

The Executive Council The Economic Justice Implementation Committee

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MEMBERSHIP

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- The Rt. Rev. G.P. Mellick Belshaw, New Jersey
- The Rt. Rev. H. Irving Mayson, Michigan
- The Rt. Rev. William Sanders, East Tennessee

Presbyters

- The Rev. Harry J. Bowie, Mississippi (Canonically resident in New Jersey)
- The Rev. Ashton Brooks, Costa Rica
- The Rev. Norman Faramelli, Massachusetts
- The Rev. Almus M. Thorp, Jr., Michigan

Laity

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- Mr. Eugene Bowens, Atlanta, *Co-chair*
- Ms. Joon Matsumura, Los Angeles
- Ms. Rose Robinson, Washington
- Mr. Albert R. Rodriguez, Texas, *Treasurer*
- Mr. Ernest Ruppe, Delaware
- Ms. Anne Scheibner, Washington
- Mr. Thomas Tisdale, South Carolina
- Ms. Chris Weiss, West Virginia, *Co-chair*
- Timothy D. Wittlinger, Esq., Michigan, *Secretary and Executive Council Liaison*

Ex officio

- The Rev. Richard Roos, Indianapolis

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Representatives of the Committee at General Convention

The Rt. Rev. G. P. Mellick Belshaw and the Rt. Rev. William Sanders, House of Bishops, are authorized by the Committee to receive non-substantive amendments to the report.

Timothy D. Wittlinger, Esq., House of Deputies, is authorized by the Committee to receive non-substantive amendments to the report.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Economic Justice Implementation Committee (EJIC) was instituted by action of the 69th General Convention, and continued by action of the 70th General Convention. During the last triennium, the EJIC met eight times. Locations of meetings have been primarily in the New York area, but the EJIC has also met in Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and Indianapolis.

The EJIC is accountable to and regularly reports to the Executive Council, through the Council's Sub-committee on Advocacy, Witness and Justice. In addition to reports from its Council Liaison, status reports by the EJIC Chairs were made to the Council at its meetings in Huntington and Omaha.

To carry out its work, the EJIC has established working sub-committees, which report regularly to the full committee. The EJIC Sub-committee on Funding Strategies and Alternatives, co-chaired by Mr. Ernest Ruppe and the Rev. Almus Thorp, is charged with helping develop strategies at the regional, diocesan and congregational levels for increased contributions to and investments in the National Episcopal Fund for Community Development and Economic Justice (Fund), established by the 69th General Convention. The investment of the national Church in economic justice currently includes \$7 million in unrestricted national Church endowment; \$3.5 million in the Fund, utilized for revolving loans, and \$3.5 million invested in alternative investment vehicles, administered by the Committee on Trust Funds.

The Sub-committee on Diocesan Outreach and Information, co-chaired by Mr. Albert Rodriquez and Ms. Anne Scheibner, is charged with promoting the aims of economic justice throughout the Church through written materials, conferences, workshops, and diocesan and provincial consultations and visitations.

The Loan Review Sub-committee, chaired by the Rev. Norman Faramelli, and the Grant Review Sub-committee, chaired by Mr. Albert Rodriquez, carry out the work suggested by their titles and make recommendations to the EJIC concerning approval of loans and grants.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEES WORK

Aim of the EJIC

As set forth in the EJIC's Blue Book report to the 70th General Convention, the primary aim of the EJIC is the implementation of 69th General Convention Resolution C030a, dealing with economic justice and the empowerment of the disadvantaged and those not having access or any influence over the economic resources of their community.

During the last triennium, the EJIC carried out its aim by continued development of strategies for increasing contributions to and investments in the Fund, implementation of its grant and loan criteria through technical assistance and "seed" grants to projects throughout the nine provinces, and through revolving loans to intermediaries for eventual use by economic justice projects throughout the Church, and continuing education and consultation with provinces and dioceses in the area of economic justice. Specifics of those activities are set forth below.

Because of our continuing commitment to empowerment, the economic justice process has been done by using staff, consultants, and committee members to give the specific assistance requested by dioceses, regions and provinces. Follow-up surveys were mailed to the 127 workshop participants, representing 43 dioceses. Of the 56 responses, 28 were parish or diocesan committee members. Additionally, there were interviews with eight bishops to further monitor progress and identify future areas of involvement. Twenty-five diocesan visits were made to assist in the organizing process; eight technical assistance grants were given to dioceses to facilitate local EJIC initiatives.

The EJIC has kept abreast of the information being generated by the Executive Council Diocesan Visitation Program and has specifically addressed how its work can remain responsive to the concerns of the wider Church. At its National Economic Justice Conference, held in Chicago with the co-sponsorship of the Economic Justice Task Force of Province V, the EJIC received an overwhelming affirmation of its mission and a cry to continue and increase its efforts into the future. Inasmuch as most of the actual economic justice projects are undertaken at the local level, the actual economic justice ministry of the Episcopal Church is being carried out by provinces, dioceses, diocesan agencies and congregations with the support of the EJIC, and thus is quite reflective of the many comments from the visitation process which call for more ministry at the local level of the Church.

Grants

Throughout the triennium, the EJIC continued to provide monetary grants to projects located in all nine provinces of the Episcopal Church. These grants were primarily to provide seed money to new projects or technical assistance to economic justice efforts. By the writing of this report, a total of \$271,605 had been awarded to various recipients during this triennium. Additional proposals were being received for review and action in the spring cycle. The specific grants were as follows:

September 1992

1. Cooperative Fund of New England, Inc., Hartford CT.....	\$5,000
2. Trace Community Developers, Inc., St. Martin OH.....	\$7,50
3. Homestead Pride Poultry Cooperative, Stuart IA.....	\$10,000
4. The Susquehanna Valley Comm. Dev. Loan Fund Lancaster ME.....	\$10,000
5. Lopez Community Land Trust, Lopez Island WA.....	\$9,300
6. Community Land Trust Project, Concord NH.....	\$10,000
7. Philadelphia Urban Finance Corp., Philadelphia PA.....	\$5,000
8. Troy Street Community Revitliz. Program, Boston MA.....	\$12,500
9. ICA Group/Community Econ. Dev. Program, Boston MA.....	\$10,000
10. Burlington Ecumen. Action Ministry, Burlington VT.....	\$5,000

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11. Good Work, Inc., Durham NC	\$10,000
12. Little Haiti Housing Association, Miami FL.....	\$7,000
13. CARACEN, Los Angeles CA	\$10,000

May 1993

1. Community Loan Fund, Pittsburgh PA.	\$6,305
2. Farm-to-Market Proj./MRCC, Columbia OH.	\$8,000
3. Genesis Fund/GHBIP, Tacoma WA	\$5,000
4. Epis. Commun. Dev., Newark NJ	\$10,000
5. Neighborhood Affordable Hsg., E. Boston MA.	\$6,500
6. Economic Justice Program/Diocese of E. Tenn.	\$15,000

October 1993

1. Genesis Fund, Wiscasset ME	\$5,000
2. Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiatives, Roxbury MA.....	\$7,000
3. Worker Assistance Center-Fuerza Unida, San Antonio TX	\$6,000
4. Street Vendor Empowerment Proj./CARACEN, Los Angeles CA	\$10,000
5. Rural Development Leadership Network, New York NY.....	\$5,000
6. Cape Cod & Islands People's Coalition for Econ. Devel., Boston MA.....	\$10,000
7. Instit. for Community Economics, Springfield MA.....	\$5,000
8. Community Land Trust Project, Concord NH.....	\$5,000
9. Covington Comm. Land Trust, Covington KY.....	\$7,500
10. Delaware Valley Housing Coal., Philadelphia PA.....	\$5,500
11. Wisconsin Housing Min. Partnership, Clear Lake WI.....	\$8,000
12. Sunnyside Ministries, Lancaster PA.....	\$5,000

The EJIC is continually reviewing its grant criteria, originally approved by the Executive Council in 1992. No changes were recommended in the criteria during this triennium.

Loans

As of the time of the writing of this report the EJIC had approved loans from the Fund for this triennium in the total amount of \$1,075,000. In addition, other loans were in the pipeline. The specific loans approved were as follows:

- Delta Foundation, Greenville MS - \$100,000 - 5/92
- Diocese of Los Angeles: Nehemiah Hsg. Project \$100,000 - 5/92
- Diocese of Michigan - \$100,000 - 10/91
- Genesis Fund, Wiscasset ME - \$75,000 - 4/93
- Housing Assistance Council. Washington DC - \$100,000 - 10/93
- New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, Concord NH - \$100,000 -9/93
- NJ Community Loan Fund, Trenton NJ - \$100,000 - 1/94
- S.E.R.V., Atlanta GA - \$100,000 - 1/92
- Steel Valley Authority, Homestead PA - \$100,000 - 4/92
- Diocese of East Tennessee - \$100,000 - 4/93
- W. Maryland I/f Hsg. Develop. Council, Frederick MD - \$100,000 - 2/94

The balance of available monies in the Fund is \$2,425,000. This is on target with the goal of the EJIC to space disbursements from the Fund over a three-year period, so that pay-backs of loan proceeds will be on a truly revolving basis, thus allowing sufficient monies to be on deposit in the Fund for continuing loans in the future.

All loan recommendations are subject to review by an Internal Loan Review Committee at the Church Center, which often suggests improved management controls to loan recipients as a condition of loan approval. This process permits greater accountability and financial responsibility on the part of loan recipients.

In spite of the above procedure, two loans approved by the EJIC during the triennium experienced some trouble. These situations were unique and occurred in spite of the extensive and thorough loan review process. Work-out arrangements with the two affected intermediaries have been put in place, and it appears that there will be minimal financial loss to the principal of the Fund. The loan-loss ratio experienced by the Fund is quite favorable, compared with the average of commercial banks.

The EJIC conducted an extensive review of its own loan criteria during the triennium, with the assistance of representatives of the Internal Loan Review Committee, the Executive Council, and the Audit Committee of the Episcopal Church. Revisions to the criteria were recommended by the EJIC and adopted by the Executive Council at its Norfolk meeting. The revised loan criteria reflect the experience of the EJIC in approving, closing and servicing loans, as well as assuring that loans are in fact reflective of and continue to promote the principles of economic justice throughout the Church at all levels.

Funding Strategies and Alternatives

The Sub-committee on Funding Strategies and Alternatives worked diligently to promote the existence of the Fund and encourage additional investments. The process has been long and painful. The EJIC is guided by one of its original operating principles, namely, that investments in the Fund should not come from monies presently being used or earmarked for economic justice efforts by proposed investors. For example, the EJIC would much rather promote the establishment of local diocesan revolving loan funds than channel those monies into the Fund. The result is a bittersweet dilemma. The EJIC celebrates the fact that it has been instrumental in promoting and assisting the establishment of economic justice efforts at local levels. This is seen as a direct response to many of the comments made during the Executive Council visitation process, to the effect that the national Church should spend more time in the promotion of local ministry efforts. On the other hand, this restricts the amount of monies that presumably would otherwise have been invested in the Fund.

Specific action of the EJIC, through this sub-committee, over the triennium included:

1. Dialogue with the Lilly Endowment concerning the Fund.
2. Attendance at a "Neighborhood Funders Conference" in Boston, attended by representatives of numerous organizations that have funds available. The sub-committee then planned the sponsorship of a "Funders Meeting" whereby representatives of various foundations could meet with the EJIC and explore their joint work together. Although informal dialogue has occurred with a few of these representatives, that meeting has not yet occurred due to logistic problems.
3. A meeting with representatives of the Board of the Church Pension Fund, and an exploration of the possibility of economic justice investments by the Church Pension Fund.

4. Contact with the Consortium of Endowed Parishes and the initiation of dialogue concerning investment by member parishes of the Consortium in economic justice initiatives.

Information And Diocesan Outreach

The most productive work of the EJIC during this triennium has been in the arena of diocesan outreach. Visitations and consultations with dioceses in the area of economic justice continues and has been most productive. Many dioceses that had no economic justice programs three years ago are now beginning work in that area. This requires a great deal of education and technical assistance. The manual *Organizing For Economic Justice*, published by the EJIC during the last triennium, continues to be utilized widely throughout the Church in developing local initiatives. Also, dioceses with economic justice programs in place three years ago have seen those programs expanded through consultation with the EJIC. Again, this work is seen as a direct response to input from the visitation process and an attempt by the EJIC to promote economic justice by local initiatives, rather than by doing economic justice itself.

The most exciting event of the triennium was the National Economic Justice Conference, co-sponsored with the Economic Justice Task Force of Province V. The conference, "Do Justice, Justice Due: Economic Justice and the Episcopal Church," was held in Northbrook (Chicago), Illinois, and was attended by more than 100 persons representing 34 dioceses and every province within the continental United States. Douglas Meeks of Wesley Theological Seminary was the keynote speaker. The conference was well attended and consisted of a number of workshops on various aspects of economic justice. Workshop leaders were solicited from around the country and provided forums for intense and detailed discussion of the various topics. Such topics included Public Policy Issues, Revolving Loan Funds, Credit Unions, Job Retention and Job Development, and Community Investment. The conference participants reflected a clear commitment to the principles of economic justice and called for the active continuation of the EJIC into the next triennium. A similar conference is already in the planning stages, and it is hoped that such conferences can be held on a regular basis.

Specific action of the EJIC, through this sub-committee, over the triennium included:

1. Follow-up on the economic justice workshops held in each province at the end of the last triennium. The workshop participants were surveyed and a large amount of data was developed on economic justice efforts throughout the Church. Such data was used by the sub-committee in connection with its outreach and educational work during this triennium.
2. Adoption of an EJIC policy by which all members of the EJIC agreed to make themselves available for consultation, site visits and other dialogue with local efforts.
3. Periodic mailings to bishops and diocesan contacts to share information and survey local results.
4. The collection of data on the "leveraging" results of grants approved by the EJIC. This resulted in the development of information on how productive EJIC grants have been in expanding economic justice at the local level. For example, although few of our grants exceed \$12,000 and most are around \$9,000, they often leverage four times as much, as Episcopal groups

receiving the grants for economic justice projects enter into partnerships with groups from other denominations, faith groups and community organizations to achieve local objectives.

5. Execution of a consultant contract with the Woodstock Institute in Chicago, which specializes in research and technical assistance on various community development issues. This contract greatly facilitated work in diocesan outreach, funding strategy development, and administrative support for the October conference.
6. The planning and execution of the National Economic Justice Conference, jointly sponsored with Province V, referred to above in this report.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT TRIENNIUM

The EJIC spent a major portion of its final meetings of 1993, held in Chicago in October and New York in December, considering the best way for the EJIC to affect the institutionalization of economic justice ministry at all levels of the Church within the next triennium and the longer range future. Our deliberations took into account the following:

- The primary objective of the EJIC to build, develop and institutionalize a national church program of economic justice based on the concepts expressed in resolution C030a, 69th General Convention, which involves the entire Church at all levels.
- The growing awareness, interest and involvement of laity, clergy and bishops for establishing economic justice initiatives as essential to ministry for these times.
- The feedback of the respective dioceses to the Executive Council visitations, regarding the desire for greater emphasis and support by the national Church for mission strategies that are developed and implemented regionally, and locally.
- The ever-shrinking financial resources available for use at the national level and the need for restructuring at the Church Center.

Based upon these considerations, the EJIC has concluded that it should terminate by the end of the first year in the upcoming triennium. During the time remaining, we will engage in a process that will facilitate achieving the following aim for the next triennium and beyond:

To pass along and to localize the implementation of economic justice activities to establish an ongoing network of those involved in economic justice ministries at national, regional, diocesan and congregational levels of the Church.

We developed six benchmarks, which when all are achieved by the end of 1995, will be concrete evidence that EJIC has accomplished this aim and achieved the objective of "institutionalizing" a program of economic justice involving the entire Church. These benchmarks are:

1. An adequate number of economic justice activities are in place, broadly distributed throughout the Church, to serve as models of success and which may be duplicated by others.

2. Continued ongoing efforts for education, advocacy, and support on behalf of economic justice are in place, on diocesan, regional and national levels and shared throughout the Church.
3. Structures are in place to provide for regular Economic Justice Conferences to be held between General Conventions, co-sponsored by the National Episcopal Church and an economic justice coalition.
4. Episcopal Church Center staff responsibilities and financial resources are in place, which are specific, continuous and accountable, for coordination of and liaison with the economic justice networks.
5. Time frames for accomplishing these and other appropriate triennial benchmarks have been established.
6. Appropriate structures for the new initiative have been proposed and are in process of implementation.

In order to achieve the above benchmarks or objectives, the EJIC has determined to implement the following strategies during 1994-1995:

1. Following up on the Chicago Conference including detailed ongoing communication with conference participants and adding participants names to the Public Policy Network.
2. Developing an expanding network of economic justice supporters throughout the Church, including:
 - the creation of an economic justice network database for information exchange and a computer bulletin board;
 - developing a periodical which includes EJIC resource information, economic justice models, contact persons and other resources for sharing throughout the Church;
 - identifying persons in regions throughout the Church to facilitate the development of regional economic justice initiatives and networking;
 - co-sponsoring a National Triennial Conference on Economic Justice to be held in 1995.
3. Continuing assistance to dioceses in their efforts to create and expand local economic justice initiatives, including:
 - organizational development support,
 - workshops,
 - technical consultations,
 - financial and other resources.
4. Concentrating efforts on expanding the number of economic justice revolving loan fund applications, publicizing the Fund with increased emphasis on micro-enterprise intermediaries.
5. Establishing an Economic Justice Loan Committee to continue the work of review and approval of loan applications after the EJIC has terminated.
6. Identifying sources of investments, including the Church Pension Fund, for the Loan Fund.