for Action—The Social Policies of the Episcopal Church.

I am asked frequently to respond to the question, “Why should the church take stands on issues of public policy?” My answer is always the same. In the words of Jesus: “just as you did it to the least of these ... you did it unto me.” Americans are possessed of enormously generous spirits; our policies need to reflect our national spirit of generosity and caring rather than reflecting the immediate concerns of particular interest groups.

In the recitation of our baptismal covenant, we are asked if we will, “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” We respond boldly, “I will, with God’s help.” The terms of the baptismal covenant are quite clear. They transcend denominational identity and root us in the historic faith of the undivided church. Just think of what would happen if God’s justice and peace were our heart’s desire, and the dignity of every human being our deepest concern. There would be a revolution, which is precisely what God’s work, God’s mission, is all about.

Our Peace and Justice Ministries in New York and the Office of Government Relations in Washington play important roles in the work of God’s mission. The church relies upon their ability to promote creative solutions through use of the storied *via media* or middle way. However, they cannot promote the change that we seek alone. Their efforts need our support.

Our religious voice in the public square is a staple of who we are as part of the Anglican Communion and I strongly encourage you to become part of the Episcopal Public Policy Network (www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn), our grassroots activism network. We cannot be unaware of the world around us. Unawareness is a form of self-protection and it is also a form of bondage. It keeps us safe within the prison of our biases and judgments all the while convincing us that we possess the truth.

We live in a world that cries out for reconciliation, and reconciliation, as our Prayer Book tells us is nothing less than the mission of the church. Let us go forth and show in our lives our commitment to our brothers and sisters at home and around the world. We must do the work we have been given to do, wherever and whenever it is found.



Yours in Christ,

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Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

-From the Baptismal Covenant
Book of Common Prayer

The Episcopal Church accepts its responsibility for witnessing to the Gospel through an active concern for all of God's creation. The social ministry of the Church is based upon those policies that are enacted by the General Convention of the Church at its triennial meeting or, in the interim, at Executive Council. Only after debate and approval by the two houses of Convention, one comprised of Deputies and the other of Bishops, do their resolutions become the "policy" of the Church. The Deputies represent Episcopalians throughout the Church and may be either lay people or clergy.

Often, the General Convention and the Executive Council charge the national Episcopal Church staff with the implementation of these policies. The programs, action and ministry of the Episcopal Church Center and the Office of Government Relations are based entirely on those policies approved by the Church meeting in General Convention or by the Executive Council. The social policies are created to achieve the Church's mission in the world. It is through the enactment of these resolutions that the Church speaks, and it is through the collective actions of its members that these policies are implemented.

THE SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - A SUMMARY

Peace and Justice Ministries develops resources and programs in response to social policy decisions of the Church's GC and Executive Council.

The **Office of Government Relations**, located on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, brings the policies of the Episcopal Church to our nation's lawmakers. It represents the Church to Congress, the Executive Branch, and other religious and public interest organizations. It also informs Episcopalians on the status of legislative activity related to the Church's positions.

Episcopal Migration Ministries, Ministries with Young People, Congregational Ministries, Ecumenical Relations, and Anglican and Global Relations also assist us with this important work.

LEGEND:

DFMS: Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

EC: Executive Council

GC: General Convention

IMF: International Monetary Fund

NCCC-USA: National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

PJM: Peace and Justice Ministries

OGR: Office of Government Relations

U.N.: United Nations

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief

THE RESOLUTIONS

Selected social policies approved by the General Conventions and the Executive Council are listed below.

The policies listed are grouped by subject area and are in inverse chronological order to promote ease of reading. The full text of resolutions is available online through the Episcopal Church's archives at http://www.episcopalarchives.org/digital_archives.html. More information is also available on the Office of Government Relations and Episcopal Public Policy Network website at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/> (Please see addresses and phone numbers on inside back cover.)

GENERAL

- Encourage each parish to establish groups to discuss and act on public policy issues. (GC '00)

INTERNATIONAL

Making Peace

- Urge dioceses and congregations to study and better understand just war theory and pacifism as they apply to the U.S. in responding to contemporary international conflicts. (GC '03)
- Support the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. (GC '03)
- Divest from any company (a) among the top five U.S. defense contractors, measured in dollar volume of sales and (b) any company among the top 50 defense contractors that receive more than 50% of its revenues from military contracts. (EC 04/03)
- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all resolutions asking companies to no longer bid on contracts to produce components of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems

and to take steps to disengage from current or proposed contracts for the production or maintenance of such products. (EC 03/02)

- Support a Kimberly Process or international framework intended to bring an end to the flow of illegal diamonds in which the trade funds regional conflict and terrorist activities. (EC 06/02)
- Affirm work of the United Nations in pursuit of global peace, justice, protection of fundamental human rights and the environment, health, and poverty eradication. (EC 11/98)
- Call upon Congress and the President to ensure that all military training programs emphasize concern for human rights and democratic principles. (GC '97)
- Support goal of total nuclear disarmament. (GC '97)
- Urge the President to sign and implement Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons. (GC '94)
- Urge the U.S. Congress to enact legislation prohibiting the sale and export of conventional arms of war. (GC '94)
- Call for an international ban on the production, use, and sale of land mines. (GC '94)
- Endorse development of Federal policies shifting economic resources from military to civilian use. (GC '91)
- Call on U.S. government to resolve disputes with other nations by negotiation and other peaceful means. (GC '91)
- Support conscientious objection as a faithful response to war. (GC '88)
- Oppose chemical weapons. (GC '85)

Supporting Human Rights and Reconciliation

- Support the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Anglican leaders who with Islamic leaders honor teachings in our traditions which work to avoid coercion and respect

- individual liberty. Oppose any governmental legal system which violates fundamental human rights. (GC '03)
- Condemn domestic and international trafficking of persons for sexual purposes. (GC '03)
 - Encourage dioceses to educate Episcopalians about the plight of and need to support women and children of all faiths in war-torn areas, including Israel/Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, Sudan, and Liberia. (GC '03)
 - Urge the President to address the issue of global warming and take the necessary steps to reduce green house gas emissions in the U.S. (EC 6/01)
 - Call on U.S. government to pressure the Government of India to recognize untouchability as a crime against humanity and abolish practices of untouchability. (GC '00)
 - Observe United Nations' Decade of Non-violence. (GC '00)
 - Respond to our Anglican partners as to the most appropriate help the Church can provide to combat religious persecution in their countries. (GC '97)
 - Call for fair employment and investment in Northern Ireland. (EC 11/94)
 - Commend to Anglican Communion information on contraceptive and reproductive health care services, and encourage governments to seek remedies to reverse rapid population growth. (GC '94)
 - Support and affirm religious freedom. (GC '88)
 - Urge U.S. government to work for abolition of torture worldwide. (EC 6/84)
 - Support ministry of reconciliation in Ireland. (GC '82)

Fighting HIV/AIDS

- Commend churches in Africa fighting AIDS, poverty and injustice; commit \$150,000 to support a church-wide campaign for humanitarian development in Africa; and call on all levels of the Church to partner with the Anglican Churches in Africa and other agencies to implement the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. (GC '03)
- Resolve to make AIDS in developing countries a priority issue of concern, and recommend how the Episcopal Church in the United States can support efforts to address the pandemic. (EC 2/01)
- Call upon the U.S. government and international agencies to increase efforts to address the AIDS crisis through funding programs of education and awareness about the spread of AIDS in developing countries, programs to assist families affected by AIDS, especially the millions of orphaned children, and efforts to make affordable medications available to those infected. (EC 2/01)
- Support initiatives to make HIV/AIDS-related medications available at affordable prices throughout the world. (GC '00)

Increased Development Assistance, Fair Trade and Reducing Debt

- Encourage the endorsement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and reaffirm challenging all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of budget to fund international development programs. (GC '03)
- Call on the Church to adopt and implement ethical principles for international economic development, including partnership, respect, empowerment, oneness with creation, distributive justice and people-centered development. (GC '00)

- Commend micro-credit initiatives. (GC '00)
- Reaffirm the principles of “Jubilee 2000” of debt forgiveness, environmental stewardship and human liberation. (GC '97)
- Call for democratic and socially responsible reform of the World Bank and IMF policies. (EC 6/95)
- Affirm foreign aid policy and support sustainable development, stabilize population growth, strengthen civil society, promote peace and human rights, and provide humanitarian relief. (EC 2/95)
- Support increased development aid for famine areas. (GC '85)

Endorse Fair Refugee/ Immigration Policy

- Oppose unfair and unjust treatment of racial and ethnic minorities, and that the whole Church at every level collaborate with other faith bodies, communions, and immigrant rights and human rights organizations to redress these concerns. (EC 04/03)
- Urge Congress to enact legislation to expand the temporary workers' programs to include all persons in the U.S. in meaningful labor, as well as overseas workers offered employment in the U.S. (GC '03)
- Promotes policy that Liberians temporarily in the U.S. be granted protected status until circumstances permit their safe return. (GC '03)
- Advocate a generous program of refugee admissions. (GC '97)
- Support right of women fleeing female genital mutilation (female circumcision) to be granted refugee status and asylum in the U.S. (GC '97)
- Urge U.S. government to ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. (GC '97)
- Advocate a just system of asylum for persecuted persons. (GC '97)

- Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals that they suspect are illegal immigrants. (EC 2/95)
- Support redress for wartime relocation of civilians. (GC '85)

Africa

- Urge the U.S. government to keep America's *Promise to Africa* by fully funding the President's proposed 5-year, \$15 billion budget request for HIV/AIDS relief for Africa and the Caribbean without cuts to current life-saving programs. (GC '03)
- Urge the President of the U.S. to deploy peacekeeping forces along with an international force, to remain in Liberia until a stable government exists. Commend support by government and non-government organizations to provide aid. Urge Episcopal congregations and dioceses to assist the Church in Liberia with efforts to restore pastoral care, health services and education to its people. (GC'03)
- Divest assets from any company with direct operations in Sudan until such time that there is peace and justice in that country and directs the Treasurer to divest from any such company currently held in DFMS portfolios. (EC 10/01)
- Reaffirm the action of the 73rd GC calling on the U.S. government to assign the highest priority to advancing a just peace in Sudan by applying pressure on the Government of Sudan to end the war. (EC 6/01)
- Urge U.S. government to increase aid to South Africa to improve education and reduce poverty. (GC '00)
- Urge business sector to encourage private investment in South Africa. (GC '00)
- Stimulate public awareness on human rights in the Sudan, and encourage diocesan

relations with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. (GC '94)

- Request that the U.S. government give the highest priority to restoring peace in Sierra Leone. (EC 2/99)
- Urge negotiated settlement in Rwanda, and relief to civil war refugees. (GC '94)
- Commend Archbishop of Uganda for his response to orphans created by civil war and by the AIDS epidemic. (GC '94)

The Middle East

- Recognize that the Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes is illegal under international law and is a deterrent to the peace process. (GC '03)
- Recognize that the Israeli security wall under construction impedes a final and comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by 2005. (GC '03)
- Condemn the violence of suicide bombers and the violence of the Occupation and plead with both sides to pursue all avenues of negotiation based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. (EC 06/02)
- Reiterate support of a just peace that guarantees Israel's security and Palestinian aspirations for a viable sovereign state with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both Israel and Palestine. (EC 06/02)
- Recognize that the Israeli policy of building settlements in the Occupied Territories thwarts the peace process. All settlements activities should cease immediately. (EC 06/02)
- Oppose unilateral military action against Iraq for the sole purpose of overthrowing the regime of Saddam Hussein. (EC 06/02)
- Express anguish over victimization of the Christian minority in Pakistan and urge U.S. government to work toward

political reform and humanitarian relief in Pakistan. (GC '00)

- Call on Israel to remove all road blocks preventing free access to Jerusalem for Palestinians and to allow Palestinians equal rights to build housing and institutions in Jerusalem. (GC '97)
- State that any resolution of the question of Jerusalem must equally respect the claims of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity and result in a shared city. (EC 6/95)
- Urge congregations to develop mutual understanding and respect with Jews and Muslims, and to discuss the Middle East. (GC '94)
- Call for human rights for Palestinian refugees in Israel, the Territories, and Jordan. (EC 2/89)

Central America, South America and the Caribbean

- Calls on the authorities of the Dominican Republic to exercise greater efforts and concerns in favor of the poorest among them. (EC 01/03)
- Affirm solidarity with the suffering people of Colombia and urge that the Episcopal Church inform its members of the plight of the Colombian people and support policies and programs that will alleviate their poverty and ameliorate the injustices experienced by millions of Colombians. (EC 10/02)
- Urge U.S. government to assign the highest priority to achieving a negotiated peace in Colombia and work with other governments in the region and other allies in bringing a peaceful end to Colombia's longstanding civil conflict. (EC 10/02)
- Urge U.S. government to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, taking into consideration human rights, freedom of speech and movement and political prisoners. (GC '00)

- Call on U.S. and Haitian Governments, in consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy for Haiti. (GC '00)
- Urge the U.S. government to enter into agreement with the Government of Panama beyond December 31, 1999 to remove abandoned munitions and continue environmental cleanup. (EC 6/99)
- Urge U.S. government to end restrictions on the sale of food, medicines and medical supplies to Cuba. (EC 2/98)
- Urge U.S. government to provide economic aid to Central America with the same commitment it provided military aid in the past. (GC '97)
- Urge religious and cultural exchange between Episcopalians in the U.S. and Cuba. (EC 6/96)
- Support a ministry of healing and reconciliation in Central America. (GC '88)
- Affirm safe haven in U.S. for Central Americans. (GC '85)
- Urge the U.S. government to work to provide relief for those whose property is destroyed. (GC '00)
- Express hope for direct dialogue between the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama. (GC '97)
- Express sorrow to the Japanese people for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (GC '97)
- Express dismay at continuing repression of the people of Burma. (GC '94)
- Promote human rights in the Philippines, oppose military aid and "total war" government policy and support land reform. (GC '94)
- Encourage the Government of Vietnam to release prisoners of conscience. (GC '91)
- Support the rights of Chinese Christians to form associations free from government control. (GC '91)
- Support the efforts of the Philippines Episcopal Church in its struggle for peace and justice. (EC 6/89)
- Endorse NCCC-USA reunification of Korea policy statement. (GC '88)

Asia and the Pacific

- Urge the U.S. government to give attention to the rights of citizens of the Republic of Korea to equal treatment and legal redress of grievances and to pursue the goal of phasing out U.S. military bases in Korea. (GC '03)
- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all resolutions asking companies to make all lawful efforts to implement and/or increase activity on a set of principles designed to increase rights for workers in the People's Republic of China. (EC 03/02)
- Urge the U.S. government to remove military bases and personnel from Okinawa. (GC '00)
- Encourage advocacy to raise awareness of horrors against people in Indonesia and

DOMESTIC

GENERAL

- Urge every diocese to establish an Urban Mission Commission and each bishop to appoint an urban missionary. (GC '00)

Expanding Health Care and Fighting Drug Dependency

- Call on dioceses to establish Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency to provide educational programs, and address problems related to alcohol or drug dependency in clergy, church staff, and, when requested, laypersons. (GC '03)
- Call upon federal and state lawmakers to remove obstacles to hospice and palliative care. (GC '00)
- Urge the Church at every level to give high priority to suicide prevention. (GC '00)
- Urge that all interior space under the jurisdiction of the Church be declared "Tobacco-free zones." (GC '00)
- Call upon the President, Congress, governors, and leaders to devise universal access to health care for the nation's people. (GC '91)
- Adopt policy that national Church will not hold shares in companies which manufacture or sell tobacco products. (EC 6/90)

Fighting HIV/AIDS

- Call on Episcopal Church members to take the lead in insuring that all methods of HIV/AIDS prevention are taught in educational settings. (GC '03)
- Call for continuation of efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS among teens and young adults. (GC '00)
- Affirm accessible drug treatment, needle access, safe sex programs, and the affirmation of monogamy in all sexual

relationships regarding the spread of HIV/AIDS. (GC '94)

- Support federal HIV/AIDS initiatives and press for comprehensive HIV/AIDS care in any health care reform package. (GC '94)
- Call for AIDS education on the parish level. (GC '88)

Affirming Reproductive Choice

- Call on Church to minister to men and women suffering from post-abortive stress. (GC '00)
- Express grave concern about use of partial birth abortion except in extreme situations. (GC '97)
- Oppose any legislative, executive or judicial action limiting decision-making on or access to abortion. (GC '94)
- Oppose efforts to legislate parental notification in cases of pregnant minors. (GC '91)
- Condemn abortion to select sex of children. (GC '88)
- Condemn violence against abortion clinics. (GC '88)
- Reaffirm right to use birth control. (GC '82)

Recognizing Human Sexuality

- Recognize that there are couples in the Church living in marriage and other life-long relationships and that such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection, respect, and careful and honest communication. (GC '00)
- Denounce promiscuity, exploitation and abusiveness in relationships of Church members. (GC '00)
- Reaffirm imperative to promote conversation between those of differing experiences and perspectives. (GC '00)
- Acknowledge the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage. (GC '00)

- Urge dioceses and congregations to provide safe places for youth and young adults to discuss human sexuality. (GC '00)
- Urge parishes to teach and support youth sexual abstinence. (GC '97)
- Affirm human sexuality as a gift of God. (GC '91)
- Propose all provinces of the Anglican Communion and those sharing ecumenical dialogue initiate pan Anglican/ecumenical dialogue on human sexuality. (GC '91)

Setting Medical Ethics

- Establish these guidelines for genetic research and interventions: It is morally acceptable, in principle, to engage in experimental somatic cell human gene transfer for therapeutic purposes. All experimental genetic interventions in human beings must meet ethical standards. (GC '03)
- Resolve to support the choice of those who wish to donate early embryos, after in vitro fertilization; urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation authorizing federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells provided that the embryos meet certain standards; and urge the Sec. of Health and Human Services to establish an interdisciplinary oversight body for all research that involves stem cells from human embryos, parthenotes, sperm cells or egg cells. (GC '03)
- Reject conception for the purpose of providing fetal tissue for therapeutic or medical research usage. (GC '91)
- Affirm living will as a beneficial document. (GC '91)
- Approve organ, blood, and tissue donations. (GC '82)
- Approve in vitro fertilization. (GC '82)

Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility

- Urge congregations and institutions of the Episcopal Church U.S.A to open their facilities to trained, certified service animals. (GC '03)
- Adopt National Council of Churches policy statement on disabilities. (GC '00)
- Encourage the Church to become knowledgeable about mental illness to stop stigmas and stereotypes. (GC '91)
- Work for accessibility for disabled persons. (GC '85)

Preventing Violence and Physical Abuse

- Call on state governments to enact legislation to reduce domestic violence. (GC '00)
- Call on congregations to make an active and ongoing response to problems of sexual or domestic violence in their communities. (GC '00)
- Identify and communicate resources on combating pornography. (GC '97)
- Oppose violence and educate at every level of the Church to build just and non-violent relationships. (GC '94)
- Condemn violence against women in all its forms. (GC '94)
- Renew commitment to address violence in every sector of society especially domestic violence and hate-based violence. (GC '91)
- Work to prevent violence against women and children. (GC '88)

Promoting Women's Rights

- Endorse the U. N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). (GC '91)
- Eradicate institutional sexism. (GC '85)
- Support Equal Rights Amendment. (GC '82)

Advocating For Children

- Affirm that children are central to the mission of the Church. (GC '00)
- Ask each diocese to increase awareness and implementation of the Children's Charter. (GC '00)
- Affirm value of adoption and ask U.S. Congress to pass legislation making adoption counseling available. (GC '00)
- Support crime prevention programs that provide recreation, education, and other activities to discourage youth from gangs and crime. (EC 2/95)
- Encourage the Church to address issues of youth suicide and throwaway youth, especially concerning conflict over sexuality. (GC '94)
- Call on the U.S. Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. (GC '94)
- Support legislation providing expanded services, funding and financial accountability for children in our nation. (EC 2/93)
- Call on congregations to encourage and enable youth and children's ministry. (GC '91)

Protecting God's Creation

- Encourage dioceses, congregations, and communicants to become active stewards of their water resources. (GC '03)
- Recognize that the responsible care of animals falls within the stewardship of creation and work for the protection of animals. (GC '03)
- Ask for the implementation of the four resolutions on the environment which were passed by the September 2003 Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting. (GC '03)

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/special/acc12/resolutions.html#s11>

- Direct OGR to work on public policy ensuring clean water and the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns to make water a priority. (GC '03)
- Calls for conservation-based energy legislation consistent with the long-standing belief that we are stewards of God's creation, responsible for its care and preservation. (EC 02/03)
- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all resolutions asking companies to report on how they will promote renewable energy sources. (EC 03/02)
- Opposes drilling or mining in our nation's dwindling wild lands and places important to the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples, including oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge that threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people. (EC 03/02)
- Urge the President and Congress to provide financial support and leadership for developing nations to control their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. (EC 6/01)
- Urge the President and Congress to provide funds and leadership in an effort to encourage renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. (EC 6/01)
- Resolve that the Treasurer vote in favor of all shareholder resolutions asking companies to issue reports on the effects of their business activities on climate change. (EC 2/01)
- Oppose environmental racism. (GC '00)
- Oppose mountain top removal and valley fill mining and other mining operations that threaten the ecology and low-income communities. (GC '00)
- Call on the Church to practice environmentally sound and energy-efficient living. (GC '97)

- Encourage Church investors to influence corporations to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals. (GC '94)
- Express vigorous opposition to U.S. use of foreign countries as dumping ground for waste. (GC '91)

Seeking Economic Justice

- Urge the President and Congress to establish a living wage including health benefits as the standard of compensation for all workers in the U.S. (GC '03)
- Urge Congress to support legislation raising the federal minimum wage to the hourly equivalent of an annual wage at the current federal poverty line for a family of four. (GC '03)
- Affirm support for and advocacy regarding social and economic problems facing farming and rural communities. (GC '00)
- Encourage awareness of past and present discriminatory practices in granting of federal subsidies and loans to African American and other minority farmers. (GC '00)
- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all shareholder resolutions asking financial companies to avoid underwriting and securitizing predatory loans. (EC 2/01)
- Challenge every congregation to develop at least one direct, person-to-person ministry to and with the poor. (GC '97)
- Charge Dioceses and Provinces with greater responsibility in sustaining and developing ministries to migrant and seasonal farm workers. (GC '97)
- Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. (EC 11/95)
- Reaffirm Jubilee as model for ministry and outreach, and urge dioceses and congregations to re-examine mission statements re: outreach. (GC '94)

- Support affirmative action in Church organizations. (GC '85)

Supporting Human Needs

- Support for and improvement of the federal government's network of programs to reduce the numbers of those living in poverty, support workers' efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and ensure continuing benefits for those who require a safety net to feed their families. (EC 03/02)
- Support the longstanding practice of receiving public funding for faith-based social service programs so long as such programs maintain all historic separation of Church and State:
 - Do not require those seeking services to receive religious instruction, worship or proselytizing as part of receiving services;
 - Do not discriminate against or give preference to (1) any person applying for such services or (2) any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of religion, as well as race, national origin, sexual orientation, age, sex or disability.
- Support increased public funding for programs addressing critical human needs at the local, state, and federal level through both secular and faith-based providers, support proposals to use the tax code to create incentives for increasing charitable giving, and encourage Episcopalians to be active in supporting such proposals through advocacy. (EC 6/01)
- Encourage Dioceses and Congregations to collaborate with state and local governments to address negative effects of welfare reform. (GC '97)
- Support a welfare system that does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, age, legal immigrant status, or ability to identify other parent. (EC 2/95)

- Support a welfare system that holds families together. (EC 2/95)

Ending Hunger

- Support federal nutrition programs. (EC 3/95)
- Support increased funding for the federal Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. (GC '91)
- Reaffirm commitment to eradication of hunger and poverty domestically and worldwide. (GC '88)
- Observe October 16 of each year as World Hunger Day. (GC '85)
- Support federal budget priorities on food and nutrition programs. (GC '85)

Expanding Housing

- Reaffirm our commitment to providing rental and owner-occupied housing that is safe, accessible and affordable for low-income persons and their families, including persons with disabilities. (GC '03)
- Support homeless people. (GC '85)

Furthering Community Investment

- Support the Community Reinvestment Act and other means of providing capital to low and moderate income communities. (EC 11/95)
- Encourage Church institutions to explore ways that financial resources can be used to promote justice. (EC 11/95)
- Support minority banks and credit unions. (GC '85)

Strengthening Public Education

- Commend those committed to and involved in public education. (GC '00)
- Work with government and civic institutions to strengthen public schools. (GC '00)

- Oppose private school voucher plans that weaken public school systems. (GC '00)
- Assure Constitutional balance in treatment of 'moment of silence' statutes. (GC '94)
- Support public school education. (GC '88)

Protecting Civil Liberties

- Encourage the U.S. Congress to hold public hearings about the USA Patriot Act of 2001 and possible curtailing of civil liberties. (GC '03)
- Oppose any further expansion or extension of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 which would further curtail the civil rights of the ethnic and religious minorities thus threatening our nation's revered and fundamental respect for civil liberties. (EC 04/03)
- Share with the whole Church, appropriate members of government, and members of the Islamic community, this Church's strong opposition to the restrictive measures now being invoked against certain immigrant groups without adhering to the constitutional safeguards that should be available to such persons. (EC 04/03)
- Oppose legislation to alter the current tax code to allow houses of worship to endorse political candidates, create political action committees, or funnel political donations to partisan political causes and candidates while retaining tax exempt status. (EC 10/02)
- Urge the protection of constitutional rights and civil liberties which are founding principles of our democracy, so that the rights of certain persons will not be wrongfully jeopardized because of their ethnicity or race while recognizing legitimate security concerns in the wake of September 11, 2001. (EC 10/01)

Seeking Criminal Justice

- Urge Congress to repeal the mandatory federal sentencing guidelines and restore the discretion of federal trial judges. (EC 01/03)
- Support a justice system that addresses identified needs of juvenile offenders. (GC '00)
- Call on federal and state governments to enact legislation that ensures DNA testing is made available to accused persons and to prisoners at any time during the corrections process. (GC '00)
- Reaffirm opposition to death penalty and call for immediate moratorium on capital punishment. (GC '00)
- Urge the Church to be active in public policy decisions affecting the growing prison industrial complex on the local, state and national levels. (GC '00)
- Call for a moratorium on the posting of prisoners outside their home states. (GC '00)
- Endorse exploration and study of restorative justice for our nation's criminal justice system. (GC '00)
- Urge moratorium on maximum control unit prison construction, and observe human rights and needs of prisoners. (GC '94)
- Encourage Parish Visitation Program to inmates, and support and training to newly discharged inmates. (GC '94)
- Urge Congress to increase restrictions on the sale, ownership, and use of firearms, and to apply same quality and safety standards to domestically manufactured handguns ("junk guns") that currently apply to imported handguns. (GC '97)
- Encourage legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms. (GC '97)
- Support the federal ban on assault weapons. (EC 2/95)

Expanding Gun Safety

- Call on Church members to work for removal of handguns and assault weapons from homes, residential communities and vehicles. (GC '00)
- Urge U.S. government to prohibit the export of handguns. (GC '00)
- Express deep concern about the repeated use of easily available handguns and assault weapons by and against children. (GC '00)

FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

- Affirm the Church's abhorrence of violence and racial profiling of Muslims and people of color done in the name of religion; monitor government policies on the imprisonment and restrictions of U.S. citizens or legal residents based on ethnicity. (GC '03)
- Reaffirm the Church's historic commitment to eradicate racial injustice. (GC '03)
- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all resolutions asking companies to issue a Glass Ceiling report on efforts to remove impediments to the career advancement of women and people of color. (EC 03/02)
- Condemn all acts motivated by hate. (GC '00)
- Urge Congress to include sexual orientation, gender and disability in the categories currently protected by federal hate crime laws and to expand the number of settings in which the law can be applied. (GC '00)
- Support hate crimes legislation at local, state, and national levels that includes categories of political or religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age. (GC '00)
- Continue and increase, through congregational resources, the "Stop the Hate" campaign. (GC '00)
- Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. (EC 11/95)

Promoting Racial Justice in the Church

- Encourage the Episcopal Church Center to develop new ways of welcoming people of diverse ethnic backgrounds into the Church. (GC '03)

- Make all official documents and publications by DFMS available in Spanish and French no later than 2006, and in other languages used in the Episcopal Church as soon as possible. Encourages the whole Church to do the same. (GC '03)
- Recognize continued prevalence of racism and extend anti-racism commitment for another nine years. (GC '00)
- Mandate anti-racism training for all professional staff and all lay and clergy leaders at all levels of the Church. (GC '00)
- Monitor progress in dioceses implementing resolutions on racism adopted by previous GCs. (GC '97)
- Strengthen the recruitment, retention, and education of people of color for the ordained ministry. (GC '94)
- Develop policies in dioceses to ensure that Hispanics and other ethnic minorities will have full access to local and regional decision-making positions. (GC '94)
- Call on all baptized persons to work to remove racism from the life of the nation. (GC '91)
- Support affirmative action in Church organizations. (GC '85)
- Urge deployment of women and people of color as interim pastors. (GC '88)

Native Americans

- Instruct the Treasurer to vote in favor of all resolutions asking companies to report on their efforts to identify and disassociate from any offensive imagery to the American Indian community in products, advertising, endorsements, sponsorships and promotions. (GC '03)
- Designate and observe 1997 to 2007 as the Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation and fully recognize and welcome Native Peoples into congregational life. (GC '97)

- Endorse the Crazy Horse Defense Project to halt the commercial exploitation of Native American tribes. (GC '97)
- Support local, state and national efforts to protect Native American Church's rights to practice its religions. (GC '91)
- Support Native American treaty rights. (GC '85)
- Increase employment opportunities for American Indians. (GC '82)

Protecting the Rights of Gays and Lesbians

- Encourage the Boy Scouts to allow membership irrespective of sexual orientation. (GC '00)
- Establish formal process for congregations to identify themselves as "safe spaces" for gays and lesbians. (GC '00)
- Extend health coverage to domestic partners. (GC '97)
- Reaffirm civil rights of homosexual persons, and direct OGR to work on behalf of legislation which assures such protection. (GC '94)
- Call upon municipal, state, and federal officials to approve gay and lesbian protections for work, health, and home. (GC '94)
- Support ministry to homosexual persons. (GC '85)

Persons with HIV/AIDS

- Encourage the Church at every level to combat oppression that contributes to spread of HIV/AIDS and hinders prevention, education, treatment and access to services. (GC '00)
- Urge all baptized persons to speak publicly in opposition to discrimination against those who are HIV positive. (GC '91)

Interfaith Relations

- Reaffirm *Dialogue between Christian and Muslim Communities*, which calls for a

"dialogue that maintains the theological integrity of both faith communities and commitment to genuine human rights and religious freedom." (GC '03)

- Call upon the whole Church to engage in local inter-faith dialogues among peoples of the three Abrahamic faiths condemning in the strongest terms all actions by any groups that pervert the true values of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, especially the core belief of non-violence as expressed in salaam, shalom and peace. (EC 10/01)
- Urge dialogue with Muslims and Jews on local concerns including hunger, homelessness, teenage pregnancy and prison ministry. (GC '94)
- Distinguish criticisms of Israeli government from anti-Jewish prejudice. (GC '91)
- Oppose anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish prejudice. (EC 2/85)

***Faith and Citizenship:
A Guide for Public Policy Advocacy***

The Faith and Citizenship Guide is provided as a resource to help Episcopalians fulfill their Baptismal Covenant to *strive for justice and peace*, by offering easy-to-use tools and techniques for public policy advocacy. In our continual efforts to serve as stewards of Creation, we are offering this information online or by mail from the Office of Government Relations.

It includes:

- ⇒ An overview of the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network
- ⇒ Resources to influence lawmakers at all levels of government whether the influence comes directly, or through media sources, and
- ⇒ Ways to involve others

Please visit the Parish Resources page of the EPPN website at:

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/parish.asp>, Click on **Faith and Citizenship** to find a complete, downloadable copy of the Guide or call at 800-228-0515 if you would like to receive a mailed copy.

Faith and Citizenship Guide

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