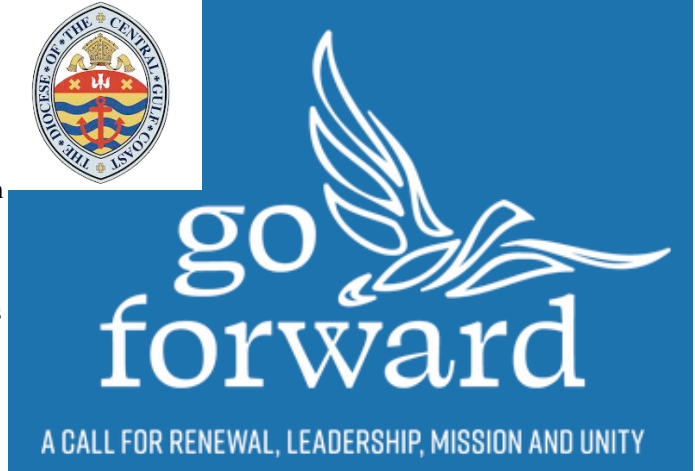


Go Forward – Capital campaign for the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Those two words have taken on a new energy – and the power of them is building new levels of unity – across our diocese.

In the last few years, our families and churches have faced immense challenges including hurricanes, storms and health crises.

We have faced those adversities with a strength and spirit that recalls the very beginning of our diocese some 50 years ago when we were called to “be a new unit in the ongoing life of the the Kingdom of God.” Those were the words of the then-bishop of Florida, Edward Hamilton West, in his opening sermon for he primary convention in 1970.



A resounding theme in that historic sermon came from Exodus 14:15, when God called on Moses to tell his people to “go forward.” Bishop West translated that to a call that rang true across the new diocese back then and still endures today: “Hear that unmistakable call of God to go forward.”

Now, we hear that call more than ever; a call for renewal, leadership, mission, and unity – and we are answering with action: Go Forward: A Campaign for the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Go forward in renewal – goal for renewal grants: \$1 Million

Re-energizing our ministry – and fostering innovation in how that ministry is carried out. Renewal grants can help make those innovations a reality. Many Churches lack the resources to launch these new ministries. We can foster growth among congregations poised for not only the technological side of their renewal, but also for possible reorganization, relocation or even finding a church and their own role in its growing ministry.

Go forward in leadership – goal for leadership endowment: \$1 Million

Leadership in our churches I key to going forward – the leadership of the ordained and the laity. Our diocesan campaign seeks to support the development of leadership through our recently founded diocesan School for Ministry. Initially begun as a means by which to locally form priests and deacons, the school is growing in its mission to offer opportunities for lay leaders in worship, preaching, pastoral care and evangelism.

Go forward in new mission – goal for debt reduction: \$1 Million

In 1970, Bishop West's call to “go forward” was partly in response to our regional (and denominational) fondness for tradition and the past. What holds us back today has much less to do with sentimentality and more to do with debt that was incurred as needs were met at Murray House and Wilmer Hall, along with the construction of our diocesan Bayfront Center at Camp Beckwith. “A time to write off debt ... free up reserves ... and renew.” -Bishop Russell

Go forward together – goal for camp Beckwith Enhancements: \$2.5 Million

“A sacred space, a gathering place, a spiritual and natural estuary”

Camp Beckwith means many things across our diocese: summer camp, year-round retreats, and Cursillo are only a few. This special place offers a landscape so awe-inspiring, we call it “God's front yard” - and an atmosphere so welcoming, we can think of it as our diocesan “family room.” What is envisioned: New Adult Lodge, Pavilion at Wilson Hall, and Stewardship of the existing buildings and grounds.

Now more than ever, we see the need for grassroots efforts and the fellowship of shared goals. Thank you for your roles in making this campaign a success as we go forward together. Mite boxes will be available at the back of the church. Collection of the boxes will be announced at a later date.