

RESOLUTION ON THE TITHE AS THE MEANS OF FINANCING THE WORK OF THE DIOCESE AND THE PROVINCE

Whereas Holy Scripture commends the practice of giving one tenth of one's income to the work of the Lord beyond the individual's household or family; and

Whereas the tithe has long been taught as the standard of individual giving for committed disciples of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas Canon 9 of Title I of the *Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America* begins, "The biblical tithe is the minimum standard of giving to support the Mission of the Church, and should be taught and encouraged at every level in the Church;" and

Whereas the Diocese of Pittsburgh has required an assessment of its Parishes ranging from five to eleven per cent of a moving three year average of its net disposable budget income, depending on the size of the budget of the Parish; and

Whereas, since 1996 by action of the 131st Annual Convention, approximately 20% of the mandatory assessment from each Parish was permitted to be re-directed (to missions of each vestry's choosing with Diocesan Council approval) rather than going to the Episcopal Church; and

Whereas the Diocese of Pittsburgh believes that a tithe from its parishes is an appropriate assessment for it to fulfill its mission and ministry on behalf of all; and

Whereas the Anglican Church in North America is asking for tithes from its dioceses to support its operations and its mission,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by this 144th Annual Convention that each Parish be requested to commit a tithe of its net disposable budget income as its contribution to the Diocese, beginning from January 1st, 2010, with no re-direction option; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a tithe of the annual net disposable budget income of the Diocese, beginning with the 2010 Diocesan Budget, be committed to the Province (The Anglican Church in North America) for its operations and mission; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that canonical changes be prepared for the 145th Annual Convention to reflect the tithe as the standard of giving of the individual to the Parish, of the Parish to the Diocese, and of the Diocese to the Province; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested tithe from the Parish to the Diocese, and from the Diocese to the Province, be understood as indispensable for the successful operation of the Diocese and the Province, yet nevertheless that each be canonically structured as a free-will offering.

(8-24-2009)

Feast of Saint Bartholomew