

TEMA/TÍTULO: Desarrollo Económico: Renovar y Fortalecer el Ministerio de Justicia Económica

PROPONENTE: Diocese of Michigan

PÁGINA CYC:

PÁGINA LA:

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- 1 *Se resuelve*, con la aprobación de la Cámara de _____ que la 76ª Convención General pida a
2 cada congregación episcopal que sepa dónde viven y trabajan los marginados de su comunidad,
3 que tenga una relación con una o más familias pobres en su comunidad, que conozca a las
4 personas por nombre y que forme una alianza local con un organismo que esté trabajando con
5 personas de bajos recursos; y asimismo
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7 *Se resuelve* que la Convención General pida a cada congregación episcopal que comience o
8 continúe participando en los actos tradicionales de misericordia en los que participan muchas
9 congregaciones y Centros de Jubileo: despensas, armarios y comedores públicos, centros de
10 acogida y otros programas; y asimismo
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12 *Se resuelve* que la Convención General continuará y profundizará su abogacía y pedirá a las
13 diócesis y congregaciones (a menudo en concierto con el Consorcio Episcopal para la Política
14 Pública) que aboguen por legislación que facilite niveles adecuados de apoyo y oportunidades
15 para las personas de bajos ingresos; y asimismo
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17 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General pida a las diócesis y congregaciones episcopales deberán
18 promover y participar en la organización comunitaria centrada en la iglesia por medio de la cual
19 la gente de la comunidad local ejerce el poder de las masas y la convicción para llamar la
20 atención a sus necesidades y medidas eficaces por parte de los funcionarios elegidos y los
21 organismos del gobierno; y asimismo
22
23 *Se resuelve* que la Convención General apoye y participe y pida a todas las diócesis y
24 congregaciones apoyarán y participarán en varios modelos por medio de los cuales personas de
25 bajos ingresos y sus compañeros de trabajo pueden tomar la rienda de su vida y responder a sus
26 propias necesidades: modelos como corporaciones para el desarrollo comunitario, corporaciones
27 para viviendas y cooperativas, desarrollo de empresas pequeñas y organizaciones sin fines de
28 lucro para la compra de terrenos; y asimismo
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30 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General fomente en todos los niveles que la Iglesia Episcopal
31 haga préstamos y depósitos al nivel del uno al 10% de los valores económicos para instituciones
32 financieras para el desarrollo comunitario (fondos en préstamo para la comunidad, bancos de
33 desarrollo comunitario, y cooperativas de crédito y fondos para empresas con micro préstamos)
34 para apoyar el desarrollo de la comunidad local y cuando sea útil y necesario, para la creación de

1 instituciones financieras; y asimismo

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3 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General instruya la creación al nivel nacional un fondo de
4 préstamos para el desarrollo de comunidades y que esté abierto a depósitos de las diócesis,
5 congregaciones, organizaciones y miembros episcopales con la meta de convertirse en un fondo
6 de \$24 millones que respaldará los “programas de desarrollo económico controlados por la
7 comunidad para los marginados” (citado de la Resolución sobre Justicia Económica de la
8 Convención General de 1988); y asimismo

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10 *Se resuelve*, que la Convención General pida al Comité Permanente Conjunto sobre Programa,
11 Presupuesto y Finanzas que considere una asignación presupuestaria de \$300.000 para financiar
12 la Red Episcopal para la Justicia Económica al nivel de \$100.000 por año por el siguiente trienio
13 para que pueda aumentar su misión de apoyar y contribuir al trabajo de justicia económica en
14 todo nivel de la Iglesia y ayudar a implementar el ministerio que se dispone en esta resolución.

EXPLANATION:

The Diocese of Michigan led the way in 1988 in response to a call from the House of Bishops in their paper "Economic Justice and the Christian Conscience" (published in October, 1987) for a fundamental reordering of human values "if we are to have any hope of challenging society's present enchantment with overweening individualism, human avarice and social irresponsibility." They went on to say that The moral imperative for Christians is not so much to offer simple answers to the paradox of a prosperity that generates poverty but rather to seek understanding of how the growth and extent of such poverty constitutes both a moral contradiction and a systemic social flaw that serves to undermine the very prosperity which helped create it. The special challenge to Christians is to commit themselves to a process of informing the conscience of society at large about this paradox and to suggest a variety of ways by which individual Christians in their personal activity and their church in its corporate life can witness. On the basis of this statement the House of Bishops voted to encourage dioceses to bring forward to the General Convention of 1988 resolutions for action on economic justice. The Diocese of Michigan brought the resolution "Taking Action for Economic Justice" to the 1988 General Convention in Detroit, significantly impacting the justice ministry of the Episcopal Church. The resolution was passed by the Convention and many dioceses and parishes took up the banner. Some started community loan funds and credit unions or placed money in already existing investment vehicles. Others created housing development corporations to create low income housing throughout the country. Still others created business incubators and micro-enterprise funds for small business development. As congregations and dioceses adopted this program, the program itself broadened in scope: Church people involved in service ministries to the poor were often called to an advocacy ministry: to join their voices to those of the poor to demand increased and more effective government and agency services. Congregations joined church-based community organizations through which neighborhood people developed the power to improve their neighborhoods and the services the government provides to them. In doing this ministry participants discovered that community investment and community development were not as easy as they sounded. They learned that they also needed public support and they needed to do serious advocacy with state and national governments to get that support. They needed to overcome divisions based on race, class, ethnicity, urban, suburban and rural differences. They needed to reach for new levels of cooperation and collaboration. In 1996

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they founded the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice to provide the technical assistance and support economic justice ministry. Recently a call was raised for a revised and strengthened economic justice proposal to respond to the pervasive economic crisis, moral contradictions and systemic social flaws we are experiencing 20 years later. Changes in the world economy are changing the way we do business. Despite rising productivity the wages of working people have not risen in real terms for more than 20 years. Factories and businesses have moved overseas, contributing to an untenable unemployment rate here at home. The safety net that was designed to provide lower income people with basic necessities while they prepared to join or rejoin the work-force has been seriously weakened. The mortgage foreclosure crisis has deeply challenged the recent trend of irresponsible lending and borrowing to offset the lack of income. Many are squeezed by a financial crisis that includes both decreases in income and increases in prices. The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice (ENEJ) asks the Episcopal Church to enact a new economic justice resolution appropriate to this decade. A background paper *Twenty Years Later*, recognizes the complexity of the current economic crisis. It describes seven current trends, each with serious ethical implications, that affect all of us: globalization of the economy, transnational corporations with limited local or national accountability, the Iraq/Afghanistan wars and the rise in militarization, immigration, environmental degradation, global warming and energy needs, the reduction of government services, the rise in poverty and the reduction of moderate and middle class income and wealth. The document calls upon the Church to respond both with its prophetic voice and with its action to the deepening economic crisis in which our nation and our world find themselves. The Church may be the only institution that can credibly challenge economic policies which are based solely on market solutions without consideration of the human and environmental costs of our decisions.