

Report of the Diocesan Jubilee Office to the 228th Annual Diocesan Convention

Jubilee Ministries was created by the 1982 General Convention of the Episcopal Church resolution A082 to be “a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society.” In order to facilitate this ministry, the 1985 General Convention resolution A106 charged each diocese to appoint a Jubilee Officer who will “become informed on all facets of Jubilee Ministry, serve as a liaison to the Jubilee Ministry Commission, be available as a resource to bishops and congregations and otherwise bring support to further Jubilee Ministries.”

2011 Highlights

- **Designation and Affirmation of two Jubilee Ministry Centers**

- All Saint’s Church - Princeton
- St. Peter’s Church – Perth Amboy

- **Jubilee Ministry Grant Awards**

- Christ Church – New Brunswick – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00
- Church of St. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr – Camden – Health and Nutrition - \$750.00
- Church of St. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr – Camden – summer camp program - \$1,000.00
- St. Peter’s Church - Spotswood – Building A Just Society - \$2,500.00
- St. Peter’s Church – Perth Amboy- two-day workshop*
- Diocesan Jubilee Office - \$1,000.00 – three half-day workshops *

This funding specifically supported three of The Episcopal Church’s Mission Funding Priorities communicated at the 2009 General Convention.

- Networking the Body of Christ by “establishing and supporting collaborative efforts within and among dioceses and congregations to promote vibrant ministry in service to God’s mission.”
- Alleviating Poverty and Injustice by “advocating for and working to provide education, healthcare, employment, housing, and equal rights for all of God’s beloved; AND,
- Claiming our Identity by “exploring and discovering who we are as The Episcopal Church, within the comprehensive reality of our complex culture and in relationship to others.”

- **Meetings and Advocacy**

- Met with volunteers of various food pantries in the diocese and staff of federal and state departments of agriculture to discuss and plan strategies to reduce the inaccessibility and cost of nutritious food and feeding programs for summer camps – Eleven parishes were represented.
- Co-sponsored with the Diocese of Newark and 30 multi-faith groups, “Fighting Poverty with Faith” an event of prayer, information sharing and a call to action at the New Jersey State House around issues of food stamps.

- **Launched Jubilee Ministry webpage on diocesan website**

- **Workshops* - funded by The Episcopal Church’s Mission Funding**

- Jubilee Office of Diocese of New Jersey in collaboration with St. Peter’s Church, Perth Amboy hosted a two-day Asset Based Community Development Workshop on April 8 and 9, 2011. The

focus of the workshop was “to give parishioners and other members from various communities tools of empowerment that will enable them to be advocates for justice in many different spheres.” Facilitators for this two-day workshop were, The Rev. Christopher A. Johnson, Officer – Social and Economic Justice, The Episcopal Church and Mike Green, author of *When People Care Enough to Help*.

- Why Jubilee Ministry? “A Context within the Diocese of New Jersey and The Episcopal Church” was scheduled for November 18 and December 9, 2011. Due to an illness the November 18, 2011 was cancelled. This half-day workshop included conversations regarding; 1) The Biblical Foundation of Jubilee; 2) Why Congregations Should become Jubilee Ministries; and Jubilee around the Church. Twelve participants attended.

Moving Forward 2012

- Continue to shepherd, when needed, charity and justice ministries through the application, designation and affirmation process.
- Continue to communicate grant opportunities to Jubilee Ministries when available.
- Convene regularly scheduled meetings for the purposes of networking, training and sharing best practices.
- Expand the Jubilee Advisory Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clara Gregory
Diocesan Jubilee Officer