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## 2013 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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The Committee on Resolutions received three proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2013 deadline for submissions and two thereafter prior to preparation of the Preliminary Report of the Committee. An additional late proposal was presented during one of the preconvention meetings. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 23, 2013, at Diocesan House, at which some of the proposals were modified by their proposers from the language in the Preliminary Report as distributed as preconvention meetings and the one additional proposal added. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report.

As provided by the Rules of Order, Proposed Resolutions 2013-4, 2013-5, 2013-6, and any other proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Committee on Resolutions  
The Rev'd Dirk C. Reinken  
The Rev'd Dr. John P. Mitchell  
The Rev'd Jane L. Rockman  
Mr. Charles Lezenby  
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller  
Mr. John A. Sully  
Paul Ambros, Esq., Chair  
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

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### RESOLUTION 2013-1:

*Subject: Voting on Shareholder Resolutions*

*Be it resolved,* That those responsible for investments held by or on behalf of the Diocese be directed to vote on shareholder resolutions in accordance with the Episcopal Church and/or the Church Pension Fund; and be it

*Further resolved,* That those responsible for investments held by or on behalf of all congregations and other institutions related to the Diocese be encouraged to likewise vote on shareholder resolutions in accordance with the Episcopal Church and/or the Church Pension Fund.

*SUBMITTED BY: Kim Byham, Trinity Church, Asbury Park; the Rev'd Edmund W. Zelley, Holy Trinity Church, Wenonah; and the Rev'd Jayne Oasin, Church of the Atonement, Laurel Springs*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-1 by Proposers:*

Strange as it may seem, today the majority of shares being held by Episcopal Church entities are voted *against* shareholder resolutions submitted by The Episcopal Church.

A small percentage of The Episcopal Church's investments are held by The Episcopal Church (*i.e.*, the Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society). The vast majority is held by parishes, dioceses, and the Church Pension Fund. For many years the Church's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility ("CSR", formerly Social Responsibility in Investment) and the Pension Fund's Social and Fiduciary Responsibility in Investments Committee ("SFRI") have worked cooperatively. The Episcopal Church was one of the principal founders of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility ("ICCR"), and the Pension Fund is now one of its primary supporters. The Episcopal Church, through the Executive Council, acting on recommendations from CSR, sponsors various shareholder resolutions on subjects such as environmental justice, board diversity, human rights standards, pay disparity, and, most recently, political spending disclosure. In addition, the Church supports numerous resolutions initiated by other ICCR members and other concerned parties. The Pension Fund, through SFRI, joins in those efforts, and in many cases its more extensive investment portfolio allows for wider participation.

In any given year, about 250 shareholder resolutions are filed with U.S. corporations seeking changes in their social policies and practices. In 2012, The Episcopal Church filed such resolutions with twelve of the companies in which it holds common stock and voted "yes" on more than 40 resolutions filed by others.

Shareholder resolutions become part of the proxy statements sent to all corporate shareholders. The diocese and its parishes ordinarily do not even see these proxy statements. The portfolio manager will, absent specific instructions to the contrary, simply vote the proxies in accordance with management recommendations, which means they will be voted against the shareholder actions which have been endorsed by Executive Council.

Thanks to the Pension Fund, a special service is available to all dioceses and parishes that will automatically vote their proxies in conjunction with the Church, without cost to the dioceses or parishes. Details can be found at <http://www.episcopalinvestments.org>.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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**RESOLUTION 2013-2:**

*Subject: To make poverty a topic at all meetings from September 2013 through November 2013 or*

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*any other three consecutive-month period between March 1, 2013 and the 2014 Diocesan Convention*

*Be it resolved*, That this 229th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey call upon all of its constituent committees, commissions, institutions, and congregations to include as part of every meeting from September 2013 through November 2013 or any other three consecutive-month period between March 1, 2013 and the 2014 Diocesan Convention, no matter what the purpose, the following agenda item: "How will what we are doing here affect or involve people living in poverty?"

*SUBMITTED BY: The Rev'd Lisa Caton, Chairperson of the Diocesan MDG Task Force and Co-Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development; Aline Haynes, Trinity Princeton, Co-Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development, as well as the following MDG Task Force members: Ann Zultner and Trisha Thorne, Trinity Princeton; Sayah Richardson, Trinity Cathedral; the Rev'd Frank Crumbaugh and Janine Kleber, Holy Innocents, Beach Haven; Fran McCrory and Lou Cavaliere, Grace Church, Merchantville; Chris Hempel, St. John's, Elizabeth; Pat Sayles, St. Luke's, Ewing; Jan Logan and Steve Voorhees, All Saint's, Princeton; Donna Freidel, St. Thomas, Glassboro; Deacon Helen Orlando, St. Peter's, Medford, William Hoffman, St. John's, Somerville; and Kathy O'Hagan, Church of St. Mark and All Saints, Galloway Township. Also submitted by Clara Gregory, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, Trinity Cathedral; Archdeacons Keith McCoy, St. John's, Somerville; Victoria Cuff, Christ Church, Middletown; and Deacon Christopher Cox, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton.*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-2 by Proposers:*

At the 2012 General Convention, Resolution A135 called for a number of steps to be taken to address the alleviation of poverty and increasing economic and racial injustice in the U.S. The third "resolved" of A135, which came to be known as the "Deacons' resolution," states as follows: "Resolved, that the church cultivate mindfulness about poverty in our communities and world, as well as the poverty into which Christ calls us, by including in our prayer and in every meeting agenda, time for prayer and reflection on how our work engages issues of poverty and economic and racial justice networks".

This resolution is based on the original language that the Association for Episcopal Deacons ("AED") proposed for adoption by 2012 General Convention. AED's resolution in turn was based on a 20-year-old experiment by the late Roman Catholic Bishop Kenneth E. Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, who decreed that for a three-month period, every church meeting at the diocesan or parish level, no matter what the purpose, would start with the agenda item "How will what we are doing here involve or affect the poor?" More recently, the Dioceses of Atlanta, California, Indianapolis, Maine, Oregon, and Pennsylvania in our own church, have adopted this resolution.

This resolution is not a program or a plan to alleviate poverty. Rather, it is an effort to change the conversation in the church and to bring an awareness of the situation of people living in poverty into the day-to-day business of the church at both the parish and diocesan levels. This resolution invites the church to consider the impact of all our actions on those among us who are living in poverty in the world, not only when we are thinking about "outreach" ministry, but in all our

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activities. It is meant to build a habit of mind to consider those living in poverty as part of the ongoing life of the church every day. The MDG Task Force will provide resources to encourage and guide these conversations. The Task Force will also collect stories throughout the year about how this project has enriched and informed the life of the diocese to share at the 2014 Convention.

Bishop Untener's reflection piece "How Should We Think About the Poor?" is published online at <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0792.asp>. Copies of this article will also be available at the MDG Task Force information table.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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RESOLUTION 2013-3:

*Subject: Timely Publication of the Journal*

*Be it resolved*, That the Convention hereby directs the Secretary of Convention to prepare and publish the Journal of this Convention in book format no later than September 1, 2013; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the proceedings of the May Convention to elect a bishop be included by the Secretary in the same volume of the Journal; and be it

*Further resolved*, That if the Secretary of the Convention chooses not to accept this assignment, the Secretary shall notify the President of the Convention no later than March 15, 2013, and in that case the President is hereby directed by the Convention to appoint a person to prepare and publish the said Journal; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated from the diocesan budget for this purpose, and that each line in the revenue side of the budget be increased by 0.3% to offset the expense; and be it

*Further resolved*, That a free copy of the Journal be sent to each member of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese who requests one and to each church in the Diocese.

***SUBMITTED BY: The Rev'd Elmer L. Sullivan***

***Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-3 by Proposer:***

As of this writing on January 13, neither the Journal of the 2011 Convention nor the Journal of the 2012 Convention have been published. This two-year delay is unacceptable, and it shows the need for a new policy about publication of the Journal.

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Long delays over the past several years have meant that the Journals are obsolete when they appear. Journals published in a timely manner provide helpful reference information about who serves on the various committees of the Diocese. They also include minutes, reports, and financial information that is current and useful.

The purpose of this resolution is to direct the officers of the Convention to carry out their duty to publish the Journal in a timely manner.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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**Note from the Committee on Resolutions:** The following three proposals were submitted to the Committee after the January 15, 2013 deadline set by Rule VIII of the Rules of Order. They may each come before Convention only upon a two-thirds prior consent for consideration.

**RESOLUTION 2013-4:**

*Subject: Congregational Percentage of Life Insurance Premium Payments*

*Be it resolved,* That the percentage of the premium cost paid by the employing congregation for life insurance coverage provided in accordance with Canon 36, Section 3(a) be 100%.

*SUBMITTED BY: The Rev'd Elmer L. Sullivan*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-4 by Proposer:*

The proposed revised Canon 36 calls for a minimum percentage of premium payments to be established from time to time by the Convention. Past practice has been for employers to pay 100%.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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**RESOLUTION 2013-5:**

*Subject: Congregational Percentage of Dental Insurance Premium Payments*

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*Be it resolved*, That the percentage of the premium cost paid by the employing congregation for dental benefits provided for employee and dependent coverage in accordance with Canon 36, Section 3(b) be 100%.

*SUBMITTED BY: The Rev'd Elmer L. Sullivan*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-5 by Proposer:*

The proposed revised Canon 36 calls for a minimum percentage of premium payments to be established from time to time by the Convention. Past practice has been for employers to pay 100%.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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**RESOLUTION 2013-6:**

*Subject: Support New Jersey Tuition Equity for DREAMers*

*Be it resolved*, That the Two Hundred Twenty-Ninth Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey recognize that there are currently the bills NJ A1659/S2355 and A3509/S2479 in the Assembly and Senate of New Jersey, where A1659/S2355 would allow all students who attended a high school in New Jersey for at least three years and graduated or received an equivalent degree to qualify for in-state/resident rates at New Jersey's public institutions of higher education regardless of immigration status, and A3509/S2479 would allow some students without U.S. documentation to be eligible for both in-state/resident rates at New Jersey's public institutions of higher education and state financial aid; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey support the passage of this tuition equality legislation and directs the Secretary of Convention to endorse the online support letter and to send copies to the Governor and to the Presidents of the State Senate and Assembly; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Diocese of New Jersey encourage its clergy, laity, and congregations to sign the support letter endorsing this legislation and to publicly announce that they are in support of these bills.

*SUBMITTED BY: Frangy Pozo, Christ Church, Trenton; the Reverend Canon Pedro Guzman, Saint Andrew's Church, Camden; the Reverend Canon Dr. Francisco Pozo, Christ Church, Trenton; the Reverend Toribio Rodriguez, Iglesia San Jose, Elizabeth; the Reverend Carolyn Eklund, Grace Church, Plainfield; Jorge Galeano, Christ Church, Trenton; Luz Sanchez, Christ Church, Trenton; Sebastian Vazquez, Saint Andrew's Church, Camden; Rosa Pena, Saint Andrew's Church,*

*Camden**Statement in Support of Resolution 2013-6 by Proposers:*

The Episcopal Church recognizes that the United States is home to approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants. In New Jersey, we are home to the fifth-largest population of undocumented immigrants in the country. They are part of the 21% of New Jerseyans that are foreign-born. The undocumented immigrant population in New Jersey makes up 6.2% of the total state population, making it the fourth-highest rate in the nation.

Nationally, of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants, an estimated 1 million are under the age of 18, attending primary and secondary schools; an additional 1 million entered the country as minors and are now adults, having spent a substantial part of their lives in the United States. These individuals are referred to and often identify as "DREAMers", a name that comes from the DREAM Act, federal legislation introduced to provide a pathway to citizenship and educational opportunities to undocumented youth.

The Episcopal Church is part of a larger statewide network which is currently working on making education accessible for all New Jerseyans. State university costs are currently skyrocketing and crippling students financially as they amass huge amounts of debt. Students without U.S. documentation currently have to pay double the tuition rate that their classmates with U.S. citizenship pay. The Episcopal Church's college ministries' duties are to guide the youth towards the path of the Lord, but it is difficult for this ministry to grow in numbers if these students cannot afford to attend universities.

The New Jersey DREAM Act Coalition, a state-wide community organization, and The New Jersey United Students, a state student organization, proposed a letter in support of these bills, the text of which can be found here: <http://nituitionequity.wordpress.com/support-letter-list-of-supporters> .

We urge support for this measure.

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***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee makes no recommendation as to this proposal.**

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