

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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For the past two years and into 2009, the MDG Leadership Team has focused its efforts on a community organizing project geared toward equipping lay-led leadership teams in congregations to mobilize people in their congregations to action around eradicating global poverty. In January 2009, the MDG Leadership Team, in association with Professor Marshall Ganz and a team of coaches from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government ran a three-day training for five-person leadership teams from four congregations within the diocese. This training taught basic community organizing skills, strategy design, the art of Public Narrative, leadership and team building, and collective decision-making. Teams left the training prepped to launch a Lenten project whose goal was to successfully invite 50% of the congregation (people of all ages) to pledge 0.7% of their income toward a common, parish-wide effort to fight global poverty.

To date the Diocese of Minnesota is the only diocese in the country to utilize the tool of Public Narrative into a global poverty initiative. This summer's General Convention will spend considerable plenary time training all deputies and bishops in the art of Public Narrative. A resolution has been submitted to General Convention asking for the national deployment of the "Minnesota Model" for MDGs.

After the summer the MDG Leadership Team will turn its efforts toward equipping congregations to partner with one another in global mission projects and initiatives, launched by a fall conference much like the one in 2007 which drew over 200 people from across the diocese and working from the leadership capacity built over the past two years.

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