ON THE RELIEF OF THE POOR

Whereas January 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the “War on Poverty”, and public policies have not kept pace with the changing circumstances of the impoverished in middle Tennessee; and

Whereas Jesus teaches that the kingdom of God belongs to the poor, while assuring his disciples that they minister to him in the cup of cold water offered to the thirsty; and

Whereas poverty is not being reduced at the rate it was in past decades, despite the current economic recovery; and

Whereas 1.1 million people live in poverty in the state of Tennessee, ¼ of them being children, (a poverty rate that ranks 40th in the nation); and

Whereas Grundy County, a county within the boundaries of the Diocese of Tennessee, is the state county with the highest rate of poverty (31.5% of people in poverty); and

Whereas women in middle Tennessee continue to earn 77% of what men are making and racial income disparities persist, leaving women as well as communities of color at a financial disadvantage; and

Whereas for the Christian, the love of neighbor and the pursuit of justice requires a respect of the dignity of every human being and attentiveness to these inequities; now be it therefore

RESOLVED that every member of this Diocese be encouraged to support—through prayer, sacrificial giving, acts of mercy, civic advocacy, and a commitment to living simply—the work of God’s Reign, advanced in the comprehensive relief of suffering caused by poverty; and be it further

RESOLVED that this 182nd Annual Convention of the Diocese encourage the Bishop and Council to form a task force whose mission is to educate, direct, and encourage all parishes, missions, and other Diocesan institutions to stand with the poor; and be it further

RESOLVED that all parishes and missions of the Diocese of Tennessee be encouraged to report to task force annually on their work with and among the impoverished and economically disadvantaged of middle Tennessee.