

Fellow members of the Body of Christ:

The Episcopal Church's most recent General Convention in Anaheim, like those before it, passed a multitude of resolutions, many of which relate to our interactions and relationships with the wider world. I am grateful for this updated *Policy for Action*, summarizing the social policies of our Church.

Our baptismal covenant reminds us that we are engaged in ministry in every moment of our lives, if we're conscious about it. We promise to *seek and serve Christ in all persons* and to *proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ*. We promise to *strive for justice and peace among all people*. Each of these commitments, when acted out in our daily living, is a step toward the Reign of God or Shalom. The Church takes positions on issues of justice and peace in the world because our shared baptismal discipleship inscribes in us an obligation to work toward a world much more like God's vision for it.

For more than three decades, the Episcopal Church has supported an Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., not only to bring our collective voice to the halls of Congress and the White House, but to support the advocacy ministry of individual Episcopalians throughout the Church. Each of us has a role to play, and together, our efforts can bring the world closer to the Kingdom. This ministry of citizens and residents of the 16 nations in which The Episcopal Church has members will vary by local context, but these policies should guide our shared and multi-national work of advocacy.

Our task as Christians in the coming decades will be more challenging than ever, and the task is going to need all of our varied and unique gifts. The voices of people of faith must be a prophetic impetus for lasting change, toward healing the body of God. We can look and not see, listen and not hear, or we can act in witness and solidarity with our sisters and brothers as part of the body of God.

I encourage you to use this resource, share it with others in your congregation, and join the Episcopal Public Policy Network ([episcopal.grassroots.com/join](http://episcopal.grassroots.com/join)) as together we work toward Shalom. I remain

Your servant in Christ,

  
Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop and Primate

## **THE SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH A SUMMARY**

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 composed of Deputies and the other of Bishops, do their resolution 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 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 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.

### **THE RESOLUTIONS**

Selected social policies approved by the General Conventions and the Executive Council are in this booklet.

The policies listed are grouped by subject area and listed with the most recent first. The full text of resolutions is available online through the Episcopal Church's archives at <http://www.episcopalarchives.org>. More information is also available through the advocacy section of the Episcopal Church website at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/advocacy> .

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## LEGEND

DFMS: Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States — the corporate entity of the Episcopal Church

EC: Executive Council

GC: General Convention

IMF: International Monetary Fund

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

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

## INTERNATIONAL

### Making Peace

- Urge the U.S. government to renounce its 2002 policy that asserts the right to military action in the name of forestalling or preventing non-imminent and uncertain military threats. (GC '09)
- Call upon the U.S. government to renew its commitment to eliminating the scourge of international criminal gangs by extending international refugee conventions and national immigration norms to provide relief to victims of criminal gangs. (GC '09)
- Commend the President's efforts to scale down the world's nuclear stockpile. (GC '09)
- Urge the President and Congress to explore a moratorium on production of new nuclear arms. (GC '09)
- Call upon U.S. policymakers to determine a timely process for the dismantling of existing U.S. nuclear weapons while urging other nations to do the same. (GC '09)
- Ban the use of cluster bombs (GC '09)
- Condemn the use of cluster bombs and urge all governments to pursue an international treaty banning their production, transfer, stockpiling and use. (EC 6/08)
- Call on the President to reject any military policy that would permit pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons. (EC 10/05)
- Express deep concern over the violence in Iraq and the treatment of detainees. (EC 6/04)
- 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)
- Support a Kimberley 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 the work of the U.N. in pursuit of global peace, justice, protection of fundamental human rights and the environment, health and poverty eradication. (EC 11/98)
- Call on Congress and the President to ensure that all military training programs emphasize concern for human rights and democratic principles. (GC '97)
- Support the goal of total nuclear disarmament. (GC '97)

- Urge the President to sign and implement the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons. (GC '94)
- Urge 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 the 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)

### **Supporting Human Rights and Reconciliation**

- Call on Episcopalians to support legislation and action oriented to the protection, recovery and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking. (GC '09)
- Call upon the President and Congress to devise and implement truth and reconciliation-based methods of accountability to make transparent to the American people government practices of torture and extraordinary rendition. (GC '09)
- Affirm that Episcopalians shall not engage in, counsel, order or assist in the torture of any human being. (GC '09)
- Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to comply with the Geneva Conventions, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the administration of justice. (GC '09)
- Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to prevent the use of torture and extraordinary rendition in the U.S. and abroad. (GC '09)
- Call upon the international community to provide food, clothing shelter and medical care for displaced persons in Pakistan, especially those of the persecuted Christian community. (GC '09)
- Condemn any use of torture, and call upon the U.S. government to renounce and cease these practices and work towards the prevention of such practices domestically and abroad. (EC 3/07)
- Urge the U.S. government to justly compensate the victims of torture and their families. (EC 3/07)
- Call on the U.S. government to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. (EC 3/07)
- Oppose the use of all secret detention centers, and cease the practice of extraordinary rendition, which allows terror suspects to be sent without judicial review to nations where they may be tortured. (EC 3/07)

- 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. (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' guidance to the most appropriate help the Church can provide to combat religious persecution in their countries. (GC '97)
- Support and affirm religious freedom. (GC '88)
- Urge the U.S. government to work for abolition of torture worldwide. (EC 6/84)

### **Fighting HIV/AIDS**

- Call on Episcopal leaders to form pastoral and liturgical responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic both at home and overseas. (GC '09)
- Call on the Church to implement a campaign for awareness about the continuing HIV/AIDS pandemic. (GC '06)
- 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**

- Support the cancellation of debt to heavily indebted poor countries that have not previously qualified for debt cancellation and that have a per capita income of less than \$3 per day. (GC '09)
- Condemn the practices of vulture funds and call on the U.S. Treasury to design a legal framework that will stop the operation of vulture funds. (GC '09)
- Recommit to meeting the MDGs as an expression of our faithfulness to God's mission of global reconciliation. (GC '09)

- Establish the “ONE Episcopalian” campaign in cooperation with “ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History.” Make the MDGs a priority for all Episcopal groups and individuals. (GC '06)
- Commend the U.S. government as part of the G8 for \$55 billion worth of debt relief, and urge the G8 to extend even more debt relief in pursuit of MDG #8. (EC 6/05)
- Encourage the endorsement of the United Nations' MDGs and reaffirm the challenge that all dioceses and congregations contribute 0.7% of their 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 cancellation, 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 policies that 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**

- Urge the U.S. to commence a program of resettlement for refugees who cannot return to Colombia because their lives are in danger or they cannot integrate or remain in Ecuador. (EC 2/10)
- Urge the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform to give undocumented persons who have established roots in the United States a pathway to legalization and full social and economic integration into the United States. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to terminate any program that allows or funds local law enforcement agencies enforcement of immigration law, thereby allowing immigrant victims of crime to report it without fear of deportation. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to establish a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that tear families apart. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to ensure that undocumented immigrant detainees are provided with humane treatment, adequate food and medical care and sanitary conditions. (GC '09)

- Urge the U.S. government to consider alternatives to a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to allow undocumented youth who arrived as infants or children to pursue higher education and/or serve in the military in order to contribute to their communities and become citizens. (GC '09)
- Urge Congress to provide immigration equality for same-sex couples by permitting a citizen or permanent resident alien to sponsor an immigrant partner for permanent residence in the United States. (GC '09)
- Adopt fundamental principles of the basic rights of undocumented persons and undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians on the plight of refugees, immigrants and migrants. (GC '06)
- Express concern for serious flaws in U.S. immigration policy and support enactment of legislation that would remedy these flaws. (EC 6/05)
- Urge the U.S. Government to extend the protection of asylum to vulnerable peoples, especially women fleeing mutilation or cultural practices that deny their full humanity. (EC 2/04)
- Oppose unfair and unjust treatment of racial and ethnic minorities. Call on the whole Church at every level to collaborate with other faith bodies, communities and immigrant/human rights organizations to redress these concerns. (EC 4/03)
- Urge Congress to enact legislation to expand 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)
- Promote policy that Liberians temporarily in the U.S. be granted protected status until circumstances permit their safe return. (GC '03)
- Advocate for a generous program of refugee admissions. (GC '97)
- Urge the U.S. government to ensure that needy immigrants are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. (GC '97)
- Advocate for a just system of asylum for persecuted persons. (GC '97)
- Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals who they suspect are undocumented immigrants. (EC 2/95)

## Africa

- Ask for continued advocacy and prayer from Episcopalians to achieve the following goals of peace and justice in the Sudan:
  - International commitment and accountability to the fair, transparent and successful implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
  - Increased private and public economic investment in Southern Sudan;
  - The successful care and resettlement of millions of refugees and other

- internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the condemnation of violence against refugees and IDPs (particularly women and girls);
- Meaningful support for the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the United Nations peacekeeping units in Sudan. (GC '09)
  - Call upon the local, regional and national news media to increase the breadth and depth of coverage of the following issues: efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals; the ongoing peace process between north and south Sudan; and the ongoing genocide in Darfur. (GC '09)
  - Reaffirm the need for an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, as well as the need for full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees. (GC '09)
  - Call upon the U.S., the U.N. and the world community to take more serious actions to stop the escalation of violence in Darfur and to implement Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. (EC 6/05)
  - Commend churches in Africa fighting AIDS, poverty and injustice and call on all levels of the Church to partner with the Churches of the Anglican Communion in Africa and other agencies to implement the United Nations' MDGs. (GC '03)
  - Urge the President to deploy peacekeeping forces alongside international forces in Liberia. Commend support by government and non-government organizations that 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)
  - Reaffirm the action of the 73<sup>rd</sup> 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 the U.S. government to increase aid to South Africa to improve education and reduce poverty. (GC '00)
  - Urge the 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 a negotiated settlement in Rwanda and relief to civil war refugees. (GC '94)

### The Middle East

- For over 20 years The Episcopal Church has supported and worked for a two-state solution that guarantees Israel's security and Palestinian aspirations for a viable sovereign state with Jerusalem as the shared capital. Resolutions

have named actions that are obstacles to a just resolution of the conflict. For Palestinians, the obstacles begin with the Occupation itself and include: the building of settlements in the West Bank; the separation barrier; checkpoints and home demolitions. For Israelis it has been terrorism and acts of violence against innocent Israelis. (EC 2/08, GC '06, GC '03, EC 6/02, GC '97, EC 6/95, GC '94, EC 2/89).

- Advocate for a holistic plan to address the humanitarian crisis of refugees and others displaced by the ongoing violence in Iraq. (EC 3/07)
- Call for a comprehensive approach to diplomacy across the Middle East. (EC 3/07)
- Encourage Episcopalians to engage in an interfaith prayerful dialogue with their Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers and to offer their prayers for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. (EC 2/08)
- 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)
- Urge congregations to develop mutual understanding and respect with Jews and Muslims, and to discuss the Middle East. (GC '94)

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

- Urge the U.S. government to end the embargo against Cuba, thus allowing the free travel of Cubans and Americans between the U.S. and Cuba, financial remittances between the two countries and the strengthening of the Church's mission in Cuba. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to increase disaster relief and economic development assistance to Haiti, extend trade preferences for Haitian exports to the U.S. and designate Temporary Protected Status to Haitian immigrants living in the U.S. (GC '09)
- Call upon international lending organizations to continue investments, aid and loans to Honduras. (GC '09)
- Support crisis negotiations in Honduras, request that the Organization of American States reconsider the decision to suspend Honduras from participation in its workings and ask that the U.S. government refrain from taking actions that will penalize the people of Honduras. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. Government to facilitate a negotiated peace in Haiti and prevent the deportation of Haitians living in the U.S. back to Haiti by granting them temporary protected status. (EC 6/05)
- Call on the authorities of the Dominican Republic to exercise greater efforts and concerns in favor of the poorest among them. (EC 1/03)
- Support policies and programs that will alleviate the poverty and ameliorate

the injustices experienced by millions of Colombians. (EC 10/02)

- Urge the 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 the U.S. government to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba through a process that promotes human rights, freedom of speech and the movement of political prisoners. (GC '00)
- Call on the 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 end restrictions on the sale of food, medicines and medical supplies to Cuba. (EC 2/98)
- Urge the 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)

### Asia and the Pacific

- Urge the U.S. government to champion human rights and encourage an end to extra-judicial killings and disappearances in the Philippines using influence such as the withholding of military aid. (GC '09)
- Urge the peaceful resolution of international tensions with North Korea. Call on North Korea to end the nuclear armaments program, and call on China, Russia and the U.S. to begin to welcome North Korean refugees. (EC 2/04)
- Urge the U.S. government to recognize 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)
- Urge the U.S. government to remove military bases and personnel from Okinawa. (GC '00)
- Encourage advocacy that exposes the horrors confronting people in Indonesia, and 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 the continuing repression of the people of Myanmar. (GC '94)
- Promote human rights in the Philippines, oppose military aid and "total war"

government policy and support land reform. (GC '94)

- 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 the NCCC USA reunification of Korea policy statement. (GC '88)

## **DOMESTIC**

### **General**

- Urge non-violence training for personal and social change, encourage each diocese to make available active non-violence training. (GC '06)
- Recognize the act of voting and political participation as an act of Christian stewardship. (EC 2/04)

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

- Urge the U.S. Congress and President to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions, such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, will be covered under any health care plan. (GC '09)
- Call on the Episcopal Church to advocate for access to adequate medical care regardless of any factor other than the need for health care. (GC '09)
- Call on the U.S. government to provide our nation's veterans with the best possible health care and benefits (including mental health care), to which they are entitled, in a timely manner. (GC '09)
- Encourage all elected officials to: create, with the assistance of experts in related fields, a comprehensive definition of "basic healthcare", to which our citizens have a right; establish a system to provide basic healthcare to all; create an oversight mechanism, separate from the immediate political arena to audit the delivery of that "basic healthcare"; educate our citizens in the need for limitations on what each person can expect to receive in the way of medical care under a universal coverage program in order to make the program financially sustainable; and educate our citizens on the role of personal responsibility in promoting good health. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to pursue short-term, incremental, innovative and creative approaches to universal health care until a single-payer universal health care system is established. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass, and the U.S. President to sign into law, legislation guaranteeing adequate insurance and health care for every U.S. citizen by the end of 2009. (GC '09)
- Urge dioceses and parishes of the Church to become informed of the laws

and policies regarding end-of-life decisions and medical futility, and urge the Standing Commission on Health to respond further to the need for making prayerful end-of-life decisions. (EC 3/07)

- Assert the right of all individuals to health care and call on the President and Congress to protect the Medicare and Medicaid programs. (EC 2/05)
- Call on dioceses to establish Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency to provide educational programs and address problems related to alcohol or drug dependency. (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)

### **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 continuing 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 to help prevent 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 the Church to minister to men and women suffering from post-abortion stress. (GC '00)
- Express grave concern about the use of intact dilation and extraction except in extreme situations. (GC '97)
- Oppose any legislative, executive or judicial action limiting the ability of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of a pregnancy or access to a safe means of acting on that decision. (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 the right to use birth control. (GC '82)

### **Recognizing Human Sexuality**

- Reaffirm the Church's position that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law. (EC 3/07)
- 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 the 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)
- Propose that 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 that 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, and urge Congress to pass legislation authorizing federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells, provided that the embryos meet certain standards. (GC '03)
- Reject conception for the purpose of providing fetal tissue for therapeutic or medical research usage. (GC '91)
- Affirm a living will as a beneficial document. (GC '91)
- Approve *in vitro* fertilization. (GC '82)

### **Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility**

- Urge congregations and institutions of the Episcopal Church to open their facilities to trained, certified service animals. (GC '03)

- Adopt the NCCC USA 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 all forms of violence against women. (GC '94)
- Renew commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially domestic violence and hate-based violence. (GC '91)

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

- Affirm that the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development established an important plan of action for securing rights for all the world's citizens. Recognize the pivotal role that women play in securing health and well-being for themselves and their families. (EC 2/04)
- Endorse the U. N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). (GC '91)
- Support the Equal Rights Amendment. (GC '82)

### **Advocating For Children**

- Urge the U.S. government to provide funding for programs that combat social and economic conditions preventing children from achieving their full potential. (GC '06)
- Confirm that care for the needs of children is a priority of the Church and urge the President and Congress to make funding for children's care a priority. (EC 2/05)
- 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 as a continuing vision of The Episcopal Church's ministry in nurturing children, ministering to and advocating on behalf of children and supporting children in their ministries. (GC '00)
- Affirm the value of adoption, and ask 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 Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. (GC '94)
- Call on congregations to encourage and enable youth and children's ministry. (GC '91)

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

- Call upon Episcopalians to restrict their use of bottled water where safe drinking water is available and employ other everyday water conservation techniques to lessen the negative ecological impact of wasted water and bottled water production. (GC '09)
- Urge the U.S. government to legislate equitable subsidies for renewable energy and balance its current subsidies for non-renewable energy sources. (GC '09)
- Support the adoption of a federal renewable energy standard which requires energy suppliers to obtain at least twenty percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources. (GC '09)
- Support programs worldwide that conserve water and utilize clean energy to power public buildings and transportation. (GC '09)
- Affirm that policy decisions affecting the health and well-being of humans and ecosystems must be based on scientifically evaluated, peer-reviewed data. (GC '09)
- Support legislative efforts to maintain the highest degree of scientific integrity in research that is intended for use in legislative deliberation. (GC '09)
- Endorse the Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental ethical principals for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century; and call upon Episcopalians to take actions consistent with the Earth Charter locally, nationally, and internationally. (GC '09)
- Promote awareness about the public environmental decisions that adversely affect the lives and health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially children, indigenous communities and communities of people of color; and encourage environmentally just actions in all spheres of society. (GC '09)
- Promote awareness about how our everyday decisions affect the lives and health of endangered species, farmed food animals and domesticated animals. (GC '09)
- Urge the President and Congress to commit to a course of action, in collabo-

ration with the other nations of the world, to lower the output of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 25% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. (GC '09)

- Recognize the health risks both to returning residents and cleanup workers in the Gulf Coast and to basic human and environmental health, and support the rebuilding of Gulf Coast communities in a manner that considers both racial and economic justice and environmental sustainability, while recognizing the global effects of the Gulf Coast hurricanes and other catastrophes like them. (EC 3/07)
- Challenge Episcopalians, and all Christians, to be mindful of the consequences our lifestyles have around the world, particularly for the health of marginalized communities and to act on our beliefs by working for justice and peace for all of God's creation, through personal actions, congregational action and public witness with policy makers. (EC 3/07)
- Offer our prayers for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and encourage Episcopalians to continue to offer support and assistance, while pressing the U.S. government to rebuild the Gulf Coast. (EC 3/07)
- Affirm that global warming threatens the future of God's creation, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and support efforts to reduce Global Warming. (GC '06)
- Encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals 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)
- Direct OGR to work on public policy ensuring clean water. (GC '03)
- Call 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 2/03)
- Oppose 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 Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people. (EC 3/02)
- 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)
- 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 the U.S. use of foreign countries as dumping grounds for waste. (GC '91)

### Seeking Economic Justice

- Encourage Episcopalians to work together on issues of poverty, social service and social justice. (GC '09)
- Advocate for comprehensive government regulations over economic transactions in the financial and banking sectors, to prevent practices that negatively affect moderate- and low-income people. (GC '09)
- Commend elected officials and community leaders who have established sites at which day laborers are treated fairly and in a manner which benefits their communities, and continue to support these efforts. (GC '09)
- Urge Congress to pass, and the President to sign into law, labor law reform: legislation designed to better protect employees seeking to engage in collective bargaining, to simplify and streamline the procedures by which employees may choose to organize and to assist employers and employees in reaching an agreement. (GC '09)
- Reaffirm the rights of all workers to organize and form unions, including seasonal and migrant workers. (GC '06)
- 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 on 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)
- 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 a model for ministry and outreach, and urge dioceses and congregations to re-examine their mission statements with regard to outreach. (GC '94)

### Supporting Human Needs

- Call on the church to advance the human rights of farm workers by encouraging study and action on the purchasing practices of the corporate food industry and promoting socially responsible practices. (EC 3/07)
- Commend the work done to aid victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and acknowledges that far more must still be done by federal, state and local governments. (EC 10/05)
- Recognize the Social Security program as important in protecting orphans, the elderly and the disabled. Urge that any potential changes in the program neither change the intent of the program nor put an undue burden on the poor. (EC 2/05)
- Affirm the support for and improvement of the federal 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 3/02)
- Support the eligibility of faith-based social service programs for public funds, so long as these programs 1) do not discriminate in hiring or provision of services on the basis of religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation, age, sex or disability and 2) do not require those seeking services to receive religious instruction or proselytizing as part of receiving services. (EC 6/01)
- Support increased public funding for programs addressing critical human needs at the local, state and federal level through both secular and faith-based providers and support proposals to use the tax code to create incentives for increasing charitable giving. (EC 6/01)
- 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 our commitment to eradication of hunger and poverty domestically and worldwide. (GC '88)

## Expanding Housing & Community Investment

- Advocate for legislation that provides adequate levels of support and opportunities for low-income people by investing in community development corporations, small business development, and land trusts, and by encouraging loans and deposits to community development financial institutions. (GC '09) C049
- Reaffirm our commitment to provide 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 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)

## Strengthening Public Education

- Urge the Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy to study the voucher system's impact on racial and economic diversity in U.S. schools. (GC '09)
- Support equity in public education for all young people through advocacy and service. (GC '09)
- Urge 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. (GC '06)
- 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)

## Protecting Civil Liberties

- Reaffirm the Church's support for granting the citizens of the District of Columbia full representation in Congress. (EC 3/07)
- Oppose the overly broad interpretation of the "material support" provisions of the USA Patriot Act, which allows for the refusal of admission into the U.S. to certain refugees, and recommend an interpretation of these provisions that pertains only to formally designated foreign terrorist organizations and does not apply to those who have resisted regimes which denied them basic human rights or those who, under duress, unwittingly associate with a terrorist organization. (EC 11/06)

- Encourage 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 ethnic and religious minorities. (EC 4/03)
- Oppose legislation that alters the current tax code regarding political activity by houses of worship. (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

- Call on The Episcopal Church and its members to urge Congress and other elected officials to support reentry programs for prisoners and ex-offenders. (EC 3/07)
- Urge Congress to repeal the mandatory federal sentencing guidelines and restore the discretion of federal trial judges. (GC '03)
- Support the establishment and/or expansion of occupational, therapeutic treatment and academic programs in prisons where prisoners may be prepared for re-entry into society. (GC '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 the 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)
- Urge resources be allocated for rehabilitation, education, housing, health care, productive employment and other basic human needs for those imprisoned. (GC '94)

- Encourage the Parish Visitation Program to inmates and support and training to newly discharged inmates. (GC '94)

### **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 the 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)
- Urge Congress to increase restrictions on the sale, ownership, and use of firearms. (GC '97)
- Encourage legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms. (GC '97)
- Support the federal ban on assault weapons. (EC 2/95)

## **FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**

### **General**

- Recognize the continued presence of racism and extend anti-racism commitment for another nine years. (GC '09)
- Call upon the Episcopal faith community to continue to gather information on the history of the Episcopal Church's complicity in the slave trade and subsequent racial segregation and discrimination in this country. (GC '09)
- Call upon the Episcopal faith community to recommit itself to the process of truth-telling, repentance and reconciliation in response to this history. (GC '09)
- Reiterate our theological principle that all human beings are created in the image of God. (GC '09)
- Urge Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. (GC '09)
- Urge the Church at every level to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery. (GC '06)
- Deplore the desecration of any religious text or space and call on all people to respect religious diversity. (EC 6/05)
- Affirm the Church's abhorrence of violence and racial profiling of Muslims and people of color done in the name of religion. (GC '03)
- Reaffirm the Church's historic commitment to eradicate racial injustice. (GC '03)
- Condemn all acts motivated by hate. (GC '00)
- Support hate crimes legislation at local, state and national levels, which in-

cludes categories of political or religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age. (GC '00)

- Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. (EC 11/95)

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

- Mandate that all dioceses give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee on their efforts to engage their members in the restorative justice process, in order to fulfill the vision of a Church without racism. (GC '09)
- Call on the Office of Anti-Racism and Gender Equality to design a framework to actively recruit persons of color to pursue ordination; analyze how persons of color are deployed to parishes; and document the experience of persons of color going through the discernment process, seminary and the ordination process. (GC '09)
- Declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery is a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture and resolve that The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participating in this sin. Express our most profound regret that The Episcopal Church supported slavery both before and after it was formally abolished and establish a process for creation of a program of healing and reconciliation. (GC '06)
- Develop an anti-racism plan for self-assessment and systematic change. (EC 2/04)
- 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. (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)
- Strengthen the recruitment, retention and education of people of color for the ordained ministry. (GC '94)
- Call on all baptized persons to work to remove racism from the life of the nation. (GC '91)

### **Recognizing Native Americans**

- Call on the U.S. government to recognize the Native American tribes which have been requesting federal tribal recognition but have not yet received it. (GC '09)
- Call on Episcopalians to advocate and support the honoring of all Indian trea-

ty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes. (GC '09)

- Call on the Episcopal Church to establish a community development initiative in poor communities, especially Native Peoples' communities, using asset-based community development models. (GC '09)
- 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 Churches' 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 Gay and Lesbian Persons**

- Support the passage of Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which will give protected status under federal employment law to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community. (GC '09)
- Condemn the criminalization of homosexuality and advocacy of equal treatment LGBT persons in many countries around the world, as well the increased violence against such persons. (EC 3/07)
- Urge the U.S. government to grant asylum to LGBT persons, or those who advocate for these groups, whose lives are threatened in their home countries for these reasons. (EC 3/07)
- Urge the Church's Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements not to propose any site for any future General Conventions located in a state that prohibits domestic partnerships or the associated rights. (EC 3/07)
- Support gay and lesbian persons as children of God and their entitlement to full civil rights. (GC '06)
- Oppose any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions. (GC '06)
- Declare efforts to criminalize homosexual behavior to be incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (GC '06)
- 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 gay and lesbian persons. (GC '00)
- Call on the U.S. Government to extend benefits such as bereavement and family leave policies, health benefits, pension benefits and real-estate transfer tax benefits to gay and lesbian couples. (GC '97)
- Reaffirm the civil rights of homosexual persons. (GC '94)

**Protecting Persons with HIV/AIDS**

- Urge church members to work to eliminate the stigma of HIV/AIDS. (GC '06)
- 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)

**Advancing Interfaith Relations**

- Encourage dialogue between Christian and Muslim communities “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 interfaith dialogues among peoples of the three Abrahamic faiths, 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 the Israeli government from anti-Jewish prejudice. (GC '91)
- Oppose anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish prejudice. (EC 2/85)



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