

The 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan  
Park Place Hotel, Traverse City – April 23-24, 2010

## RESOLUTION

**SUBJECT:** Respecting the dignity of others, supporting Diocesan partnerships

**ORIGINATOR:** Grand Valley Deanery

(NAME/COMMITTEE/ GROUP)

**RESOLVED**, that this 136<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan will provide only fairly traded coffee at Diocesan sponsored events, and will strongly encourage parishes to do the same at their own gatherings; and it be

**Further resolved** that the fairly traded coffee selected, is encouraged to 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>