

1. Distribution of Funds from Sale of Former St. Michael's Cascade Property

RESOLVED, that this 136^h Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan charge the Executive Council to distribute any net monies realized from the sale of the Cascade Ministries Center property located at 2965 Wycliffe Drive SE, Cascade, MI 49546, previously St. Michael's Cascade parish property, as follows:

1. One percent (1%) shall be donated to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, and
2. Ten percent (10%) shall be allotted to Holy Cross Church, Kentwood, to be placed in the existing Holy Cross Restricted Outreach & Mission fund account, and
3. **The remaining monies shall be placed in a restricted funds account until such time as further consideration is given to its usage, and be it further**

RESOLVED, that this 136th convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan charge the Executive Council to examine possible uses of the remaining monies and report to the 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan such findings for action by that convention, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the name of the restricted mission funds account shall be designated as the Diocese of Western Michigan St. Michael's Mission Fund.

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

RATIONALE:

The 134th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan dissolved the parish of St. Michael's Cascade and recognized the merger of the St. Michael's congregation with the congregation of Holy Cross Church, Kentwood. At the time of closure of St. Michael's the property was returned to the Diocese free and clear of any encumbrances, allowing the property to be disposed of with minimal costs other than normal sales transaction costs. After a thorough study of possible uses of the property, due to the anticipated costs associated with bringing the building to code and on-going cost of maintaining and staffing a Diocesan Ministry Center, the Executive Council voted to proceed with the sale of the property, and that the monies realized from that sale would be reserved until such time as a determination could be made as to how those monies should be used.

Whereas a significant portion of the active congregation of St. Michael's at the time of its dissolution became members of Holy Cross, including more than one of the original founding communicants, and whereas the property was returned to the control of the Diocese with no financial encumbrances, it is felt that a portion of the proceeds should be passed to Holy Cross Church. The monies allocated to Holy Cross will be placed in an existing restricted account for Outreach and Mission. Rules are in place for that fund to ensure a minimum balance is maintained and that income generated from the account may only be used to fund the parish's outreach and mission activities.

In view of resolutions R-1 and R-6 passed at the 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan to hold an annual Diocesan Mission Conference and to establish a Task Force to develop a companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic, of which a significant level of mission experiences in the future is anticipated, it is appropriate that the monies realized from the sale of the Cascade property be designated to support future mission activities of the diocese. Establishing a restricted account and setting a minimum balance will ensure that funds will be available to seed those activities as they are formulated going forward.

2. Respecting the dignity of others, supporting Diocesan partnerships

RESOLVED, that this 136th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan **strongly encourages the Diocese and its parishes to provide only fairly traded coffee and tea at their gatherings and events;** and it be

Further resolved that the fairly traded coffee selected, be one that originates in the Dominican Republic.

As Christian people, it is important to ask, “What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?”

RATIONALE: “Coffee hour” after worship services is a well-established custom in The Episcopal Church. As we are a church that has historically considered social justice an integral part of our identity and mission. It is fitting that we integrate that heritage with our customary practices.

Even in a world-wide economic recession, The United States is still one of the wealthiest nations on the planet. We have supported our own economic growth by marking up the cost of goods imported from weaker nations, and setting profit margins that maintain systems of economic oppression for those exporting countries. We create a system of supply and demand that abuses both our fellow human beings and their ecosystems in a way not unlike the Roman occupation of 1st century Palestine.

As part of supporting our sisters and brothers in the Dominican Republic, and fostering a partnership with the Diocese therein, purchasing coffee in this way is a small but effective way of promoting justice and equality, and respecting the dignity of our sisters and brothers. It also serves to create another bond between our two Dioceses.

The impact of this resolution also addresses two Millennium Development Goals. By providing a fair income for coffee harvesters, we address the Goals *Environmental Sustainability* and *Global Partnerships*.

Two sources for fairly traded coffee originating in the Dominican Republic are:

Café Alta Gracia <http://www.cafealtagracia.com/>

Coffee AM <http://www.coffeeam.com/fair-trade-coffee.html>