

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Diocese of Northwest Texas fully supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their plan to end extreme poverty in our world. We pledge as a diocese, as congregations, and as individuals to study and support this global missionary effort to eradicate extreme poverty. In particular,

1. We urge our congregations and people to educate themselves about the MDGs through avenues such as Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (www.e4gr.org) and the United Nations' Millennium Campaign (www.millenniumcampaign.org),
2. We urge our congregations and people to join the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign (www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE) to support our church's efforts in this regard,
3. We urge our diocese, parishes, missions and individuals to commit 0.7% of our annual budgets to Episcopal Relief and Development for the MDG-related work they are doing to alleviate suffering. And that furthermore,
4. The diocese establish a global reconciliation commission to assist our congregations in these efforts.

Explanation: More than one billion people – one-sixth of the world's population – live each day under the weight of extreme poverty. While income poverty is part of the problem, the dimensions of human poverty are much greater. Pandemic disease, widespread conflict, environmental degradation, chronic hunger, and a lack of access to education are all both causes and effects of human poverty. In order to meet the challenge of addressing global poverty in all its dimensions, world leaders in 2000 created the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight quantifiable targets designed to cut poverty in half by the year 2015. (from Episcopal Public Policy Network)

These eight goals are:

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. Develop a global partnership for development

At the 2006 General Convention, our Church adopted the MDGs as a stated mission priority. This resolution is offered in response to General Convention Resolution (D022) on the MDGs which set these objectives:

- Establishes achieving the MDGs as a stated mission priority of the Episcopal Church for the next three years;
- Urges each diocese, congregation and parishioner to give 0.7 percent toward the MDGs by July 7, 2007; i.e. by 07/07/07;
- Designates the Last Sunday after Pentecost as a special day of prayer, fasting and giving toward global reconciliation and the Millennium Development Goals;
- Calls on every diocese to establish a global reconciliation commission to mobilize Episcopalians to work for achieving the goals of the MDGs;
- Endorses the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign that calls on the U.S. government to spend an additional 1 percent of its budget to combat global poverty; and
- Asks the budget committee to consider a line item equal to 0.7 percent (or roughly \$900,000) in the coming three-year budget for work that supports the MDGs.
- Designates the Last Sunday after Pentecost as a special day of prayer, fasting and giving toward global reconciliation and the Millennium Development goals.

SUBMITTED BY:

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