

Jubilee Ministry

In 1982 The General Convention in New Orleans established Jubilee Ministry. From this pledge to address Justice and Peace issues, more than 600 centers have been established over the intervening years across the United States, Central and South America, and Hong Kong. The Episcopal Church recognizes these centers as exemplary outreach programs. Our Diocese of West Missouri has six Jubilee Centers: Episcopal Community Services, Kansas City, housed at St. Paul's in K.C., KS; City Community Kitchen at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral; the Parenting Life Skills Center in Springfield; the Hispanic Ministry at St. Nicholas, Noel; the Church Army in Branson; and the Necessity Pantry at St. Michael's in Independence. We have a new Jubilee Center this year at Grace Church, Liberty. The National Jubilee office this year is giving a \$1000 grant to each diocese with a Jubilee Officer. The hope is the grant will be seed money to initiate one or two new Jubilee Centers.

Criteria for Jubilee Ministry Center recognition include the following:

- 1) Must be an Episcopal Congregation, an ecumenical cluster with Episcopal presence, and/or an agency with connections to the Episcopal Church.
- 2) Must be involved in ministry programs among and with poor and oppressed people whenever they are located.
- 3) Must include at least one or more of the following in their ministry: a) human rights advocacy program, b) human service program (outreach), c) lay leadership/empowerment program, d) evangelization in action. These are aspects of ministry that were in the original resolution that initiated Jubilee Ministry.
- 4) Must be willing to participate actively in the following: a) reflect theologically upon learning's in ministry, b) demonstrate the operation of programs to others as models, c) act as a resource center for other Jubilee Ministry Centers.

Any Episcopal congregation in our diocese with an outreach program is eligible to apply to become a Jubilee Center. There are several reasons a congregation with an outreach program should apply for Jubilee status. The first is to recognize the outreach ministry and have it recognized by others. Second, the National Jubilee Ministry office makes available training workshops with resource materials that are opportunities to learn and share. Lastly, training and networking with other Jubilee Centers provides the opportunity for program development, and implementation, with advisors and technical assistance.

Any congregation wishing to be recognized may apply for Jubilee Center status by contacting the DJO, The Rev. Larry Allen. The application now on line is sent to you, filled out and returned to the DJO, signed by the Jubilee officer of this diocese and by the bishop of this diocese. The signature of the bishop is what designates a new center. Consider joining or expanding the work of Jubilee Ministries in your area.

Respectfully submitted, the Rev. Larry Allen