



PHOTO: DAPHNE MACKVENS

Anglicans recommit to the MDGs

Outside St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York, Episcopalians and Anglicans attend rally for MDGs..

Archbishop of York calls all to be ‘agents of moral, social and economic transformation’

By Daphne Mack

Hundreds filled the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City on September 25 where Church of England Archbishop of York John Sentamu said that “God is calling us to be part of transforming the world.”

Sentamu preached the sermon at an “Interfaith Service of Recommitment and Witness of the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori of the Episcopal Church officiated.

The day was held in accordance with the Lam-

beth Conference’s call that September 25 be a day of prayer, fasting and witness.

It also coincided with the day-long high-level event at the United Nations headquarters that urged world leaders to renew commitments to achieving the MDGs by 2015 and establish concrete plans and practical steps for action.

In his sermon, Sentamu stated that “hope for the world” would come through transformation. He had those in attendance stand and recite to their neighbor, “Be an agent of moral, social and economic transformation.”

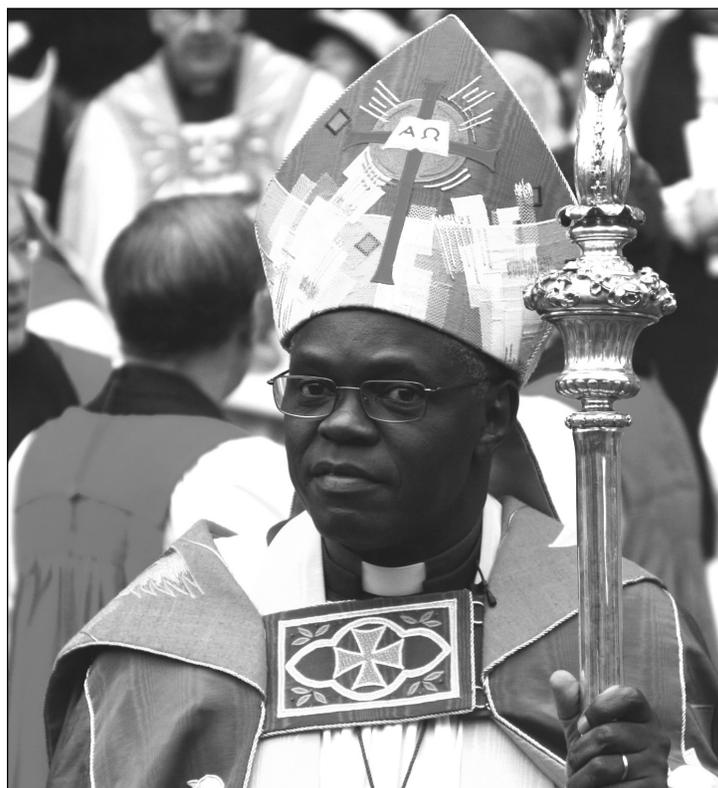
“I trust the ancient wisdom of the faith that I hold, to point the way to the future,” he said. “Love wasn’t put in our hearts to stay. It isn’t love until you give it away.”

He said that as “children of God” we should do our part because “it does make a difference.”

Prior to the recommitment service a rally and “teach-in” was held on the steps of the Cathedral where attendees, holding MDG banners, listened as Sentamu, joined by other speakers, including the Rt. Rev. James Curry, bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Connecticut and Mike Kinman, executive director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, set the tone for the service by reiterating some jarring statistics on poverty, and child mortality.

Since the church’s 2006 General Convention, when the MDGs were set as the church’s top mission priority, Jefferts Schori, who fully endorsed them, continues to call on Episcopalians and the wider global community to work together for their implementation.

“The MDGs are incredibly important for the Episcopal Church because they challenge us and provide an image of what we should be doing,”



ENS FILE PHOTO

John Sentamu, Archbishop of York

she said. “[In addition] the ecumenical presence at this gathering is important because it takes the whole world to live out the Gospel.”

Daphne Mack is a correspondent for Episcopal Life Media, which published this article online on September 27.

UN raises some \$16 billion in pledges to support MDGs

At the close of the September 25 “high-level event” at the United Nations aimed at gaining a recommitment to the MDGs, the U.N. announced new contributions and commitments that it said could amount to \$16 billion or more.

That total included \$4.5 billion to get 24 million more children in school by 2010 by way of the Education for All campaign, \$1.6 billion to foster food security, \$3 billion to launch the Malaria Action Plan, and almost half a billion dollars in new pledges to the Global Fund to Fight

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, \$2 billion related to child mortality and maternal health, and as well as pledges to support national health plans and access to clean water and sanitation, and education.

The complete list of the pledges, which come from government, private sector, non-governmental organizations and other advocacy groups, is available at www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/HLEOutcome.pdf.

—Mary Frances Schjonberg, *Episcopal News Service*