

## Policy for Action: Engage God's Mission Addendum Fall 2006

*Updated to include Executive Council 2003-2006 and  
Resolutions from the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention*

Dear Friends:

The 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention meeting in Columbus in June of 2006 passed a number of resolutions related to new or expanded social and public policy positions for The Episcopal Church. I was especially pleased that the Convention chose to make the Millennium Development Goals, already an important part of our ministry, one of our five mission priorities.

Until the next Policy for Action is ready, we wanted you to have information about these resolutions. They are further witness to our sharing Isaiah's vision of the reign of God in which "The poor are fed, the good news is preached, those who are ostracized and in prison are set free, the blind receive sight." I invite each of you, as together we go out into the world, to help us to fulfill Isaiah's vision

Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop

*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.*

*You are invited to join the Episcopal Public Policy Network at [www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn)*

### GENERAL

D018- Urges non-violence training for personal and social change, and encourages each diocese to make available active non-violence training and to identify persons to become non-violence training facilitators.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Making Peace

EC 10/05- Calls on the President to reject any military policy that would permit pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons, and reiterates the Church's call for worldwide nuclear disarmament.

EC 2/05- Expresses concern for the proliferation of nuclear weapons, urges the President to pursue diplomatic means to stop its spread and calls for total nuclear disarmament.

EC 6/04- Expresses deep concern over the violence in Iraq and the treatment of detainees. Urges the U.S. to make peace through respect for human rights, contributing to the Israeli/Palestine peace process, and transfer of authority of Iraq.

### Fighting HIV/AIDS

A132- Urges church members to work to eliminate the stigma of HIV/AIDS

A133- Calls on the church to implement a campaign for awareness about the continuing HIV/AIDS pandemic.

### Increased Development Assistance, Fair Trade, and Reducing Debt

D020- Establishes the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign in cooperation with the national "ONE Campaign." Makes the MDGs a priority for all Episcopal groups and individuals.

EC 6/05- Commends the US Government as part of G8 for their forgiveness of \$55 billion worth of debt from the world's poorest countries and urges G8 to extend even more debt relief in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goal of cutting the debt of the poorest nations in half by 2015.

EC 2/04- Endorses the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and urges all church members and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international programs that advance the MDGs.

## **Endorse Fair Refugee/ Immigration Policy**

A017- Adopt fundamental principles of the basic rights of undocumented aliens and undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants and migrants.

EC 6/05- Expresses concern for serious flaws in U.S. immigration policy and supports enactment of legislation that would remedy these flaws.

EC 2/04- Urges the US Government to extend the protection of asylum to vulnerable peoples, especially women fleeing mutilation or cultural practices that deny their full humanity.

### **Africa**

EC 6/05- Calls upon the United Nations and the world community to take more serious action to stop the escalation of violence in Darfur.

### **Middle East**

A015- Urges elected officials and policy makers to seek solutions to realize the goals of justice, peace and reconciliation for the Holy Land.

D020- Urges the development of a plan for the prompt stabilization of Iraq and withdrawal of American troops.

EC 10/05- Directs the Social Responsibility in Investments Committee to file shareholder resolutions with companies that operate in the occupied territories to support development in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

### **Central America, South America, and the Caribbean**

EC 6/05- Urges the US Government to facilitate a negotiated peace in Haiti and prevent the deportation of Haitians in the U.S. back to Haiti by granting them temporary protected status.

EC 6/04- Urges Congress to pass the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, to protect Haitians against deportation, and to endorse an international peacekeeping operation in Haiti.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

EC 2/04- Urges the peaceful resolution of international tensions with North Korea, calls on North Korea to end the nuclear armaments program, and calls on China, Russia and the US to begin to welcome North Korean refugees.

## **DOMESTIC**

### **General**

EC 2/04- Recognizes the act of voting and political participation as an act of Christian stewardship.

### **Expanding Health Care and Fighting Drug Dependency**

EC 2/05- Asserts the right of all individuals to health care and calls on the President and Congress to protect the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

### **Promoting Women's Rights**

EC 2/04- Affirms that the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development established an important plan of action for securing rights for all the world's citizens, and recognizes the pivotal role that women play in securing health and well-being for themselves and their families.

### **Advocating for Children**

B018 – Urges government to provide funding for programs that combat social and economic conditions preventing children from achieving their full potential.

EC 2/05- Confirms care for the needs of children as a priority of the Church and urges the President and Congress to make funding for children's care a priority.

### **Protecting God's Creation**

B002- Affirms that Global Warming threatens the future of God's creation, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and supports efforts to reduce Global Warming.

### **Seeking Economic Justice**

C008- Reaffirms the rights of all workers to organize and form unions, including seasonal and migrant workers. Encourages all church members to be informed about, and act accordingly, when the right of workers to associate is being jeopardized.

### **Supporting Human Needs**

EC 10/05- Commends support work done to aid the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita but acknowledges that far more must still be done by federal, state, and local governments.

EC 2/05- Recognizes the Social Security program as an important tool in protecting orphans, elderly and the disabled, and urges that any potential changes in the program neither change the intent of the program nor put an undue burden on the poor.

EC3/02- Resolves that the Church be focused on the 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.

### **Strengthening Public Education**

A129- Urges legislatures and school boards to establish standards for scientific education based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community.

## **FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**

C011- Urges the Church at every level to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery.

EC 6/05- Deplores the desecration of any religious text or space and calls on all people to respect religious diversity.

### **Promoting Racial Justice in the Church**

A123- Declares unequivocally that the institution of slavery is a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture, and resolves that The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participation in this sin, expresses our most profound regret that The Episcopal Church supported slavery both before and after it was formally abolished, and establishes a process for

creation of a program of healing and reconciliation to include a Service of Repentance to be held at National Cathedral.

EC 2/04- Develops an anti-racism plan for self-assessment and systematic change.

### **Protecting the Rights of Gays and Lesbians**

A095- Opposes any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions.

D005- Declares efforts to criminalize homosexual behavior to be incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.