

Core Values for Transformative MDG Ministry Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation

1. There is NO substitute for prayer – Prayer isn't a last resort, it's what undergirds everything we do. This movement is a history of prayers being answered (usually in the last ways people expect). If you have to pray just one prayer, let it be "God, use me." God usually takes care of the rest!

2. Lead like Jesus – with stories and relationships – God reached out to us through incarnation in Jesus because God knows the huge power of relationships. Jesus taught in stories because he knew nothing captures attention and imagination like them. Tell your story of transformation of why this mission is important to you – inspire others and help them tell their stories. Bring people into relationship with the people behind the MDGs. That's how God works!

3. You Can't Say, "You Can't Play." – What's right in the schoolyard is right the Body of Christ. The most innovative movements don't have gatekeepers. You feel a call to serve; you get to serve. Work with ANYONE who feels called to heed Christ's call. Hold each other to the commitments you make and to standards of honesty and Christian love and charity. But the mission is like Christ's table – open to all.

4. There's no such thing as a dumb idea – OK, that's not true. Of course there are dumb ideas (see www.darwinawards.com), but fear of having a dumb idea shuts down creative thought. God's mission is not going to be achieved through "business as usual." Get creative, toss around ideas, you never know what will come of them!

5. If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong – This work brings us in deep relationship with deep brokenness – the poverty of the extreme poor and the poverty in our own lives. There will be difficult and painful moments. But at its heart this mission is about joy – about the great gift God gives us to use our lives to be healers and reconcilers in Christ's name. Not every moment will be a party, but if you're not getting a palpable sense of joy from this work, stop and check what you're doing – 'cause what could be more fun than healing the world?

6. "Connect and Collaborate" not "Command and Control" - Who has time to micromanage? Jesus didn't. He sent his disciples to go out and spread the Gospel (the ultimate grassroots movement). This is a movement of the Spirit. Have a firm sense of the boundaries of the mission (the Baptismal Covenant is a good guide) and within those boundaries, encourage people to be as creative as they like. Look for partnerships. Look for allies. Look for ways to say yes, not reasons to say no.

7. You can't get in a turf war if you've got no turf – Too much of our time in ministry is often spent bickering over who gets credit and worrying about stepping on other people's toes. Make your motto: WE DON'T CARE ABOUT CREDIT! Everything you do, everything you create, everything you've been given, this mission you're called into – it's all God's anyway!