

**RESOLUTION FOR THE 135th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
APRIL 24-25, 2009**

Subject: Establish a Task Force to develop a relationship with the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the other dioceses of Michigan

Originator: Resolutions Committee

Resolved that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan in response to Bishop Robert Gepert's Convention Address directs the diocese to establish a Task Force to develop a companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the other dioceses of Lower Michigan.

RATIONALE: As a Christian people, it is important to ask, "What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?"

- Jesus called his disciples – and therefore us – into community. This expands community.
- We exist as the Body of Christ – greater version of the Body.
- Jesus' special concern for the poor. Gifts the people of the Dominican Republic have to offer us are a joyful, vibrant, future oriented community of faith.
- Part of the Episcopal Church.
- Cooperation with brother and sister Episcopalians of Michigan
- Jesus provided opportunities for spiritual transformation. Friendship with an emerging country is a transformative opportunity for us.