



June 17, 2018
TEConversations

A highlight of General Convention 2018 will be The Episcopal Church Conversations (TEConversations), three innovative, inspirational and informative sessions featuring brief talks, videos and engaging interludes. TEConversations will be part of the three Joint Sessions of General Convention, each focused on one of the three priorities of General Convention – Racial Reconciliation, Evangelism and Care of Creation.

TEConversations will be presented during Joint Sessions of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies which include visitors, volunteers and others in attendance at General Convention 2018. For those not attending, the TEConversations will be livestreamed and available for viewing on the Episcopal Church website (www.episcopalchurch.org) and the General Convention website (www.generalconvention.org). The TEConversations will include simultaneous Spanish interpretation.

“The team has shaped a truly interactive festival of ideas,” explained the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Presiding Bishop’s Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care. “Deputies, bishops and guests will experience compelling talks, along with music, poetry and robust social media that extend the learning and engagement from Austin out to the whole church and beyond.”

Each TEConversations session will be 90 minutes and will include three speakers, videos, music interludes and deeper small group engagement. The speakers represent international leaders, well-known Episcopalians, and rising voices in the church. The TEConversations

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will be facilitated by David Crabtree, News Anchor at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, NC and a deacon in the Diocese of North Carolina. The TEConversations topics, times and speakers are:

Racial Reconciliation

Friday, July 6 from 10:30 am – noon Central

Speakers:

- Arno Michaelis, a former racist skinhead who examines aspects of his past in his books, including *My Life After Hate*.
- Dr. Catherine Meeks, founder of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta, GA.
- The Rev. Nancy Frausto, a “Dreamer” from the Diocese of Los Angeles who came to the United States from Mexico as a child.

Evangelism

Saturday, July 7 from 2:30 pm – 4 pm Central

Speakers:

- The Rev. Lauren Winner, an Episcopal priest and popular author who bridges faith and culture.
- Bishop Alan Scarfe of the Diocese of Iowa, who led revivals in every diocesan congregation in 2017.
- The Rev. Daniel Vélez-Rivera, a church planter from the Diocese of Virginia.

Care of Creation

Tuesday, July 10 from 10:30 am – noon Central

Speakers:

- Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of the Anglican Province of South Africa and a leader in the Anglican Communion on climate change.
- The Rev. Stephanie Johnson, co-chair of the Episcopal Church Stewardship of Creation Advisory Council.
- Bernadette Demientieff, leader of the Gwich’in Steering Committee and defender of Alaska’s Arctic Refuge

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. For more information on TEConversations, contact Sarah Alphin at salphin@episcopalchurch.org, 212-716-6012.

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