

Statement of Commitment to St John's Kayoro Clinic October 2015

The original commitment: “One good thing.” Build a clinic.

In 2008, St. John's made a commitment to help the people of Kayoro, Uganda build a clinic. At the time, it was our response to the call from the 2006 General Convention of the Episcopal Church to work to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. Those ambitious and far-reaching international goals – related to poverty, education, health, and environmental sustainability – initially seemed beyond our reach. And yet, even when making a difference seemed impossible, St. John's made the incredibly bold decision to do just “one good thing.” That commitment was to help the people of Kayoro, Uganda build a clinic.

St Johns undertook the project in partnership with the Minnesota-based international development nonprofit organization called Give Us Wings. We raised not only the \$75,000 needed to build the clinic, but another \$20,000 to support additional needs. Construction of the clinic began in 2010 and by January 2012 its doors were open and patients were being treated.

On-going support and growing connections

While the original goal was to build a clinic, after construction was completed, St John's has offered on-going support for the work of the clinic and the needs of the surrounding community. In addition to funding, we have sent first aid supplies and vitamins, artwork and letters, blankets and dresses. Each Sunday we pray for those living in Kayoro. A number of St. John's parishioners took trips to Uganda in 2011, 2013, and 2015 and another trip is being planned for January 2017. In addition, Give Us Wings has recently established a new program called *Family to Family*, to help support families in Uganda while building ties with families in the U.S. Groups of individuals and families at St. Johns are being invited to participate. In short, our lives have become increasingly connected to those of the people living in Kayoro Village.

Re-committing ourselves

This seems like a fitting time for St. John's to officially recommit ourselves to the clinic and people of Kayoro, Uganda:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which originally inspired our commitment to Kayoro, were to be achieved by 2015. Having reached that deadline, a new set of Sustainable Development Goals will replace the expiring MDGs. Those new goals were adopted on September 25, 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Conference in New York City.
- St. John's involvement with and connections to the Kayoro Clinic have evolved over the past 7 years. Redefining that relationship will provide both clarity and new energy as we move forward with our work.

The Kayoro Committee thus recommends that the Vestry adopt the following statement of commitment as an expression of St. John's continuing relationship to the clinic and people of Kayoro, Uganda:

Statement of Commitment to St. John's Clinic Kayoro, Uganda

(Adopted by St. John's Vestry on October 19, 2015)

Having fulfilled our original pledge to help the people of Kayoro, Uganda build a clinic, St John's Church now re-dedicates itself to the clinic and people of Kayoro.

“In fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant and as an expression of the hunger of this church for far deeper communion with all of God’s beloved,”* St. John's Church pledges itself to help the people of Kayoro, Uganda make St. John's Clinic self-sustaining.

This continuing commitment may include, but not be limited to:

- Corporate prayer for the people of Kayoro and our ministry with them,
- Opportunities for members of St. John's to use our talents and creative energies to serve the people of Kayoro and build stronger ties between our communities,
- Opportunities, in partnership with Give Us Wings, for members of St. John's to build personal relationships with the the people of Kayoro, including travel to Uganda and sponsorship of Ugandan families,
- Funding, from both St John's budget and special fundraising efforts, to support clinic operations and other health-related community needs.

**From the Episcopal Church 2006 General Convention resolution that originally inspired St. John's to undertake construction of the Kayoro Clinic.*