



# Taking It All Back Home

## Economic Justice at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention

By Mike Maloney, ENEJ Staff

ENEJ and its allies brought before the convention a set of resolutions on a range of issues including immigrant rights, worker justice, jobs programs, and environmental issues. Working with UNITE Here, we have reminded the convention of worker justice issues, including wage theft, right there in Indianapolis. Hundreds of Episcopalians expressed solidarity with oppressed workers by marching or signing a letter to the Indianapolis City Council. Others testified on behalf of resolutions before Program, Budget and Finance and various legislative hearings. The entire convention was reminded by the Secretary of Convention, Gregory Straub, to tip underpaid hotel workers generously. The Diocese of Arizona provided tip envelopes for the ENEJ booth to distribute. All of this activity attracted interest from ENS, local media, and Episcopal web radio. Clearly ENEJ met its goal of keeping economic justice issues before the Episcopal Church at the 77th General Convention.

### What Does It All Mean?

It is too early to fully assess the extent to which the economic justice agenda

was advanced at this convention. Now that we are back in our home communities and our everyday activities, how can we follow up on what we experienced in Indianapolis?

**Organize** – If your parish or diocese does not have an active peace and justice committee, form one. If one already exists, join it and make sure its agenda includes economic justice issues and systemic change.

**Use Resources** – ENEJ and the other organizations of The Consultation have a variety of resources your congregation, diocese, or provincial group can use to advance peace and justice work. Use their web sites and use these resources in your organizing back home.

**Become an Advocate** – If you are not already an advocate on peace and justice issues, become one. ENEJ's Issue Papers is a good place to start. It summarizes 30 current economic justice issues and suggests action steps. Please review resolutions adopted at General Convention and help educate fellow parishioners on them. All ENEJ resources are available at [www.enej.org](http://www.enej.org).

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## ENEJ Resources You Can Use

The following resources are available at [www.enej.org](http://www.enej.org):

**Community Investing: Share the Wealth.**

This new brochure which was introduced at General Convention is now available.

**Community Investing: An Alternative for Religious Congregations Seeking Social as well as a Financial Return, 1999.**

**Economic Justice How-to Action Manual: A Guide to Economic Justice Ministries for Episcopal Congregations, 2006.**

**Economic Justice Issues: A Guide to Church Teaching and Action Steps** for congregations and individual activities on 26 issues facing the United States, 2012.

**Twenty Years Later: Response to A Crisis: Strengthening Economic Justice Ministry in the Church in a time of Fiscal Crisis.** This report addresses current national and international issues including the international economic crisis and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, 2009.

**Economic Justice Education Modules,** six popular education units on such issues as inequality, worker justice and the impacts of recession . (Developed in conjunction with United for a Fair Economy)

**Related Resources**

**"From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing"** is a 6 part, 2 disc DVD, produced by Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, featuring biblical scholar/activist Ched Myers and Andy Loving, social investment advisor. It was produced for study groups interested in exploring biblical faith and practical economic justice. It is available at ([www.bem-net.org](http://www.bem-net.org)) for \$25 (plus \$2.50 shipping and handling). A facilitation guide is available without cost from the same website.

**Money and Faith: the Search for Enough,** edited and compiled by Michael Schut, with a substantial study guide for small groups. There are readings on many aspects of money by such authors as Walter Brueggemann, Henry Nouwen, Bill McKibben, Ched Myers, William Greider, Maria Harris, Andy Loving, and Michael Schut. The book is available from Morehouse Education Resources, ([www.morehouseeducation.com](http://www.morehouseeducation.com)), with a retail price of \$20.

## Jubilee Ministries Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Vicky Partin  
July 11 in Indianapolis

Our convocational outreach ministry, Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, has been a Jubilee Center since 1989, and we were reaffirmed in 2007. This designation has enabled us to go places we never knew possible. Through the networking and yes, funding, we partnered with a neighborhood and fought city hall over zoning issues. With that new organization BAND, we started the Chattahoochee Federal Credit Union, patterned after the Diocese of Los Angeles Jubilee Center and mentored by its founder Urla Abrigo.

Just this past year, our teen leadership program Infusion received two Jubilee grants to serve the BAND community. A teen wrote a successful grant for our child reading enhancement program there, and a second grant funded a community garden bearing the sign "Fighting Obesity through Health Food." These teens told their story at the international Jubilee Everyone Everywhere conference last October in Estes Park.

Also this past year CVEM partnered with a sister Jubilee Center in New York where Rev. Peter Ng developed a computer repair center to donate computers to Jubilee Centers. Through the support of Chris Johnson, JM Coordinator for TEC and Peter, we received six

computers to reopen a lab in the BAND Center. On May 24, the children christened these computers by ordering a book for summer reading using grant money.

So what can I say but congratulations to Jubilee for its 30 years of empowering, networking, sharing resources all around this country and beyond. Thousands of lives have been transformed including my own, and I am forever grateful to serve the church in this way.



Stephen Brockman, Vicky Partin, Chuck Morello and Chuck Lane at the ENEJ/EpEN Booth in Indianapolis

This, my fellow Episcopalians, is just a snippet of what Jubilee means to the people I serve and to our Church. On a more personal note, I have been blessed from the mentoring of the likes of Nstiki Langford, Carmen Guerrero and Chris Johnson and from those priests and bishops who have endorsed Jubilee and its work in the world.

**Vicky Partin**  
**Lay Missioner/Diocese of Atlanta**  
**Staff and ENEJ Vice President**

## God and the Labor Movement

By Tim Yeager

*Tim has worked for most of his life in the labor movement and now.... We print here the first part of a talk he gave at the Consultation's speakers' podium at the Indianapolis Convention. You can find a full copy of the talk, which had originally been given at the 2010 Episcopal Peace Fellowship Luncheon, on the ENEJ website at the following link:*  
[www.enej.org/pdf/EPF\\_Luncheon\\_Speech\\_2010.pdf](http://www.enej.org/pdf/EPF_Luncheon_Speech_2010.pdf)

What does God have to do with the Labor Movement? Well, in a word, everything. So let's start at the beginning....literally...

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...*

This is how the book of Genesis begins. It is the first sentence of our Bible. Who is doing the work here? God does not subcontract the work of creation to a non-union contractor. It is God himself who fashions the earth, who divides the land and the water, who plants the fields, who creates the various species, and who forms human beings from dust, giving them life with his own breath. This labor requires six days. And then something astonishing happens:

*... on the seventh day He rested from all the work that he had done.*

What kind of a God is this? Why does the Supreme Being, the Creator of the Universe, rest? Because he is tired. The God of the Abrahamic tradition, the God

worshipped and glorified by more than 3.6 billion Jews, Christians and Muslims, is a Worker God. That is how He is introduced to us at the very beginning.

And when we turn to the foundational myth of the Hebrew nation, the story of Moses, and the liberation of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, we find even more evidence of the Worker God.

Who are the Hebrew people after all? The answer is in the final chapters of Genesis, and the first chapter of Exodus. They are immigrant workers, who left their homeland because of drought and economic hardship, and they crossed the frontier into Egypt to find work and support their families. At first they were welcomed. They were employed primarily as construction workers and farm workers. But when we get to Exodus, we find that things have begun to change. They have grown in numbers, and an anti-immigrant sentiment is growing against them in Egypt. So the government takes steps to keep them under control, and to discourage the increase in their population. The Egyptians still wanted their labor, of course. But they feared their growing numbers. Now, stop me if any of this sounds familiar...

In Exodus Chapter 1 we read:

*Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens; and they built for*

*Pharaoh store-cities, Pithom and Ra-am'ses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they made the people of Israel serve with rigor, and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field; in all their work they made them serve with rigor.*

**(Exodus 1: 11-14)**

We read that God hears their cries, and takes action to end their oppression. He recruits Moses for the task. This is what God says:

*I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings ...So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.*

*You can find a full copy of the preceding talk, which had originally been given at the 2010 EPF Luncheon, on the ENEJ website at the following link:*  
[www.enej.org/pdf/EPF\\_Luncheon\\_Speech\\_2010.pdf](http://www.enej.org/pdf/EPF_Luncheon_Speech_2010.pdf)



## ENEJ and UNITE HERE Join Forces to Support Indianapolis Hotel Workers

By Phil Graybiel

During the 77th General Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana last month, the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and UNITE HERE, an international hospitality workers union, joined together to fight violations of workers' rights.

On the first official day of the convention, July 5th, a rally was held at the Indiana State House to protest against the mistreatment of hotel workers in Indianapolis who have been victims of wage theft and blacklisting.

At the rally, speeches were made by Rev. Tim Yeager from St. Andrew's in Chicago, the Bishop of Newark, Mark Beckwith, and Eva Sanchez, former employee of HSS, which is a subcontracting company that operates in several Indianapolis hotels.

Most of the major hotels downtown subcontract jobs to temporary agencies. Many of these subcontracted workers are housekeepers who clean an absurd number of rooms. Some have reported cleaning up to 30 rooms per day and have to stay past their scheduled shift to finish their work unpaid when it exceeds eight hours.

This is an example of wage theft happening in the city where

General Convention was held. Companies already pay their employees \$7.50 per hour to do back breaking work; then they do not pay them for all the hours they work.

The other issue discussed at the rally was blacklisting. When workers are paid so little, they have no choice but to look for a second job. Yet some of the hotels have contracts that prevent them from getting jobs at other hotels downtown who use the same subcontracting agency. UNITE HERE and community leaders are currently working on getting an ordinance passed that would ban companies from blacklisting their employees to prevent them from finding other work.

The name of the ordinance is called

Freedom to Work. The day after the rally took place, Dianne Aid, ENEJ President, along with people from the Indianapolis community delivered a letter to Mayor Greg Ballard signed by many people from General Convention, including several clergy and members of other organizations within the Episcopal Church. Unsurprisingly, the mayor could not meet that day but the security officer guarding his office said he would deliver the letter.

On July 16th, the Indianapolis City Council passed the ordinance by a vote of 16-12. Mayor Ballard later vetoed the legislation. The community is currently putting pressure on the mayor to change his mind.



Dianne Aid, Mike Maloney and Vicky Partin prepare for an upcoming meeting. The Indiana State House rises in the background.

## Cooperative Action: EpEN & ENEJ

By Rev. Frank Edmands

The advent of the 77th General Convention in Indianapolis marked the beginning of a new cooperative partnership between the Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN) and the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice (ENEJ). The symbol, the outward and visible sign, of this new relationship was our sharing of an exhibition booth and table. This simple action not only reduced the cost of having a display at General Convention for each of these important grass roots organizations but also reflected our cooperative spirit.

As concerned people respond to the impacts of global environmental distress and seek economic justice for workers and the disenfranchised, we realize that the surrounding condition of the environment can also significantly affect the health and welfare of the poor and the marginalized. For

example, you can see that the tall bellowing smoke stacks of both coal and incinerator plants usually stand adjacent to depreciated grey neighborhoods. These are the places where the incidents of cancer and respiratory diseases are

example encompasses both environmental and economic issues where EpEN and ENEJ can join hands to be mutual advocates for change and justice.

A partnership between EpEN and



Discussion among ENEJ and EpEN and others at EpEN Reception at GC

far greater compared to their green suburban neighbors who enjoy clean air. Under these disparate conditions low income residents suffer disproportionately more than higher income people. This

ENEJ would blend resources and a history of experiences as well as the potential to extend the field of participants in a particular action through joint use of each organization's list-serve. We are very thankful that The Episcopal Church Office of Environmental and Economic Affairs awarded EpEN with two financial grants. The first grant is to partially fund participation in a gathering or conference to include ENEJ so that the two organizations can meet to articulate more details of our partnership. The second grant is to fund website development where people would find helpful links to both EpEN's and ENEJ's home pages for news and resources. The sharing of a table at General Convention is the start of a long lasting and productive partnership to mutually promote both environmental and economic justice at home and in the world.



Stephen Brockman, Chuck Morello and Jeff Dey at EpEN/ENEJ Booth



## Laura Russell, Turns Advocacy into Legislation at General Convention

### Interviewed by Mike Maloney

Laura A. Russell is a public interest attorney in New York City. She represents low income victims of domestic violence in their divorces and family law issues. Her main office is in the Bronx, but she also supervises staff in Manhattan and Queens. She is involved in The Episcopal Church in many ways. She is on her parish's vestry, was a Deputy to GC, sits on the Standing Commission on Social Justice and Public Policy, and is a member of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice's Advocacy committee. Before convention, she worked to advance economic justice resolutions adopted by Social Concerns. At convention, she advocated for several resolutions.



**What inspired you to go into Legal Aid work?** When I was in college I became involved in what was then a relatively young movement called "Take Back the Night". It was a movement focused on standing up against sexual assault, and helping women to report it without backlash. Originally, I wanted to join a prosecutor's office and help prosecute sexual assault and abuse survivors. After a short internship with a District Attorney's office, I realized that I wanted to assist the survivors more than just prosecuting the criminal case. That is when I went into family law. I am able to assist survivors in getting them away from their batterers, custody of the children and the financial resources they deserve from the marriage. I enjoyed helping someone to sever all the

ties with their abuser. So, I stayed in family law. That is also how I got involved in helping victims of human trafficking. As to why public interest and not the private world, I cannot say. I honestly do not remember a time when I wanted to do private practice.

**What does your day to day work involve?** My day varies. Some days I am in court on a conference or hearing. Some days I am talking to potential clients about their cases, explaining their rights. I also lobby occasionally for certain legislation that will affect our clients. I sit in meetings (as does everyone), and I sit at my desk and actually do work. The constant is always working with domestic violence survivors, helping them with a court case, giving advice or going over their options. I also supervise staff, so I spend time going over their work.

**What are some of the accomplishments you feel good about?** Some clients have been my clients for so long that I watch their kids grow up. I have clients who have left abusive relationships years ago, and are now well employed with their children going to college. I have a client who went from Public Assistance to Physician's Assistant, with two daughters going to medical school. The transformation is amazing. So many of my clients learn English, get skills, get High School diplomas, graduate from college and become self supporting individuals. That is my true goal. To make sure they are never financially dependent and in an abusive relationship again.

**What have you found to be most encouraging?** My clients are very encouraging. They are amazing. The hardships they have endured! Imagine coming to a foreign country, not being allowed to have any money, or learn the language, being beaten and still have the courage to walk away, children in tow, and go try to make a life for yourself. I do not think I could do it.

**What have you learned from the people your agency serves?** There are so many obstacles out there that they face, that we who are privileged can never understand. Privileged started for me, at such a young age. My parents spoke fluent English, they had the means to move to a good school district so I got a solid education. They were in a position to take out loans for my college. We always had a roof over our head and food to eat, so I never worried and could devote my time to studying. These things that most of us take for granted do not exist in my client's world. And, I am not what most would call privileged. My mother was a teacher and my father died when I was young, but we managed to survive.

**What did you do at General Convention?** I can tell you what I did not do and that was sleep in. Church always seems to want to start at 7 AM, and I am not a morning person. But, I did attend committee hearings, advocate for resolutions that either the Standing Commission I was on drafted, or I drafted. I also drafted and re-drafted resolutions, based on

*Continued on page 6*

## Laura Russell

### *Continued from page 5*

what I heard. The CCAB I was on focused on resolutions that were based on financial issues, such as the mortgage crisis, the income tax code, credit reporting and the consumer debt industry. The Episcopal Church has no resolutions in the past that ever discussed these issues. So, in essence, we had never said "The tax code should support the low income" or "Usury (high interest rates) should not be the current 39.99%". It was surprising. So, the CCAB worked to create some resolutions that allow us to now state, to legislators, what we

believe in. I also worked on immigration issues, and wage theft issues. The Episcopal Church needed to make a statement against the unfair immigration enforcement that currently exists. And we did at General Convention. Finally, I wrote legislation on Human Trafficking, continuing our statement that we need to eliminate this horrible crime.

***What do we need to do to follow up?*** Everyone should look at the resolutions that we passed and see what interests them. Then, they can decide to get involved. It could be to have a coffee hour about the topic in their congregation, or email the resolution to their legislature. Even just find out how their

legislator voted on a particular issue. They could decide to volunteer. You just need to get involved. For example, we spoke out against Secure Communities, an immigration imitative that is having a chilling effect on the reporting of crimes. Find out if your local police are connected to Secure Communities, find immigration groups in your community speaking out, and find out how your legislator feels. Then have a coffee hour at church to tell people about it. Getting involved is always easy, and if you are moved by something, then there is always an extra hour in the week to help out.

General Convention is a tremendous undertaking and we could not have accomplished so much without the help of our many dedicated volunteers!

### **Booth Volunteers**

Mike Biskar (UNITE HERE)  
Frank Edmands (EpEN)  
Chuck Lane (EUC)  
Sue Lloyd  
Vicky Partin

Stephen Brockman (EpEN)  
Phil Graybiel  
Joanna Leiserson  
Sara Lyons (UNITE HERE)

Geoff Curtiss  
John Hooper  
Art Lloyd  
Chuck Morello (EpEN)

### **Resolutions -- People who drafted, sponsored or testified**

Pat Abrams  
Dick Gillett  
Byron Rushing  
The Hon. Margaret (Maggie) Tinsman

Scott Allen  
Sarah Lawton  
Laura Russell  
Gregg Westgard

Bill Exner  
Paula Jackson  
Pete Strimer  
Warren Wong

### **Speaker's Corner**

Laura Russell  
Mike Schut  
Tim Yeager

### **Issues**

Sarah Leech  
Kathryn Rickert

### **Research and Editor**

Verna Fausey

### **Church Center Staff Who Assisted Us**

Katie Conway  
Chris Johnson  
Mike Schut

The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice would like to take this occasion to give very special thanks to Mary and Ron Miller for many years of support to ENEJ and the other members of The Consultation.

## President's Letter: Around the Table

By Dianne Aid

By the time this newsletter is posted on the ENEJ website, the 77th General Convention will be fading into memories –yes, still stacks of documents to review or download, The “Blue” pink Book is beginning to gather dust.

Not everyone was in Indianapolis; some could care less, some were rooting from home base.

What happened in Indianapolis impacts all of us, especially if you are reading this because it says you are involved and care about the whole Church.



Dianne Aid (left) at Immigration Rally in Seattle.

Budgets were passed, but most of us do not yet know what they mean for “my little corner of the Church”. Let the power struggles begin.

My question and that of others is how do we track the money and policy around poverty alleviation and social Justice, loan funds and credit unions to know that they are making the most impact on communities that often don’t have a voice at the table.

### ***Silencing of the voices***

Pure cost of going to General Convention can be about \$2000.00 per person and if the venue is in your own backyard, close to \$500.00. In most cases, networks and dioceses cover the

cost. Service and transportation industry workers, farm workers and most low wage earners cannot take the time, and definitely the undocumented find travel a challenge. I am not talking about “the other”, they too are counted in parish registers and parochial reports.

Church polity requires some specific training and lots of exposure. This is seeped in the privilege of operating in a cultural/political structure

which historically parallels the Episcopal Church.

We need bridges and interpreters between diverse communities that make up

the Episcopal Church.

Some of this work is happening though networks such as Jubilee, but a lot is yet to be done because of parallel universes of networks and communities that make up the Church.

Justice networks such as ENEJ which emerged from charity work to advocacy for systemic change remain predominantly White. Ethnic/Multicultural networks are faced with justice issues – this was highlighted during The Indigenous Ministries Public Lament on July 10th, 2012 during General Convention. Stories of pain related to economic oppression,

stealing of Native lands and destruction of language and culture rooted in The Doctrine of Discovery (of which the Church instigated) certainly demonstrate the possibilities for solidarity and alliance in traditional justice networks and the various “ethnic” ministries.

### ***Structure Change***

As the Episcopal Church grapples with “Structure Change” in the coming triennium will we be able to really incorporate “The grassroots” of community organizers who are engaged in community work, and look to models of leadership which are not hierarchal (a tension for us in a church with traditional orders of ministry). The work will be hard.

### ***The Challenge***

The first few days of July in the Convention Center in Indianapolis, exhibitors were busy setting up displays, greeting old friends, full of anticipation of the Church “Family Reunion” of the days ahead of us.

In the same hall were dozens of janitors collecting garbage and sweeping floors. They also have hopes, dreams and anticipation of family reunions.

Think about ways to form relationships with “The Other” what are the hopes and dreams for your corner of the World, and how do we move forward together to create the community and Church God is calling us to.



## Dioceses as Community Investors

By John Hooper

One of the ENEJ members wrote recently asking how to encourage her diocese to invest part of its endowment in community investing (through community development banks, credit unions, loan funds and micro-enterprise funds, which make loans for low-income housing and small business development.) This is an excellent way for a Diocese (and congregations) to support the revitalization of lower income communities. Such community development investments are relatively safe and are repaid to the investor with interest when they come to term. And money given to the church is already oriented toward a charitable purpose.

Since the passage of the convention resolution "Taking Action for Economic Justice" in 1988, many dioceses and congregations have made investments both large and small for the benefit of development in lower income communities. They often made these investments to provide loans in their own geographical areas. The dioceses of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire were notable in this work.

In 1988 the trustees of the Diocese of Michigan established, in the name of retiring Bishop H. Coleman McGehee, a loan fund for small business development,

dedicating up to 6% of their portfolio for this purpose. This money, today \$1.3 million, is invested in the Opportunity Resource Fund, a merger of the Bishop McGehee Interfaith Fund (business loans) and the Michigan Housing Trust Fund (housing loans). Leaders of the Diocese have been proud of the loans these funds have made in the State of Michigan. They were further delighted when they learned that their investment maintained its value even during the current recession.

The Diocese of California took this process one step further by establishing its own community development credit union, whereby everyone in the Diocese and even beyond the Diocese can support the development of low income communities in their diocese.

Attached to this newsletter is a new brochure from ENEJ on community investing. This brochure has further information on the how, the why and the what of community investing by dioceses, parishes and individuals. Please contact the ENEJ community investment committee if you have further questions.

### ENEJ Leadership

#### Officers

Dianne Aid, TSSF, President  
 Vicky Partin, Atlanta, Vice-President  
 Rep. Byron Rushing, Massachusetts, Vice President – Church and Community Affairs  
 vacant, Secretary  
 Urla Abrigo, Los Angeles, Treasurer  
 The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Newark, Past-President  
 The Ven. Michael S. Kendall, New York, Past-President

#### Committee Chairs

Dianne Aid, TSSF, Olympia, Advocacy  
 The Rev. Arthur S. Lloyd, Milwaukee, Capacity Building  
 Jeffrey L. Dey, Southern Ohio, Communications  
 John Hooper, Michigan, Education  
 Lucinda Keils, Michigan, Capacity Building  
 Sue Lloyd, Milwaukee, Education

#### Staff Support

Michael Maloney and Associates  
 5829 Wyatt Ave.  
 Cincinnati, OH 45213  
 513.531.8799  
 meamon@aol.com

#### Episcopal Church Liaisons

Sam McDonald, Deputy COO and Director of Mission

Dianne Aid, TSSF, President  
 233 5th Ave. S., Apt. 309  
 Kent, WA 98032  
 sanmateo921@yahoo.com  
 206. 280.9453

## Consultation Groups Help Shape General Convention

By Mike Maloney

The Consultation is a coalition of thirteen progressive groups promoting social and economic concerns within the Episcopal Church and in an American and world context.



At the 77th General Convention, the ENEJ/EpEN display was part of The Consultation area. Our joint display had Integrity on one side, TransEpiscopal on another and the Episcopal Urban Caucus on another side. Beyond EUC were the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and other Consultation groups. On the fourth side was a shared space that included the Speakers' Corner where Mike Schut spoke on the environment, Dianne Aid on Immigration and Tim Yeager on worker justice issues. The Union of Black Episcopalians was across an aisle from us but part of The Consultation group. The advocacy efforts of these groups are helping shape the Episcopal Church.



Ron Miller (left) and Mary Miller (right), completed their last General Convention with The Consultation.

### Please support ENEJ

For more than fifteen years the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice has been the only organization in the Episcopal devoted solely to keeping issues of economic justice before the Church. At every level - from individuals to parishes, from Dioceses to Provinces, we have energized the Church to stand with those struggling for economic justice and self-determination, and to put some of the Church's resources into these struggles.

So we have helped move Episcopalians to invest resources, personal or from congregations or Dioceses, in community economic development projects, whether credit unions or community development corporations. We have encouraged members to stand with janitors and other low-income workers trying to organize for their rights. We have stood with immigrant organizations organizing for protection for the undocumented, who do so much of the work disdained by other workers.

We have carried out this work through the years with many volunteers and only part-time staff. But to continue to educate and energize Church members we need your financial support. Such support helps us create educational materials, organize workshops and Provincial conferences - where we reach out to new people - and helps us send low-income members to participate in such workshops and conferences. Such support helped us have a presence at the recent General Convention in Indianapolis. See our web site for reports on the resolutions that we supported, many of which were adopted by Convention.

Please send your contribution using the form below. Checks should be made payable to ENEJ.

### ENEJ Membership Form

#### Suggested amounts

- Individual membership \$50
- Congregations/other organizations \$100
- Diocesan membership large \$1,000  
small \$250
- Sponsors \$100-499
- Benefactors \$500-1,000
- Low income membership \$10

We welcome contributions over-and-above the dues.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check (payable to ENEJ) to:

ENEJ  
 5829 Wyatt Avenue  
 Cincinnati, OH 45213

## ENEJ'S Convention Resolutions

By Verna Fausey

*The following Convention resolutions were submitted by the Advocacy Committee of ENEJ in conjunction with its committees and members. All of them were passed by both houses of the Convention, though we believe that C078 has been referred to the PB&F committee as it prepares the final budget document for the triennium. However, approval by the Convention alone does not guarantee that they will be implemented. We invite you to join ENEJ during the coming months, working with EPPN and other concerned organizations to support these resolutions.*

**C077 condemns the practice of wage theft** and urges Episcopal congregations to learn more about wage theft in their own communities, to partner with workers' centers and wage enforcement agencies to stop and deter wage theft, to ask questions of those who provide contracted services, and to advocate for local, state and national policies to strengthen educational outreach to workers about the enforcement of wage laws.

**C078 provides \$36,000 in funding during the next triennium so that ENEJ can continue and increase its mission.** ENEJ seeks to raise awareness of economic justice at every level of The Episcopal Church

**C119 urges the church to support The Clean Air Ports Act of 2012.** This legislation requires local and regional port authorities to reduce air pollution, promote

green jobs, and enable port drivers to earn a living wage and the right to organize. C119 has both economic and environmental justice implications.

**D028 notes and confirms previously GC passed resolutions on labor and worker rights.**

It recognizes the role of the labor movement in securing a place for workers at the table in improving wages, benefits and working conditions, as well as in affirming the dignity of work and providing avenues for seeking justice in the workplace;

**D042 urges GC to "re-commit to protecting victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children,** by continuing to support legislation and action oriented to recovery and reintegration of trafficking victims into society." The resolution builds on past resolutions on this issue.

**D078 condemns the practice of**

**Creator God, Help us build a new world in the midst of the old.**

**A world where all workers are valued.**

**A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.**

**A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.**

*Excerpt from "A Prayer for All Workers"  
by Dr. Edie Rasell, Boardmember  
Interfaith Worker Justice*

**blacklisting of workers** so that they are forced to remain in temporary employment agencies or contracting agencies instead of obtaining direct employment.

**D087 urges the President and Congress to approve a serious multi-faceted federal program as a solution to the current intolerable level of unemployment in this country:**

1) rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, moving to a greener economy, and putting economically distressed young people to work on projects beneficial for society; 2) increasing funding for job training; 3) offering tax credits for companies creating permanent new jobs.

**D059 calls for a halt to unjust immigration enforcement.** It asks the GC to re-commit to the principles of humane immigration reform articulated in previous resolutions. It also asks the church to call for a halt to Secure Communities, the practice by local law enforcement agencies of sending arrestees' fingerprints to the Department of Homeland Security to determine their immigration status, with the objective of deportation; and asks that the church oppose state legislation which attempts to enforce federal immigration laws, recognizing that immigration law enforcement is a federal mandate; The resolution urges the church to work against racial profiling in the enforcement of illegal immigration.