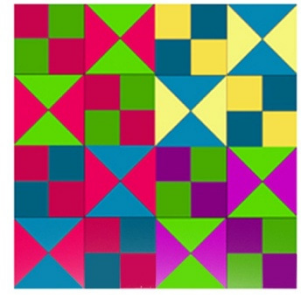


DATE: July 8, 2014

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STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BARBARA CLEMENTINE HARRIS' ORDINATION AS THE FIRST ANGLICAN FEMALE
BISHOP



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

The Executive Council's Committee on the Status of Women commemorates with deepest gratitude the 25th year of The Rt. Rev. Barbara Clementine Harris' ordination as the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. We honor her courage to take on this difficult journey, which has inspired countless women and men across the Communion, and her unwavering commitment to speak the truth in love to bring about social justice for all oppressed. As bishop suffragan for the Diocese of Massachusetts from 1989 until her retirement in 2002, followed by four years as assisting bishop for the Diocese of Washington, her resilience in the face of threats and human ugliness has modeled a leadership of justice and perseverance that has been liberating and transformative. As an African American woman who worked tirelessly in the Civil Rights movement for racial justice, and who was crucifer at the 1974 Philadelphia ordinations of the first 11 women to the priesthood as a step for gender justice, Bishop Harris stands as a symbol of episcopal leadership that is resolute in seeking justice and rooted in love. She not only has led the way for 20 women to be elected to the episcopate and for a woman to be elected as Presiding Bishop in The Episcopal Church, but she continues to inspire all of us to speak out against racism, sexism, and all forms of elitism that marginalize and impoverish us all, as a manifestation of God's abiding love.