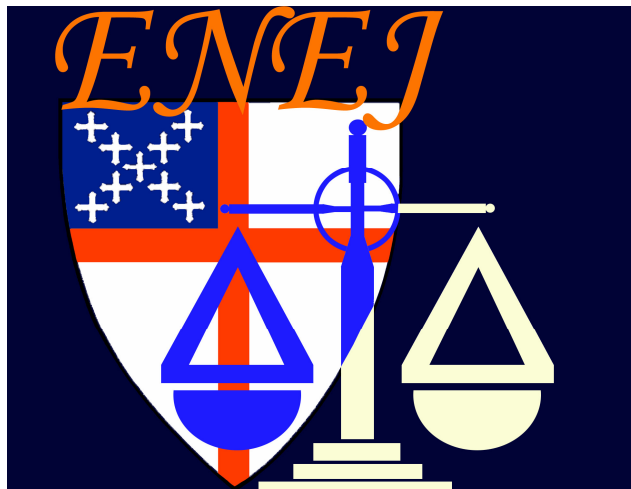


Economic Justice How-To Manual

A Guide to
Economic Justice Ministries
for Use by
Episcopal Congregations



Second Edition

Produced by the
**Episcopal Network
for Economic Justice**
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Introductory Note

This publication is the first edition of a publication that being formally released at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in June, 2006. This material was piloted for review by four parishes in the dioceses of New York and Newark. These are All Saints, Hoboken, St. Paul's, Paterson, Church of the Holy Trinity and Church of the Mediator in New York City. Revisions continue to be made based on feedback received from these and other parishes using the material.

Credits

We owe special thanks to the Grants Program of Trinity, Wall Street, and to Matthew Heyd, our program officer, for his technical assistance. Support from the Office of Peace and Justice Ministries was also vital to this project. The Rev. Canon Carmen Guerrero, Office of Jubilee Ministries, offered valuable consultation and helped with the Spanish translation. The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss provided valuable feedback regarding content and format. John Hooper and Sue Lloyd were key designers as well as writers and editors. John Mark Summers and Jeff Dey provided invaluable assistance in compiling materials and editing. All of you who read this manual are welcome participants in the ongoing effort to make this manual an instrument of transformation in the life of our church, our country and the world.

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Table of Contents

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------|
| Introduction | Editorial Team | i |
| Chapter One: Economic Justice and Our Faith Tradition | John Hooper and James Perkinson | 1-1 |
| Chapter Two: Advocacy | Michael Maloney | 2-1 |
| Chapter Three: Globalization | The Rev. Canon Richard W. Gillett | 3-1 |
| Immigration | Michael Maloney and Dianne Aid | 3-17 |
| Millennium Development Goals | Mike Kinman | 3-28 |
| Chapter Four: Community Organization and Community Economic Development | Michael Maloney and Michael Bryant | 4-1 |
| Chapter Five: Socially Responsible Investment | Sue Lloyd | 5-1 |
| Chapter Six: Creating a Culture of Justice | Michael Maloney | 6-1 |
| Appendixes | | |
| A: Christian Faith and Economic Justice | James Perkinson | A-1 |
| B: Charity and Justice Responses | The Rev. Canon Carmen Guerrero | B-1 |
| C: Christian Faith and Economic Justice | Robert Hall | C-1 |
| D: Advocacy Issue Papers | ENEJ Advocacy Committee | D-1 |
| E: Economic Justice Teachings of the Episcopal Church | John Mark Summers | E-1 |
| F: Directory of Community Organizing Models | Michael Maloney | F-1 |
| G: Episcopal Church Resources | ECUSA/DFMS | G-1 |
| H: Supplementary Materials on Church-Based Community Organizing | Gamaliel Foundation | H-1 |
| | Industrial Areas Foundation | |
| | NCCED | |
| I: Educational Resources for Economic Justice | Editorial Team | I-1 |
| J: SRI Additional Resources | ENEJ Community Investing Booklet | J-1 |
| K: Summary of the Four Stages of Serving the Poor | James Perkinson | K-1 |
| L: Economic Justice Bibliography | Editorial Team | L-1 |



June, 2006

Dear Reader,

The Economic Justice Resolution approved by the Episcopal Convention of 1988 “establish(ed) a ministry of community investment and economic justice directed to community-controlled economic development programs of the disadvantaged...” (Resolution C-030a). This resolution was submitted by the Diocese of Michigan in response to a paper of eighty bishops of the Urban Coalition in 1987, addressing the growing gap between the well-to-do and the poor, which was wider then than at any time since the late 1940s.

The moral imperative for Christians is not so much to offer simple answers to the paradox of a prosperity that generates poverty but rather to seek understanding of how the growth and extent of such poverty constitutes both a moral contradiction and a systemic social flaw that serves to undermine the very prosperity which helped to create it. The special challenge to Christians is to commit themselves to a process of informing the conscience of society at large about this paradox and to suggest a variety of ways by which individual Christians in their personal activity and their church in its corporate life can witness.

The economic justice movement in the Episcopal Church is continuing the struggle today for and with the poor of the United States and of the world. Shortly after that Convention in 1988 Father Ron Spann of Detroit reminded us that Economic Justice both inside and outside the Church is a movement, not just a program. It lasts longer than a triennium or two. It will continue in the Church in one form or another until Economic Justice is realized. In 1996, when the mandate of the Economic Justice Implementation Committee was completed, many of those working for Economic Justice in the Episcopal Church formed the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice to help maintain the movement within the Church.

It is the purpose of this Action Manual to present the story of how people of the Church, with their collaborators from many different persuasions, religious and secular, are practicing the virtues of economic justice. Through this manual the members of ENEJ share with the church our experience in this work, plus the readings, scriptures and prayers that inspired us, and the organizations that have led the way. And we want to remember in a special way those many people who kept economic justice work

alive in the Church since 1988 and also those “saints” who are more numerous to mention who have already ended their earthly lives of witness (Hebrews 12:1).

The format of this manual is intentionally revisable: a loose-leaf binder so that new pages can be inserted; availability on e-mail and CD for easy revision. Revisions and additions will appear on the ENEJ website from time to time. And in order to assist the Church to use this manual, educational materials and modules have been prepared and will continue to be prepared to help us do the popular education needed to inspire congregations and others to engage in economic justice work.

The Ven. Michael Kendall, President
Archdeacon of New York
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice

Introduction to the Economic Justice How-To Manual

The following is an outline of the manual:

- Chapter 1 explores the scriptural basis for economic justice work, the nature and spirituality of our justice mandate, and the history of this work in the church during the last few centuries.
- In Chapter 2 we consider how the Church and its members are seeking in many organized ways to advocate for and with the poor for more enlightened legislation by our various governments.
- In Chapter 3 we describe the development of a world-wide economy (globalization) and suggest ways that we can address the many ethical dimensions of this serious challenge.
In the second edition, we have added a subsection on immigration in response to the increasing involvement of our dioceses, parishes and Jubilee Centers in advocacy and service ministries with immigrants.
- In Chapter 4 we discuss the community organizing process of involving residents of an area in the transformation of the local economy and describe many economic justice models that this organizing has generated.
- In Chapter 5 we describe how churches and church people can invest their dollars in socially responsible ways to improve the workings of the economy and to make the economy accessible to those who have been left out of the mainstream.
- Finally in Chapter 6 we outline how parishes today can organize themselves and their neighborhoods to create more just communities.
- The appendix section provides additional resource materials including models and education resources.