Proposer of Resolution: The Reverend Winnie Varghese

Organization: St. Mark’s in the Bowery

Title of Resolution: Corporate Social Responsibility/Socially Responsible Investing

Contact: wsvarghese@gmail.com

Text of Resolution:

RESOLVED, that this 238th Convention of the Diocese of New York reaffirm the resolution of the 217th Convention of the Diocese of New York, as set forth below, urging the Diocesan Investment Trust to provide leadership in socially responsible investment by (1) aligning its actions with the guidelines of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church’s Corporate Social Responsibility and Socially Responsible Investment recommendations which are posted on the Episcopal Church’s website, and (2) working with the guidance of the Treasurer of the Episcopal Church and the Church Pension Group which provides assistance for parishes and dioceses on these matters.

Explanation of the Resolution:

The Episcopal Church has met with substantial success in its pioneering efforts to articulate social witness in the modern business corporation. Yet many parishes, dioceses, and church-related institutions neglect to exercise their voting rights, passing up an opportunity to support the Church’s mission. This resolution clarifies that the Diocese urges the trustees of the Diocesan Investment Trust to cast their votes in support of the Church’s mission, and it lays the groundwork to support their efforts to integrate social responsibility concerns with their fiduciary obligations.

From the Calendar of Business and Journal for
The 217th Convention of the Diocese of New York
held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, October 23, 1993

Replicate National Strategy on Social Responsibility in Investments at Diocesan Level

(12) Resolved, That this Convention instructs the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese of New York to commend the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and the Church Pension Fund for their leadership in promoting social responsibility in investment; and be it further

(13) Resolved, That the Trustees of the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) be urged by the Convention of the Diocese of New York to develop a comprehensive program building on the work of the national church; and be it further
(14) Resolved, That such a program include (but not be limited to):

a) conscientiously voting DIT proxies and publishing DIT’s voting record;

b) corresponding and meeting with companies on matters identified by the diocese and the national church as priority concerns;

c) publishing regular reports of its social responsibility program in the *Episcopal New Yorker*; and

d) including in its annual report an account of its social responsibility program, and furnishing a copy of this report to this Convention.