

# H-172

**The 172nd Annual Convention  
Diocese of Chicago  
November 20-21, 2009**

**Subject:** Reaffirm Tithe as Minimum Standard

**Sponsor:** Vicki Garvey, on behalf of the Chicago Deputation to General Convention

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## **RESOLUTION**

*Resolved*, that the Diocese of Chicago reaffirm the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it

*Further Resolved*, that the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese of Chicago, like the Secretary of the General Convention, be requested to make provision for the delegation of each congregation to indicate that the members of the delegation are either tithing or are firmly committed to tithing within five years.

## **EXPLANATION**

In living memory, the 1982 General Convention was the first to state that the tithe is “the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians” Several subsequent Conventions have reaffirmed this concept in the same or similar language. “...Tithing is an important spiritual discipline. Except in the most unusual circumstances, it is a major contributor to the giver’s spiritual health and inner joy. (General Convention Resolution 2009 D055, “Tithing: Reaffirm Tithe as Minimum Standard”).

In today’s economic crises, it is all the more important that we live out of God’s abundant Grace, realizing that all that we are and have comes from God. In living that abundance we recognize that all that we need has already been provided to us.

The pain of having to cut \$20 million from the National Church budget was difficult at this year’s Convention. Our history indicates that in 2007 the average pledge of parishioners nationally was a little over \$2,000. If we were to make a commitment at this point in our history to work toward becoming a tithing church, this would be the last Convention where the National budget is drastically cut, and with it, the work of many years.

Adoption of this resolution is not expected to require expenditures that would have an impact on the Diocesan budget.