

Resolution: An Investment in the Rebuilding of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Author: Standing Committee

October 23, 2014

NOTE: This resolution has been withdrawn by the proposers.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, that the 78th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$1,200,000 spread out over the years 2018–2028, the funding to include \$200,000 per year for the first two years, \$160,000 per year for years three and four, \$120,000 for years five and six, \$80,000 per year for years seven and eight, \$40,000 per year for years nine and ten; and be it further

Resolved, that the funds be used to continue the successful rebuilding of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth to enable it to continue the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church in North Texas, ongoing since 1874. The faithful people of The Episcopal Church in North Texas, while vigorously pursuing litigation resulting from the 2008 schismatic actions of its former bishop and other diocesan leaders without financial assistance from the broader church, have managed to hold their own. The diocese continues to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, teach, baptize, and nurture new believers, respond to human need by loving service, seek to transform unjust structures of society, and strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth; and be it further

Resolved, that while the Fort Worth diocese has been served exceedingly well by provisional bishops, the mission and ministry (both actual and projected) has come to a point when the faithful Episcopalians require a full-time diocesan bishop whom they shall elect, to nurture a unified vision for the diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that the Fort Worth diocese invites all of our sisters and brothers in Christ in The Episcopal Church to invest in the work of God being done in that diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$1,200,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

In 2008 the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth encountered a massive stumbling block through the schismatic actions of its former bishop and other diocesan leaders, a situation that had developed over a period of at least 15 years despite the efforts of the faithful Episcopalians of the diocese who had worked tirelessly – and mostly alone -- to prevent a schism. Since 2008, the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth has actively engaged in church-planting, rebuilding displaced congregations with the assistance of the Episcopal Church Building Fund, and growing existing congregations. The laity and clergy working this harvest need the energy, creativity, and pastoral oversight of a full-time diocesan bishop. The diocese seeks investment from the broader church to fund a mission-minded bishop over the course of ten years. The investment from the church wide budget would steadily decrease over the ten-year period as the diocesan rebuilding efforts bear fruit.