

### **R-3 COVID, Vaccines and Treatment**

The Committee recommends **adoption** of R-3s as the substitute resolution for R-3.

#### **R-3s**

**Resolved**, by the 228<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that we stand in solidarity with our brothers, sisters, and siblings in low and middle-income countries as we face together the daunting challenge of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Scripture and our tradition strongly support collective efforts to heal the sick and prevent the spread of deadly disease, including efforts in this pandemic to share vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools across national boundaries, efforts that are strongly supported by the recognition that viral transmission occurs regardless of national boundaries; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Convention heartily commend the United States Government for the substantial resources committed and efforts made by administrations of both parties to provide vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools and related aid to many countries and hundreds of millions of people around the world; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Convention strongly urge the continuation of such aid efforts by the United States, both as a moral imperative and as wise public health policy to combat the spread of many variants of the COVID-19 virus; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Convention heartily commend and strongly urge continuation of efforts by the United States Government with the World Trade Organization and other international bodies and by responsible pharmaceutical companies to assure that legal protections for intellectual property are appropriately waived or suspended where needed to assure the prompt delivery and widespread use of COVID vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tools in other countries; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Secretary of the Diocese send copies of this Resolution to President Biden, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and to Virginia's Senators and to the Members of Congress representing Districts within the Diocese of Virginia, and to The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations.