



# St James Episcopal Cathedral

www.stjamesfresno.org

## newsletter

July 2018

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## DEACON NANCY KEY TRAVELS TO PROTEST AT BORDER DETENTION CENTER

*When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*

*Leviticus 19:33-34*

As I sat at the dining room table with Deacon Nancy, preparing to interview her for this article, I watched as her granddaughter, age three, and her grandson, age six, played. As her granddaughter grew a little bolder in the company of this stranger, she began to move around a little more and, as three years olds will do, promptly fell and hurt herself and her ego. Nancy picked her up and held her close, rocking her as the little girl cried and called for her Mommy. Nancy had been telling me how God speaks to her in prayer as action, that God informs her of what she needs to do, and so she has focused locally on immigrants' rights and how to protect them from deportation. When she heard that there would be a gathering at the border to protest the recent policy of separating children from their parents who had been arrested attempting to enter the country, she knew what she had to do. Imagine, little children like her granddaughter, taken from her parents and left with strangers in detention. Who would comfort them when



The Fresno group. Nancy is in the back row.



Two miles down a dirt road through this park gets you to Friendship Park.



Inside Friendship Park. Mexico is on the other side of the fence.

they fell, if their parents could not?

And so, during the weekend of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, she came face to face with the reason God has led her to the work she does. Gathering with other clergy and members of Faith in the Valley she, along with Deacon Steve from the Oakhurst church, jumped in the car and embarked on a seven hour journey to the California-Mexico border to see why her work is so important.

Arriving at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in San Ysidro, over four hundred persons gathered at seven that Friday evening for a rally to encourage them on their journey. Many speakers informed them of the detention centers which were now housing children or adults, and families that had been split up at the border. Under the administration's "Zero Tolerance" rule, parents were arrested and incarcerated, their children carried away to unknown locations, to be incarcerated themselves. Just earlier in the week, Attorney General Jeff Sessions had defended the action by quoting scripture, urging Americans to obey their government leaders, and ignoring God's admonition to "love the alien as yourself."

Our Lady of Mount Carmel sits right near the border; one can see Tijuana from its front door. Rabbis, Imams, Pastors and Priests were all gathered together that evening, the beginning of Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, and consequently all lit Shabbat candles and joined in prayer for those who are detained. Afterward, some stayed to sleep over night at the church, while Deacon Nancy spent the night in the home of a retired Catholic priest who himself is an environmental activist.

Saturday morning began a long day for Nancy. Back in the car again, they began a drive of a few miles from San Ysidro west to Border Field State Park, which stretches to the ocean. Almost two miles in, they arrived at Friendship Park. This park allows people from the U.S. to talk to people in Mexico, and is used by families who are separated by the border to see and speak to each other.

The Park consists of two fences and a half acre of land in between them. The northern fence is controlled by the Border Patrol, who generally allows



only ten people at a time into the park. Upon entering the park you can see the southern fence which is the proper border fence. On the other side one can see family members or friends who are Mexican citizens and have entered from the Tijuana side. The fence remains between them; passing of items through the fence is strongly prohibited. The park is only open on weekends from 10 am to 2 pm.

It was here that Nancy felt an overpowering sadness. Just seeing families having to talk to each other through a fence reminded her of how families are being torn apart. She calls it “separation that is unholy”.

After going into the park for about ten minutes she returned outside where the group was rallying by singing songs and praying. Chanting “let our families go” Nancy pondered with “incredible sadness” that this is what it has come to—families meeting with impenetrable bars between them.

But more was to come. That afternoon the group drove to the Detention Center in Otay Mesa. Here, imprisoned within the walls were immigrants who had been arrested while attempting to cross the border. Presumably, they were without their children.

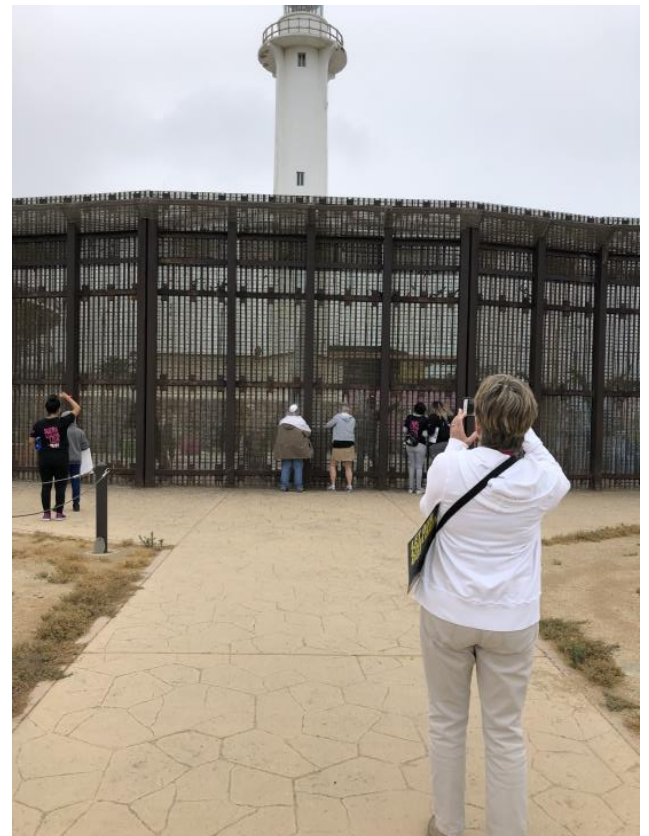
The march began down the street from the Center. Led by clergy, one thousand people began to walk, “singing, chanting and making lots of noise” says Nancy. They sang a song, “We are here, standing strong in our rightful place.” Striding up to the Center, the leaders asked for permission to enter the facility and were turned down. Some present attempted to block the entrance but were not arrested. Some tried to communicate with the prisoners by shouting “no están solo” (you are not alone) ; “estamos aqui” (we are here). Some heard answers from inside: “te oímos” (we hear you). One person claimed to have heard “¿Dónde está mi hijo?”, (where is my child). Nancy said “they knew we were out there, standing in solidarity with them.”

“It is important to stand up for justice,” says Nancy. “I was humbled to be a part of it. It was a pleasure to be there.”

The speakers were strong in their support. It is wrong to break up families. It is wrong to jail chil-



Inside Friendship Park on the American side. The tower in the background is in Mexico.

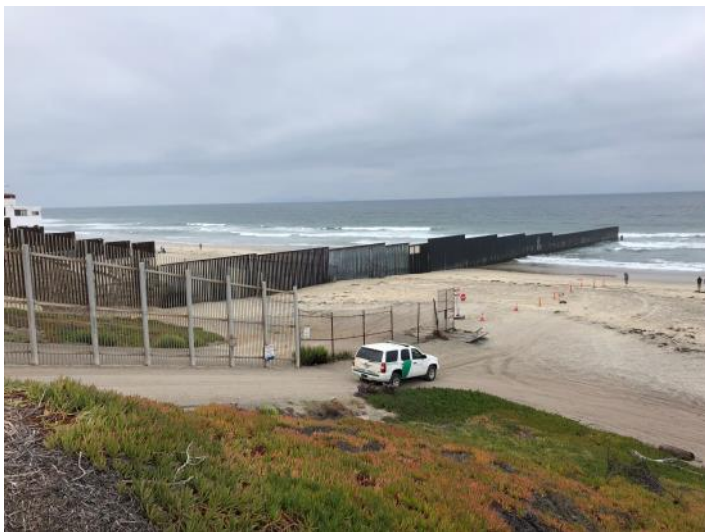


The wall itself. People are talking to others in Mexico through the fence.





Communication through a wall.



The wall stretches into the sea.



dren, some as young as “tender years.” We need to provide asylum for these people who are fleeing horrendous violence in their countries. The situation is dire.

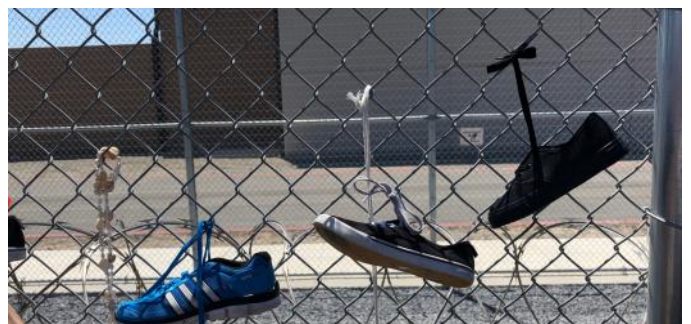
The march over, they headed back to Our Lady of Carmel for a debriefing. Then, even though exhausted, Nancy’s group decided to head for home, arriving back in Fresno at 2 am Sunday morning.

And how does Nancy see her participation in this event? The long journey, the walking, the rallies, seeing what is happening close up and letting her voice be heard?

“I could not stay away.”



Rally at the Detention Center.



Shoes are a remembrance.







# Presiding Bishop Michael Curry meets backstage with U2, Bono to talk about Reclaiming Jesus

[Episcopal News Service] Presiding Bishop Michael Curry met backstage this week with U2 and front man Bono at New York's Madison Square Garden, where the Episcopal Church leader and the globally renowned rockers discussed Curry's [Reclaiming Jesus initiative](#).

The meeting happened in the evening of June 25 just before the first of a series of U2 concerts in New York on [the band's Experience + Innocence tour](#). A photo released by the band shows the four some posing with Curry.

"I know of no other group that has sung and witnessed more powerfully to the way of love than U2," Curry said June 27 in a written statement to Episcopal News Service. "It was a real blessing to sit with them to talk about Jesus, the way of love, and changing our lives and the world. They are an extraordinary community gift to us all."

U2, which formed in Ireland in the late 1970s, has been one of the most popular rock bands in the world for more than 30 years, and Bono – among that rarefied group of musicians known globally by a single name – makes headlines these days as much for his support for humanitarian causes as for his music.

Curry, too, has become something of a minor global celebrity since his sermon on the power of love at the royal wedding on May 19. After the wedding, he was invited to discuss the sermon on a [dizzying variety of media outlets](#), from the BBC to celebrity gossip site TMZ. Curry told ENS last month that he sees the sudden attention as a unique opportunity for evangelism, as he tries in interviews to bring the conversation around to what he often calls the "Jesus Movement."

Reclaiming Jesus is a [new initiative he spearheaded this year](#) with the Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners to address "a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches" and to affirm what it means to be followers of Jesus in today's world.

U2 and Bono have not yet commented publicly on Reclaiming Jesus, though Curry said he spoke with them about its origins and intention.

"I shared with them our commitment to reclaim Jesus of Nazareth as the center of Christian faith and life," Curry said in his statement to ENS. "And this means a way of faith with love of God and Love of

neighbor at the core. A love that is not sentimental but a disciplined commitment and spiritual practice infusing every aspect of life, personally, intra personally and politically."



This photo released by U2 shows Presiding Bishop Michael Curry posing with band members, from left, Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen Jr. and Adam Clayton backstage at Madison Square Garden on June 25.

Curry didn't say whether he was a fan of U2's music, though he stayed June 25 to attend the concert at Madison Square Garden. He had at least one prior connection to the songs before this week: A sermon he delivered in 2006 at a U2charist service in Columbus, Ohio.

The U2charists were a popular trend in the Episcopal Church at that time, structured as a Eucharist that incorporates songs from the band, whose catalogue is thoroughly infused with Christian imagery. (Bono's father was Catholic, and his mother was Anglican, [according to this New Yorker report](#) on the band's faith background.)

Celebrating a U2charist also held a deeper purpose, calling attention to the push to achieve the United Nations' [Millennium Development Goals](#), such as eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality, and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The ONE Campaign, co-founded by Bono, was a key advocate for the Millennium Development Goals – U2's megahit "One" became its rallying cry – and the Episcopal Church endorsed the organization's work in [a 2006 General Convention resolution](#).

More than 700 attended the U2charist in Columbus in 2006. Curry, the bishop of North Carolina at the time, preached in support of the Millennium Development Goals and the ONE Campaign, telling those

gathered to “be a witness” for Christ. He called the goals “a way for us to discover life again as a Church ... a compelling vision of the world God intended from the beginning,” according to [an ENS report on the service](#).

It wasn’t clear whether Curry referenced U2’s music directly in the sermon, though in [one unconfirmed transcription](#) of the sermon he is quoted as referring to the band’s leader as “Brother Bono.”

- *David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for the Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at [dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org).*

## ***Just A Reminder...***

Sisters and Brothers of St James Episcopal Cathedral

Your Chapter has decided that due to air conditioning repairs required in our cathedral and the promise of warmer conditions, both services, 8am and 10am, will occur in the chapel over the next three months, beginning July 1.

Chapter, along with Diocesan Council, is working to ensure that the necessary repairs occur to the air-conditioning system so that we can return to the cathedral in a timely manner.

We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, for instance to the Altar Guild or to those who provide hospitality.

We think in the interest of comfort and, more importantly, health, this was a decision we needed to make.

We are grateful for your patience.

Blessings,  
Bishop David and Canon Anna

## **Dean Search Road Map**

Sisters and Brothers of St James Episcopal Cathedral

As the process regarding your future Dean continues, we wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of the road map before us. It is our intention and hope that a short list of applicants will be determined before we depart for General Convention on July 1. This provides us with the opportunity to meet with those applicants if they are attending General Convention, equally, it affords us the opportunity to discuss them with our respective counterparts, that is, fellow Bishops and Canons.

Following General Convention, we will review the

shortlist with Chapter where we will do the following:

1. Discuss the Profiles and CVs of each shortlisted applicant
2. View a sermon of each applicant (submitted video)
3. Review two items of written material from each applicant (an article, reflection, etc, one written a year ago and one written recently)
4. Conduct a Zoom (Skype-type) conversation with each applicant

Please know, we are praying through this discernment process and taking it very seriously. And we truly welcome your continued prayers as we discern regarding whom God and God’s Church is calling as Dean of St. James Episcopal Cathedral.

Blessings  
Bishop David and Canon Anna

## **CHAPTER SCHEDULES**

### **COUNTING**

First Sunday—Emily Niblick  
Anne Middleton

Second Sunday—Toni Alvarez  
Pam Johnston

Third Sunday—Carolyn Johnson  
?

Fourth Sunday—Carol Gavette  
Peter Cabbiness

Fifth Sunday—Olga Balderama  
Janie Fisher

### **LUNCHES**

July—Peter Cabbiness

August—Anne Middleton

September—open

October—Janie Fisher

November—Pam Johnston

December—Canon Anna



## Volunteer Spotlight

*By William Patterson*

Meet Emily. She's one of the busiest volunteers on the St. James campus. Emily not only heads up the Bible Study group on Wednesdays, but is also responsible for our newsletters and websites. If that's not enough, she donates her time as an elected member of the St. James Chapter too. "Church should not just be a place you go on Sunday," she says. "Church is a family."

A native of Venice CA, she began her service as a Methodist minister in Indiana. She later moved to Fresno and became a regular member of Holy Family. "Serving your church on Sunday is one of the most important things you can do. When someone asks me to do something for my church, it's hard to say no."



Emily believes her life is her message, and is active in the community. She says there's joy and satisfaction in witnessing God's love and blessings through ministries like the Food Bank and Thrift Store. As a pastor, she learned early-on how important newsletters can be for a congregation, and is always seeking articles, stories and other contributions of content for St. James. Interested in helping? Please let her know... if you can catch up with

her.

Thank you Emily!

## Diocesan Events

The Episcopal Church  
General Convention  
July 3-14, 2018  
Austin, Texas

Deacon Retreat  
July 31-August 2, 2018  
ECCO

Immigration Task Force Retreat  
October 12-13, 2018  
ECCO

59th Annual Diocesan Convention  
October 19-20, 2018  
ECCO

Advent Clergy Retreat  
December

### A Call To Prayer and Action for the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

I constantly return to the words our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry, preached at Saint Paul's, Bakersfield during our Revival last year. The theme of our Revival was



**Called to be.. A Safe Place for All of God's People** where we gave particular attention to how these words apply to Dreamers (DACA Recipients). Bishop Michael proclaimed with great vigor as he is known to do these words:

**"It's not political, it's biblical." X 3.**



# 79<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Austin Convention Center • Texas  
July 5<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> • 2018



## YOUR GUIDE TO GENERAL CONVENTION

### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 79TH GENERAL CONVENTION

What is the General Convention?

\* The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. It is a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies, with more than 800 members (up to four clergy and four lay persons from each diocese), and the House of Bishops, with over 300 active and resigned bishops.

\* General Convention gathers every three years. The 2018 meeting will convene in Austin, Texas for a nine-day legislative session (July 5 -July 13, 2018), and will be the 79th General Convention of the Church.

\* The work of General Convention includes adopting legislation of concern to the Church; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, and the Canons of the Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices, boards and other committees. This work is undertaken in support of the mission and ministry of the Church, and with prayerful gratitude and spiritual discernment.

Now, that's an Introduction to General Convention which can be found on the Episcopal Church Website. It is certainly accurate and concise, consistent with good "Anglican Order;" however, it doesn't go great lengths in capturing what I believe to be the most significant aspect of the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. In other words, it doesn't occupy an abundance of space regarding what the heart of our General Convention can and must be. This GC provides the opportunity, as did previous conventions, to show one another and the world the way we gather as church in a context which is both worshipful and legislating. This is a context where we frame dreams and aspirations, responsibilities and tasks. This is the forum in which we show how we can work and play together and how that working and playing translates into the ways we are

Called to be...Church, in the days following convention. This is our opportunity through conversations, through speaking and hearing one another, through debate and resolutions, to provide a roadmap and description concerning how we are growing into the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.

It will be my responsibility and honor to Chair the Legislative Committee:

Care of Creation and Environmental Stewardship. Your Deputies from the EDSJ will also be serving on their own respective Legislative Committees. In this prayerful and faithful work to which we have been called, we will constantly be aware of how we represent you, our Sisters and Brothers in the Dio-

cese, moreover, how we represent the ways in which we are emerging as the Jesus Movement in San Joaquin.

Our EDSJ Deputation includes:

Clergy

Kathie Galicia

Suzy Ward

Anna Carmichael

Robert Woods

Nancy Key

Carolyn Woodall

Lay

Cindy Smith

Barbara Inderbitzen

Jan Dunlap

Cathy Henry

Alexis Woods

Nedra Voorhees

And our Chancellor, Michael Glass will be serving as:

Chair of the House of Deputies Resolution Review Committee

**We ask for your prayers. Actually, these aren't simply nice closing words to finish this article. I am asking, nay, I am calling you to pray for the 79th General Convention. Pray for everyone gathered. Pray for your Deputation. Pray that everything we do reflects the heart of God. Please set aside intentional time for prayer leading up to and during the convention.**

Blessings,

+David

## WHAT IS ON THE AGENDA

Episcopalians are starting to arrive here ahead of the official July 5 start of the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention at the [Austin Convention Center](#).

As usual, the agenda facing the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies is so packed that legislative committee meetings are set for the evening of July 3 and the morning of July 4. The [complete draft convention schedule is here](#). Convention concludes on July 13.

For a general guide to convention, see the Episcopal News Service story “Episcopalians preparing for 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention in Austin can expect ‘a real Texas welcome’”

**Here are summaries of some of the major work facing General Convention:**

### Marriage equality

General Convention’s [Task Force on the Study of Marriage](#) has monitored the use of two new marriage rites General Convention approved in 2015 for trial use ([Resolution A054](#)) by both same-sex and opposite-sex couples and is aware of concern about unequal access to the trial use liturgies. Its [Blue Book Report](#) says it found widespread acceptance of the rite across the church except eight diocesan bishops in the 101 domestic dioceses have not authorized their use.

“Liturgical Resources 1: I Will Bless You, and You Will Be a Blessing” was one of the rites General Convention authorized in 2015 for trial use.

The task force is proposing that convention require



all bishops in authority to “make provision for all couples asking to be married in this church to have reasonable and convenient access to these trial rites.” It also would have convention say that bishops will “continue the work of leading the church in comprehensive engagement with these materials and continue to provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this church.”

Episcopalians who support that effort have been active ahead of convention. Claiming the Blessing, which formed in 2002 to advocate for the “full inclusion of all the baptized in all sacraments of the church, according to its website, has published [an advocacy piece](#). Some Episcopalians in the Diocese of Dallas have developed a website called “[Dear General Convention](#)” that includes videos and written stories about people who cannot be married in that diocese.

The task force is also calling for continued trial use of the liturgies as additions to the Book of Common Prayer, as well as amendments to the prayer book’s other marriage rites, prefaces and sections of the Catechism to make language gender neutral.

Five Province IX diocesan bishops and one retired bishop representing the dioceses of Ecuador Litoral, Ecuador Central, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Honduras [warned the task force](#) that if convention makes changes about marriage that would force them “to accept social and cultural practices that have no Biblical basis or acceptance in Christian worship,” the action would “greatly deepen the breach, the division and the Ninth Province will have to learn to walk alone.” The bishops of Colombia and Puerto Rico did not sign the statement.

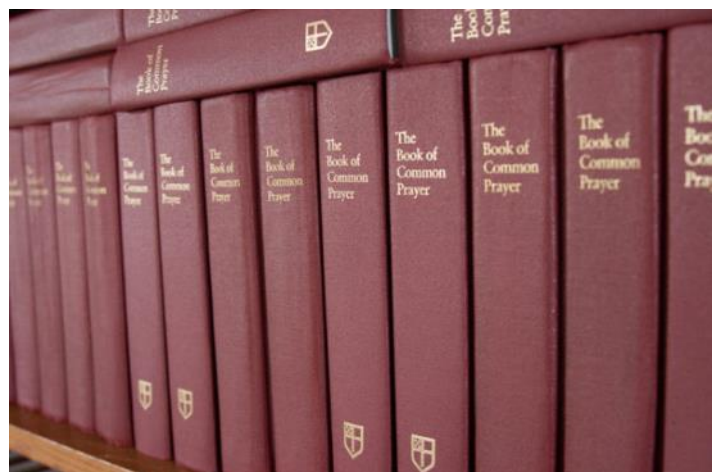
On June 28, Long Island Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, Pittsburgh Bishop Dorsey McConnell and

Rhode Island Bishop Nicholas Knisely proposed [Resolution B012](#), which would continue trial use of the marriage rites without a time limit and without seeking a revision of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The resolution proposes that access to the liturgies be provided for in all dioceses, without requiring the permission of the diocesan bishop. Instead, congregations that want to use the rites but whose bishops have refused permission may receive [Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight \(DEPO\)](#) from another bishop of the church who would provide access to the liturgies.

An earlier Episcopal News Service [story on the marriage access issue is here](#).

The task force also proposes two liturgies for blessing the relationships of couples who choose not to marry for legal or financial reasons. It also recommends that the church ponder new ways to minister to the growing number of people who cohabitate in committed and monogamous relationships rather than marry. [ENS coverage of those recommendations can be found here](#).

## Revising the Book of Common Prayer?



This summer’s meeting of General Convention is being invited to consider how it orders its common prayer and why.

The [Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music](#) is offering bishops and deputies a comprehensive plan for revision, as requested by the 2015 meeting of General Convention, as well as a way for the church to spend time discerning the future shape of its common prayer. The first option would move the church immediately into a full-blown prayer book revision process that would be completed in nine years. The second would call on the church to plumb the depths of the current Book of Common Prayer's theology, as well as its usefulness as a tool for unity in a diverse church, for evangelism and discipleship. If convention agrees to the second approach, this would include new BCP translations.

The SCLM has included “guiding assumptions,” work plans, suggested processes and tools, hundreds of pages of supplemental material and budgets for each approach. The approaches are described in a portion of the SCLM's Blue Book report released to the church Feb. 13. [The prayer book subcommittee's report is here.](#)

An Episcopal News Service [story on the possibilities is here.](#)

### **The Episcopal Church and the #MeToo movement**

Convention will ponder the Episcopal Church's role in and response to the #MeToo movement with resolutions, reflections and the hope for reconciliation.

In what could be an extraordinary session, the House of Bishops is inviting Episcopalians to a July 4 “Liturgy of Listening” event. The session, planned for 5:15 to 7 p.m. CT in the worship space set up in the Austin Convention Center, has been

called “a sacred space for listening and further reconciliation.”

Meanwhile, close to 30 related resolutions have been filed. The bulk of them are from the 47 members of the [special House of Deputies Committee](#) on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation appointed in February by the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, deputies' president.

A [related Episcopal News Service story is here.](#)

### **A salary for the president of the House of Deputies**



Presiding over the House of Deputies is just one of the canonically required duties of the president of the House of Deputies. Photo: Mary Frances Schjonberg/Episcopal News Service

The issue that prompted a rare conference committee between bishops and deputies in the waning hours of the last convention – whether the currently unpaid position of president of the House of Deputies should be salaried – will return for consideration.

The 2015 meeting of convention called for the presiding bishop and the president of the House of Deputies to appoint a task force to study the issue. The issue of compensating that officeholder has been discussed for decades, and the [Task Force to](#)



[Study Church Leadership and Compensation](#) has [concluded](#) that the president of the House of Deputies' work amounts to a full-time job. Its [Resolution A-028](#) calls for a salary, but does not set an amount. The task force asked Executive Council to include a salary in its draft 2019-2021 budget. Council budgeted \$900,000 for a full-time salary and benefits for the three years.

Supporters of the change say making the office a paid job would broaden the pool of people able to consider running for election. Other disagree, some saying they fear "mission creep" in the form of an expansion of the president's duties and authority. A group of bishops has proposed a compromise in the form of [Resolution B014](#) that would direct the Executive Council to pay the president director's fees "for specific services rendered in order to fulfill duties required by the church's Constitution and Canons."

An Episcopal New Service [story on the issue is here](#).

And, [Resolution C042](#), proposed by Province IV of the church, would pay what it calls per diem compensation for the president when for certain aspects of her or his work, and once again study the larger issue of compensation.

### **Following up on the church's three priorities: evangelism, racial reconciliation and justice and care of creation**

A major part of the discussion on evangelism at General Convention will focus on continuation of the church's increased support for church planting and new regional ministries, as encompassed by [Resolution A005](#). But other [resolutions assigned](#) to the [Evangelism and Church Planting Committee](#)

show the broad range of thinking about this fertile spiritual ground, including the role of social media and the ties between evangelism and stewardship of the environment. The committee also will review a proposal that would focus more attention on how well ministry leaders' demographic backgrounds mirror those of the communities they seek to serve.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry stands at the foot of the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Sept. 7, 2017, with the Rev. Paul Walker, rector of the nearby Christ Episcopal Church. The statue had been wrapped in plastic while the city fights a legal challenge to the monument's removal. Photo: David Paulsen/Episcopal News Service

A range of shocking racial incidents in the months leading up to the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, especially the massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, helped fuel passage in Salt Lake City of a number of resolutions about racism. Prominent among them was [Resolution C019](#), which called on church officers to develop a church-wide response to racial injustice. How to follow through with those efforts will be the core question before the [Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee](#). But racism and racial healing are such big topics, both socially and spiritually, that the discussion is expected to expand well beyond a single resolution or even a single committee. Additional resolutions to be discussed include one studying

the church's track record of diversifying its leadership and another that questions whether "anti-racism" should be replaced with a term that alludes to the spiritual transformation sought in this work. Supporting local food growers, carbon taxes and offsets, opposition to environmental racism and Episcopalians' continued participation in the Paris Climate Agreement are some of the stewardship of the environment and creation care resolutions set for discussion at the 79th General Convention. A [list of environmental stewardship and care of creation resolutions is here](#).

### **Formulating the 2019-2021 triennial budget**

The [Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance](#) (PB&F) has already begun work on the [draft 2019-2021 triennium budget](#) that Executive Council [passed](#) in January.

The total income in council's draft budget of \$133.7 million would pay for an equal amount in expenses, with a very small surplus of just \$2,654. The triennial budget is up about \$8.7 million from that approved by the 2015 meeting of General Convention for [the current 2016-2018 triennium](#).

At the 2015 meeting of General Convention, bishops and deputies [turned the current voluntary asking system into a mandatory assessment](#), beginning with the 2019-2021 budget cycle. Council's draft anticipates that up to 20 dioceses will get full or partial waivers of those payments under a system that will go into effect in the new triennium.

PB&F will also be asked to consider [Resolution B001](#) to scrap the mandatory across-the-board assessment and adopt a system of diocesan funding of the church's triennial budget based on how much each diocese spends on average per congregation in

their annual budget.

PB&F plans an open hearing on the budget at 7:30 p.m. July 5. Its final budget must be presented to a joint session of the Houses of Bishops and Deputies no later than the third day before convention's scheduled adjournment. According to the [draft convention schedule](#), that presentation is set to take place at 10:30 a.m. CDT on July 11.

### **Middle East peace**



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, left, and Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem Suheil Dawani walk March 26 through the barren area between an Israel checkpoint and Gaza City. They were going to visit the Anglican Al Ahli Arab Hospital. Their journey took place five days before violence broke out along the fence that separates Israel and the Gaza Strip. Photo: Sharon Jones

Numerous General Convention resolutions are expected on topics related to Israel and Palestine by the time the gathering gets. At least three have been submitted so far, including one proposed by the Diocese of California that [reintroduces a push for divestment](#) from "those companies that profit from



Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands or whose products or actions support the infrastructure of the occupation."

Corporate engagement won't be the only topic related to the Holy Land. Two additional proposed resolutions call for [greater attention to the plight of Palestinian children](#), including [those being tried in Israeli military courts](#).

A group of bishops and deputies who were asked to find a way to navigate the often-thorny discussions of Episcopal Church policy toward Israel and Palestine has announced its recommendations for fostering open and productive debate on those issues at this meeting of convention. An Episcopal News Service [story about those plans is here](#).

### **How to follow the work of General Convention**

A media hub, [operated](#) by the Episcopal Church's Office of Communication, offers people everywhere the opportunity to follow the convention's proceedings. It will include live streams of sessions from the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, a calendar, daily worship and daily media briefings. Episcopal News Service's headlines will feed into the site. [You can find the hub here](#).

## **WATCH! TWO DAILY SHOWS BROADCAST FROM CONVENTION VIA WEB**

Two daily shows originating from the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will offer an insider's view to Episcopalians across the church. "For a lot of people, General Convention can be overwhelming," said the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija, host of both Inside General Convention and Adentro de

la convención general. "But this year we're aiming to change that. We're going to take you all over the convention hall. We're going to meet different people from throughout the church and give you an insider's look."

Each show premieres July 4, 2018 at 2:30 p.m in English and at 4:30 p.m. in Spanish (both times are Pacific DST). Joining Lebrija are correspondents Hannah Wilder for Inside General Convention and Hugo Olaiz for Adentro de la convención general.

Produced by the Office of Communication, Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general will be daily 30-minute magazine-format shows. Each show will offer news and highlights as well as its own lineup of interviews and guests. Beginning July 4, viewers can find Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general here. The shows will also be available on the Media Hub, live and on-demand.

Producer Jeremy Tackett, Digital Evangelist, said, "The format of Inside General Convention was initiated at the March Evangelism Matters Conference, and we knew right away that this was an ideal approach for our General Convention coverage."

Daily coverage of General Convention will also be provided by Episcopal News Service.

The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held Thursday, July 5 to Friday, July 13 at The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas (Diocese of Texas).

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THE MEDIA HUB](#)**

