Pavel Sfera, a professional Bono impersonator, sings the opening number with the L.A.-based band Desire at a U2charist July 16 sponsored by Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation. The offering was divided between EGR and Episcopal Relief and Development.

Convention adopts severely reduced triennial budget

BY MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG

The 76th General Convention adopted a $141 million budget for 2010-2012 on July 16 that asks for less money from dioceses and drastically reduces church-wide spending by $23 million.

The House of Deputies spent approximately three hours debating the budget and rejecting all attempts to change its revenue or expense categories. The budget then was passed on a voice vote and sent to the House of Bishops.

Program, Budget and Finance (PBF) committee Vice Chair and Connecticut Bishop Andrew Smith presented the budget’s enabling Resolution D067 to the bishops. Diocese of Western Kansas Bishop James Adams immediately called the question, which is used to end debate, and the house agreed. The bishops then approved the budget by voice vote.

The Rev. Renee McKenzie-Hayward (Pennsylvania), one of four deputies who spoke as members of the convention’s black caucus, began that house’s debate on the morning of July 16 by asking deputies to pass the budget “in the spirit of ubuntu” and to do so without fear.

“We acknowledge the pain that this budget brings, but let us also acknowledge the opportunities that God may be showing us,” she said. “For we as children of the African diaspora know a little something about surviving in...” Continued on page 2
The deputies had no stomach for adding money to the budget, despite repeated attempts to do so in six categories. David Abbott (East Carolina) at one point called it "less than totally responsible" to amend the budget.

"This committee has labored for over 60 hours ... with complete transparency, agonizing to tears over the decisions they have made," he said. "We must trust our committee. We cannot micromanage our budget, and I urge you, as I intend, to vote against each and every amendment to this budget.

Some church-wide programs will be eliminated under the budget, encouraging more mission work to take place in dioceses and congregations. At least 30 of the 180 people employed by the Episcopal Church in its New York and regional offices could lose their jobs.

The next General Convention could be two days shorter and interim church bodies will meet face-to-face less frequently during the triennium. The Episcopal Church's provincial contribution to the budget of the Anglican Communion Office would decrease by a third.

PBF restored a budget line-item dedicating 0.7 percent of income to U.N. Millennium Development Goals work that had been cut from a draft version of the budget and added a corresponding percentage for domestic-poverty initiatives.

PBF’s proposal predicts total triennial income of $141,271,984, with $79,161,193 coming from the dioceses and $27.6 million from investment income. Expenses are budgeted at $140,856,531. Those figures compare with the projected bottom line of the current 2007-2009 triennial budget of $164,863,529 in revenue and $163,934,334 in expenses.

In January, the church’s Executive Council approved a draft 2010-2012 budget based on $161,820,613 in revenue and $161,791,177 in expenses.

After the deputies approved the budget, the Rev. Ann Fontaine (Wyoming) called for "a moment of silent prayer for all the staff that will be axed, that they might find healing and hope." The Rev. Francis Wade (Washington), the house’s chaplain, led the deputies in prayer "for those who bear great responsibilities for that which we have chosen to do in this budget and for those who bear great burdens for what we have chosen not to do in this budget."

The bishops’ chaplain, Brother Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE, noted the budget’s impact during his prayers that closed that house’s July 16 legislative work. He called on the bishops to pray for those Episcopal Church employees “whose positions have been eliminated or significantly reduced by passage of this budget; we hold them in our hearts.”

“We also hold in our hearts those in Episcopal Church employment whose positions will assume additional burdens and stress due to budget shortfalls in this next triennium," he prayed. “We give thanks for all of the decisions and hard work by PBF. We give thanks for their commitment and their wisdom and their courage.”

The deputies’ debate was unusual. Instead of debating the entire budget, the house agreed to debate separately the budget’s sections covering funding, program expenses (generally ministry and mission), corporate expenses (administrative support of the church center) and canonical expenses (offices of the Presiding Bishop and the president of the House of Deputies, in addition to General Convention and interim bodies). The entire budget was later approved on a single voice vote.

During their two legislative sessions July 16, deputies rejected proposed amendments to:

- add $51,000 to the staff line in House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson’s portion of the budget by reducing a line item for strategic planning in Chief Operating Officer Linda Watt’s office (and rejected an attempt to reconsider their vote);
- add $250,000 for a study on whether to move the Episcopal Church Center out of New York by taking a like amount from the General Convention Office’s budget;
- add $1.25 million to the revenue line for Episcopal Life to reflect circulation and advertising revenue that would be earned by the monthly newspaper during 2010 until a study on the newspaper’s future (called for in Resolution D037, which was rejected that same morning by the bishops) could be completed, and to add a comparable amount to expense lines;
- add up to $3 million from the church’s short-term reserves to restore funding for the new development office (meant to raise major financial gifts to the church);
- add $180,000 to restore funding for the Office of Women’s Ministry; and
- add $270,000 to restore funding for the racial justice office.

A deputy looks over the 2010-2012 proposed budget during a joint session of the House of Deputies and House of Bishops on July 15.
The music group A Joyful Noise was rehearsing *How Great Thou Art* before the July 15 convention Eucharist, and tenor Sheila Phillip couldn’t resist breaking into harmony in the midst of a conversation.

Every morning during convention, Phillip has arrived early at the worship hall to rehearse for the day’s Eucharist as part of the Ubuntu Convention Choir. This is the first convention to feature a volunteer choir in addition to scheduled visiting musicians and ensembles. Seventy to eighty singers have participated each day.

“It’s just been a wonderful outlet,” said Deputy Anne Scheutte (Fond du Lac), a daily participant who usually sings at St. James’ church, Manitowoc, Wisc. “The directors are so full of spirit, and they’re just merry people. The rehearsals were very fun. I probably learned 50 new pieces of music this week.”

Led by Dent Davidson and Julia Huttar Bailey, the singers tackled a wide variety of musical styles, coordinated with the guest performers. Phillip recalled how visiting musicians at the main Eucharist July 12 sang Richard Smallwood’s anthem *Total Praise*.

“I was not supposed to be singing with them,” she said, adding, “I could not contain myself. I jumped up and I joined them because I sing it in my choir.”

Not all the music was so familiar.

“It was a challenge, especially when it came to the Spanish part of the music,” said Phillip, a convention exhibitor with the Union of Black Episcopalians who sings at St. Andrew’s, Bronx, N.Y. “I don’t speak Spanish, but I sure sang in Spanish.”

Directors and choristers pronounced the volunteer choir a success.

“I think it’s a spectacular idea,” said Chicago Bishop Jeffrey Lee, who sings bass and “tenor as needed.”

“It provides a kind of rootedness in this community that’s gathered here for convention,” he said.

Davidson was music director at St. Thomas, Medina, Wash. when he was rector there, Lee said. Davidson now is missioner for liturgy and the arts in Lee’s diocese.

“He’s deeply committed to cultivating the gifts and talents of everybody; everybody can make beautiful music,” Lee said. “He’s a gift to this church.”

Among the regular convention choristers, “The House of Bishops and spouses choir has been kind of a core,” said Huttar Bailey, a seminarian who previously spent 23 years as a music director at St. Clare’s in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It’s wonderful and joyful,” said Davidson, who also conducts the bishops and spouses choir. “People feel invited to come all 10 days or one day.”

Added Huttar Bailey, “We definitely have some ‘groupies.’” That consistency made it possible to learn some of the new music they introduced, she noted. “I think most of the new stuff that we picked has been very accessible.”

“Our whole goal,” Davidson said, “has been to get all 3,500 people that are here singing, not to have choirs performing.”

“They want to sing,” Huttar Bailey said. “I can just hear people singing together, especially all during Communion, and that’s powerful. It’s nurturing people ... and it builds that community and that spirit.”

It also provided visitors with a way to connect with convention, Phillip said. “You feel enriched. You get to meet people.”

Lee said he was pleased to see the final service would include *Make Your Service of Love a Beautiful Thing*, a gospel-inspired work that’s become the “theme song” for his diocese. “It will be a great way to have that Eucharist on the final day sending us out to do just that.”

“I was not supposed to be singing with them,” she said, adding, “I could not contain myself. I jumped up and I joined them because I sing it in my choir.”

Not all the music was so familiar.

“It was a challenge, especially when it came to the Spanish part of the music,” said Phillip, a convention exhibitor with the Union of Black Episcopalians who sings at St. Andrew’s, Bronx, N.Y. “I don’t speak Spanish, but I sure sang in Spanish.”

Directors and choristers pronounced the volunteer choir a success.

“I think it’s a spectacular idea,” said Chicago Bishop Jeffrey Lee, who sings bass and “tenor as needed.”

“It provides a kind of rootedness in this community that’s gathered here for convention,” he said.

Davidson was music director at St. Thomas, Medina, Wash. when he was rector there, Lee said. Davidson now is missioner for liturgy and the arts in Lee’s diocese.

“He’s deeply committed to cultivating the gifts and talents of everybody; everybody can make beautiful music,” Lee said. “He’s a gift to this church.”

Among the regular convention choristers, “The House of Bishops and spouses choir has been kind of a core,” said Huttar Bailey, a seminarian who previously spent 23 years as a music director at St. Clare’s in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It’s wonderful and joyful,” said Davidson, who also conducts the bishops and spouses choir. “People feel invited to come all 10 days or one day.”

Added Huttar Bailey, “We definitely have some ‘groupies.’” That consistency made it possible to learn some of the new music they introduced, she noted. “I think most of the new stuff that we picked has been very accessible.”

“Our whole goal,” Davidson said, “has been to get all 3,500 people that are here singing, not to have choirs performing.”

“They want to sing,” Huttar Bailey said. “I can just hear people singing together, especially all during Communion, and that’s powerful. It’s nurturing people ... and it builds that community and that spirit.”

It also provided visitors with a way to connect with convention, Phillip said. “You feel enriched. You get to meet people.”

Lee said he was pleased to see the final service would include *Make Your Service of Love a Beautiful Thing*, a gospel-inspired work that’s become the “theme song” for his diocese. “It will be a great way to have that Eucharist on the final day sending us out to do just that.”

“I was not supposed to be singing with them,” she said, adding, “I could not contain myself. I jumped up and I joined them because I sing it in my choir.”

Not all the music was so familiar.

“It was a challenge, especially when it came to the Spanish part of the music,” said Phillip, a convention exhibitor with the Union of Black Episcopalians who sings at St. Andrew’s, Bronx, N.Y. “I don’t speak Spanish, but I sure sang in Spanish.”

Directors and choristers pronounced the volunteer choir a success.

“I think it’s a spectacular idea,” said Chicago Bishop Jeffrey Lee, who sings bass and “tenor as needed.”

“It provides a kind of rootedness in this community that’s gathered here for convention,” he said.

Davidson was music director at St. Thomas, Medina, Wash. when he was rector there, Lee said. Davidson now is missioner for liturgy and the arts in Lee’s diocese.

“He’s deeply committed to cultivating the gifts and talents of everybody; everybody can make beautiful music,” Lee said. “He’s a gift to this church.”

Among the regular convention choristers, “The House of Bishops and spouses choir has been kind of a core,” said Huttar Bailey, a seminarian who previously spent 23 years as a music director at St. Clare’s in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It’s wonderful and joyful,” said Davidson, who also conducts the bishops and spouses choir. “People feel invited to come all 10 days or one day.”

Added Huttar Bailey, “We definitely have some ‘groupies.’” That consistency made it possible to learn some of the new music they introduced, she noted. “I think most of the new stuff that we picked has been very accessible.”

“Our whole goal,” Davidson said, “has been to get all 3,500 people that are here singing, not to have choirs performing.”

“They want to sing,” Huttar Bailey said. “I can just hear people singing together, especially all during Communion, and that’s powerful. It’s nurturing people ... and it builds that community and that spirit.”

It also provided visitors with a way to connect with convention, Phillip said. “You feel enriched. You get to meet people.”

Lee said he was pleased to see the final service would include *Make Your Service of Love a Beautiful Thing*, a gospel-inspired work that’s become the “theme song” for his diocese. “It will be a great way to have that Eucharist on the final day sending us out to do just that.”

“I was not supposed to be singing with them,” she said, adding, “I could not contain myself. I jumped up and I joined them because I sing it in my choir.”

Not all the music was so familiar.

“It was a challenge, especially when it came to the Spanish part of the music,” said Phillip, a convention exhibitor with the Union of Black Episcopalians who sings at St. Andrew’s, Bronx, N.Y. “I don’t speak Spanish, but I sure sang in Spanish.”

Directors and choristers pronounced the volunteer choir a success.

“I think it’s a spectacular idea,” said Chicago Bishop Jeffrey Lee, who sings bass and “tenor as needed.”

“It provides a kind of rootedness in this community that’s gathered here for convention,” he said.

Davidson was music director at St. Thomas, Medina, Wash. when he was rector there, Lee said. Davidson now is missioner for liturgy and the arts in Lee’s diocese.

“He’s deeply committed to cultivating the gifts and talents of everybody; everybody can make beautiful music,” Lee said. “He’s a gift to this church.”

Among the regular convention choristers, “The House of Bishops and spouses choir has been kind of a core,” said Huttar Bailey, a seminarian who previously spent 23 years as a music director at St. Clare’s in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It’s wonderful and joyful,” said Davidson, who also conducts the bishops and spouses choir. “People feel invited to come all 10 days or one day.”

Added Huttar Bailey, “We definitely have some ‘groupies.’” That consistency made it possible to learn some of the new music they introduced, she noted. “I think most of the new stuff that we picked has been very accessible.”

“Our whole goal,” Davidson said, “has been to get all 3,500 people that are here singing, not to have choirs performing.”

“They want to sing,” Huttar Bailey said. “I can just hear people singing together, especially all during Communion, and that’s powerful. It’s nurturing people ... and it builds that community and that spirit.”

It also provided visitors with a way to connect with convention, Phillip said. “You feel enriched. You get to meet people.”

Lee said he was pleased to see the final service would include *Make Your Service of Love a Beautiful Thing*, a gospel-inspired work that’s become the “theme song” for his diocese. “It will be a great way to have that Eucharist on the final day sending us out to do just that.”
Bishops delay decision on retired bishops’ vote

BY JERALD HYCHE

The House of Bishops ended an emotional discussion July 17 by again delaying a long-sought decision about whether retired bishops should be able to vote.

Bishops voted 72-39 to refer Resolution A052 to the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons to provide more time to study the issue. The issue will not resurface until another “first reading” at the 77th General Convention in 2012, where, if passed, it will require approval again at convention in 2015.

Several bishops expressed conflicting personal as well as theological feelings about excluding retired bishops from any official legislative role.

“I’ve gone back and forth on emotional reasons – it’s hard for me to take anyone’s vote away,” North Carolina Bishop Michael Curry told his colleagues. “Then I’ve gone back and forth on hard-core theological and ecclesiastical reasons – then I’ve gone back again. The long and short of it is referring it ... will allow for thoughtful and in-depth reflection on this. This is actually important.”

Questions about the authority of retired bishops have swirled within the church for decades. In 2000, the House of Bishops voted to eliminate retirees’ voting power, but the House of Deputies defeated that resolution. In 2003, the move passed in both houses, but it then was amended in 2006 to become yet another first reading.

The resolution would maintain seat and voice in the House of Bishops for all bishops but limit votes to bishops with jurisdiction; coadjutor, suffragan or assistant bishops; and “every bishop holding an office created by General Convention.” As a constitutional amendment, the resolution must pass two successive conventions with the same wording.

Bishop Jeffrey Rowthorn of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe and the Ancient Province of Canterbury said, “That group is growing in numbers and my journey. I think it’s a mistake for us to do this in a variety of ways.”

Wyoming Bishop Bruce Caldwell and New Jersey Bishop John Scherbak, among others, however, called for support of the move for various reasons.

“One, I listened to the roll call at the beginning of this session, and it went on for a long time before the sound of present,” he said. “That group is growing in numbers … before long there will be four times as many retired bishops as bishops with jurisdiction in this church, I bet. And I have trouble framing this as a justice issue; I think it’s more of a jurisdiction issue.

“People need a responsible connection with the people in the pews if they’re going to vote.”

In other business, bishops also decided against commissioning a review of the church’s national communications operations. Resolution D037 called for a survey to determine whether Episcopal Church remains the best media for reaching members and other readers, but bishops argued for a faster move toward electronic forms of communication.

Bishop Neil Alexander of Atlanta urged defeat, saying the resolution “represents business as usual.

“We need to affirm the leadership of our Presiding Bishop, we need to affirm the leadership of our director of communications in having a new and fresh and exciting strategy for this time and not 50 years ago,” he said.

In other business, bishops also adopted proposed additional prayers in Holy Women, Holy Men, a revision of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, but only after reinstating references to Jesus’ mother as “the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Deletion of the word “virgin” had been one of the proposed changes in Resolution A099, which now goes to the House of Deputies for consideration. The prayers instead referred to “Blessed Mary,” “Mary of Nazareth” and “God-bearer.”

Bishop William Love of Albany warned that such a move would elicit widespread criticism: “I guarantee you that if this passes as it is by taking ‘the Blessed Virgin Mary’ out, there’s going to be headlines that ‘the Episcopal Church denies the virginity of Mary’, or something to that effect, and I’m not sure that we really want to do that.”

Bishops also reconsidered Resolution A075 regarding an agreement with the Presbyterian Church USA. Bishops decided to formally adopt the agreement rather than “receive” it, as was decided earlier in convention. The agreement allows and encourages sharing of clergy and Communion between the two churches.
McLaren: Crisis equals opportunity in the Episcopal Church

BY LYNETTE WILSON

“Evangelism” is not a dirty word, said author, activist and evangelist Brian McLaren in his sermon at the daily convention Eucharist on July 16.

“We live in a strange time in reference to the ‘e’ word,” he said. “For many of us, the word ‘evangelism’ evokes ugly and morally tainted associations with colonialism, religious supremacy, with shabby televangelism, and as a result many Episcopalians would say that evangelism may be a Southern Baptist thing or a Pentecostal thing, but it is not an Episcopal thing, thank you very much.”

McLaren, who 20 years ago decided not to pursue the discernment process in the Episcopal Church because he thought it would put him at odds with his call to evangelism, was invited to preach to the day’s theme of Ubuntu and Evangelism: Expanding Community.

McLaren suggested Episcopalians begin to see “Episcopal” and “evangelistic” as “a holy union joined together by God which no one should put asunder.”

Unless Christian moderates and progressives begin to share their faith with love and enthusiasm, American’s religious landscape will be populated by fundamentalists, he said.

“To rediscover the true and good essence of evangelism,” McLaren said, evangelism should be looked at from a biblical perspective, beginning with the day’s reading from II Corinthians 5:17-20, where evangelism is expressed as a call to “live and invite others into a radically new way of life … we see evangelism as a way of recruiting early adopters to be part of a radical new beginning for the human race.”

Paul would say that this world and its empires are living by an old script: politics of domination, economies of consumption, sociologies of exclusion, psychologies of shame and self-justification all flowing from an old and destructive narrative that is passing away, McLaren said.

“The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ mean for Paul, among many other things, that it is time for a new politics of service in the common good, for new economies of sustainability and regeneration, for new sociologies of reconciliation and ubuntu and for new psychologies rooted in faith and grace and love – in short, in Christ all things are made new,” he said. “Evangelism means recruiting people and training people to defect from the old order … We are God’s peace ambassadors, insiders that intentionally move outside.”

Approached in this context, all the “ugly things that scare Episcopalians away from evangelism” are removed, he said. In practical terms, this means “pleading with people to stop being part of the problem,” he said, adding that, in asking people what they are seeking in life, adventure may unfold. “In this life, evangelism is a really good thing. I think Episcopalians could get excited about evangelism if it is presented in this way.”

And, McLaren said, he sees evidence of this happening. But distractions and obstacles need to be removed, he said.

McLaren referred to the Episcopal Church’s head-on confrontation of the issue of human sexuality as both a service to the church and the world, but he warned that the church must not lose its identity to the debate.

“What good would it be for your side – whatever that is – to win the debate if in the process you lost your balance and lost your identity as God’s evangelistic agents of reconciliation? ” he asked. “Your challenge, it seems to me, is to reaffirm at this very moment of institutional conflict your deeper incarnational identity as ministers of reconciliation.”

McLaren also urged Episcopalians not to lodge their identity “in the saving of a beloved institution.”

“What if the point isn’t saving the institution but rather leveraging the institution in the saving of ... the world, the world God so loves, according to John 3:16? In your simultaneous commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to true and deep evangelism, you are in the process of choosing this outward, ‘missional’ focus ... leveraging your institution for God’s mission in today’s world. So much depends on this,” he said.

And, lastly, the Episcopal Church must rid itself of “institutional rigidity,” McLaren said.

“From my outsider’s perspective, your most urgent issue of institutional rigidity is related to the complex ways candidates are accepted and trained into ordained ministry. To put it bluntly: For all your system does well, it is perfectly designed to scare away from Episcopal leadership almost everyone with the spiritual gift of evangelism,” he said.

In the future, McLaren said, he hopes the Episcopal Church will not make potential postulates choose between the church and their call to evangelism.

“The good news is that this would be a relatively simple thing to change ... and the Episcopal structure itself, I believe, has remarkable inherent powers of self-renewal,” he said. “And that’s why, I believe, this moment of Episcopal crisis is also a moment of Episcopal opportunity.”
Deputies address social issues

BY MELODIE WOERMAN

The House of Deputies July 16 dealt with resolutions that addressed social issues and internal church matters, including a call for increased mission activity.

Resolution D075, titled “Mission, the Heartbeat of the Church,” challenges dioceses and congregations to participate in a new or ongoing project “that engages in a relationship with another part of the body of Christ in the world.” It also directs the Standing Commission on World Mission to develop strategies to help individuals, congregations and dioceses engage in mission activities.

The Rev. David Cox (Southwestern Virginia) said in support of the resolution, “Christianity is a verb. This measure puts our words into action.”

That resolution now goes to the House of Bishops for action.

Deputies also considered Resolution D066, a request to provide a vote to the 18 young people who make up the Official Youth Presence in the House of Deputies. They currently have seat and voice but had sought the right to vote also. In the end, questions about granting a vote to those who do not represent a geographic area prompted the house to send the question to the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons. That resolution also now moves to the House of Bishops.

Support for young people still was in evidence, however, as deputies spoke of the valuable voice offered by the Official Youth Presence and encouraged dioceses that want that perspective in the house to elect young people as deputies.

Other internal resolutions adopted included A134, calling for continuing exploration of the role of missionaries; and B015, the first reading of a constitutional amendment to change the name of the grouping of churches in Europe to the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe from its current Convocation of American Churches in Europe. Both resolutions now move to the House of Bishops for action.

The hottest social issue considered was C023, a resolution urging the repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and calling on all Episcopalians to work against similar state statutes and constitutional amendments. The act defines marriage as between a man and a woman and declares that a state need not recognize same-gender marriages that take place in another state.

Supporters of the resolution said it was a matter of civil rights for all people.

“When the committee discussed this, we saw it as a civil right, not a theological issue in that sense,” said Joan Gunderson (Pittsburgh).

Zoe Cole (Colorado) said, “This body and this church [have] consistently said that we value full civil rights for all people and that our dispute over the issue of sexuality is a theological dispute. Let us put our money where our mouth is.”

Opponents said taking up the issue at all was damaging to conservatives within the Episcopal Church. Kevin Babb (Springfield) said, “I think in passing these types of resolutions we need to think about the type of message we are sending to the people back in the pews who are on the opposite side of this issue and what is conceived by this house the type of position on which people of good faith can differ in Christian conscience. We are increasingly tearing this house and this church apart, and in the interest of restraint and keeping the church together, I urge us to vote this down.”

On a voice vote, deputies adopted the resolution, previously approved by the House of Bishops.

Deputies also adopted resolutions:

- C020, which condemns torture;
- B031, calling for reconciliation in Honduras following recent civil unrest; and
- A142, committing the church to being anti-racist for the next nine years.

The first two now move to the House of Bishops for action, while deputies gave A142 final approval.

Emmy nomination for slavery film

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North, a documentary about Northern complicity in slavery, was nominated for a News and Documentary Emmy Award for outstanding individual achievement in research.

The film was produced and directed by Katrina Browne, a descendent of the DeWolf family of Rhode Island, longtime Episcopalians who were slave traders in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The film follows Browne and members of her family on journeys to Ghana and Cuba and into their hearts and minds as they wrestle with how they continue to benefit from the buying, selling and labor of enslaved people.

“We are thrilled and honored to be nominated for an Emmy in research in recognition of our work to bring forward this buried history,” said Browne. The film has been shown during General Convention.

Further information about Traces of the Trade is available at www.tracesofthetrade.org.
Exhibitors at the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation booth start breaking down displays and packing up to go home as the Exhibit Hall closes on July 16.

The Rev. Canon James Rosenthal, who is based in London, toured the convention Exhibit Hall as St. Nicholas to launch the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem’s St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, Dec. 6. They seek support for children in the Holy Land.

A sign advertises slashed prices as vendors try to move merchandise.

Convention deputies gathered at the close of the July 16 morning legislative session to commemorate the Rev. Gregory Straub Look-a-Like Day. Straub, the Episcopal Church’s executive officer and secretary of General Convention, is known for his madras-oriented attire, especially displayed at convention.

Exhibitor Shirley Tung catches a bit of rest at the Latin America Committee booth a few hours before the close of the Exhibit Hall.

The Rev. Norm Freeman plays vibes with his quartet at the convention Eucharist on July 15.
BY PAT MCCAUUGHAN

Bishop Gary W. Lillibridge of West Texas read a statement to the House of Bishops July 16, acknowledging that a “majority of this convention believes that the Episcopal Church should move forward on matters of human sexuality.”

Lillibridge’s statement reaffirmed his commitment to the Windsor moratoria. He invited other bishops to join him in signing the so-called “Anaheim Statement.” Internet reports estimated that anywhere between 12 and 26 bishops had signed the statement, which Lillibridge reportedly presented in a closed session before the House of Bishops regular afternoon meeting.

“At this convention, the House of Bishops [HOB] has heard repeated calls for honesty and clarity. As the conversation has proceeded within the HOB, repeated attempts to modify wording which would have been preferable to the minority in the vote were respectfully heard and discussed, but in the end most of these amendments were found unacceptable to the majority in the house,” according to the statement.

“Many in the majority believed the amendments would make the stated position of this house less honest about where they believe we are as the Episcopal Church,” it continued.

Bishop Edward J. Konieczny of Oklahoma told a convention news briefing that “when the statement was read, it was clear to everyone in the house that this was not a statement of division.”

Rather, “it was a statement of unity and acknowledging and recognizing that we have listened to one another intently and we’ve done that with open hearts and mind, and that there was a thankfulness for that on the part of all. That particular statement was not intended to be anything other than them sharing with the wider communion that we are working together on this difficult issue,” he added.

Bishop James Mathes of San Diego agreed, adding that Lillibridge’s statement “was offered in a loving and appreciative way of the conversation we had.”

It included “clarity of where they are, but also in appreciation for the listening [that went on] in earlier conversations in the last few days.”

Konieczny said that upon his return to Oklahoma he would relay to his diocese that the 76th General Convention deliberations about LGBT issues were a “generous conversation and a commitment, at least in the House of Bishops, on the part of all the bishops to honor and recognize each bishop in the particular context and circumstance in which they find themselves given the changing environment across the country” about civil laws concerning same-gender unions and marriage.

Mathes planned to use his diocese’s Report of the Task Force on Holiness in Religion and the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions “to discern God’s call to us moving forward about how to respond pastorally to people who have divergent views on this issue,” he said.

“You’re going to see many different responses” by bishops, Mathes added. “That’s that pastoral generosity of what this General Convention has articulated.”

Lillibridge’s statement also expressed gratitude for bishops who have reached out to those holding minority viewpoints.

“It is apparent that a substantial majority of this convention believes that the Episcopal Church should move forward on matters of human sexuality. We recognize this reality and understand the clarity with which the majority has expressed itself. We are grateful for those who have reached out to the minority, affirming our place in the church,” according to the statement.

“We seek to provide the same honesty and clarity. We invite all bishops who share the following commitments to join us in this statement as we seek to find a place in the church we continue to serve.”

The Windsor Continuation Group’s final report had included a request for moratoria on same-gender blessings, cross-border interventions and the ordination of gay and lesbian people to the episcopate, to avoid further straining the bonds of communion after the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, who lives in a same-gender relationship.

---

BY JANET KAWAMOTO

From engaging in advocacy in various committee meetings to speaking to the House of Deputies and the Episcopal Church Women Triennial, the 18 members of the Official Youth Presence have been deeply engaged in the work of the church since their arrival in Anaheim.

“They are passionate about their church,” said Bronwyn Clark Skov, program officer for Lifelong Christian Formation and Youth, who is leading the support team for the young people. They don’t think as a bloc, she said; they represent a range of viewpoints.

But even when they disagree, they are united in being “mobilized for evangelism and mis-

sion in the world.”

The young people, aged 16 to 18, have seat and voice but no vote in the House of Deputies. Resolution D066, if passed, would begin the process of amending the church’s canons to give the youth representatives the right to vote.

The young people maintained a blog at www.episcohodam.blogspot.com that includes occasional reports on their experience at convention.

The young people are:

- Province I: Lilianna Watson (Connecticut) and Amy Esposito (Rhode Island)
- Province II: Daniel de los Cobos (Convocation of American Churches in Europe) and Austin Roe (Long Island)
- Province III: Carolyn Chou (Pennsylvania) and Grace Aheron (Southwest Virginia)
- Province IV: Michael Sahdev (Southeast Florida) and Zach Brown (Upper South Carolina)
- Province V: Elizabeth Anderson (Michigan) and Lucky Middaugh (Western Michigan)
- Province VI: Elizabeth Overbo (North Dakota) and Abby Levis (Iowa)
- Province VII: Megan Alban (Western Missouri) and Adolpue King (Texas)
- Province VIII: Clemente Aguirre (Oregon) and Jacqueline Bray (San Diego)
- Province IX: Joshua Howel (Puerto Rico) and Esther Monge (Puerto Rico)
Protest appreciated  
Residents of Anaheim are very grateful to the Episcopalians for caring and joining the hotel worker protest on July 14. You have put into practice what you preach and believe in. Thank you.

P.S. I am not a Disney employee but an Anaheim retired businessman that cares about the struggling people of our community that want justice in their workplace.

Amin David  
Anaheim, Calif.

Continue insurance conversation  
These important conversations and implementation of a denominational health plan should continue to include the clergy and laity employees of the Episcopal Church in Province IX dioceses (except Puerto Rico); in the case of these dioceses, maybe national/diocesan health plans could do it. Also, a subsidy or benefit from the [Church Pension Group] towards Province IX diocesan health plans also could be considered.

A177 is a giant step in the process of effectively addressing the issue of ongoing high costs of diocesan/parishes’ health insurance plans. Thank you.

The Rev. Canon Juan I. Marquez  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Help find employment  
It seems to me that if we can fund programs and projects around the globe, and even help our staunchest critics in charity, I think our church is big enough that any person or person(s) who would be losing their job with the church could be found meaningful employment from our ranks. Time to start thinking out of the box and use what we have: our imagination and our resources.

Just a thought!

John-Albert Dickert  
Cincinnati

Thanks for the message  
Thank you, Bishop Charleston, for your excellent Eucharist message on the environmental problems facing us. I hope that the Episcopal Church, with its intelligence and courage, will take a leadership role on this issue for the world to see.

Ron Merkord  
Fillmore, Calif.

Environmental emphasis  
Bravo, Bishop Charleston, I agree with you that the “great work” of our generation is to educate ourselves about our relationship with the environment, to learn to delight in it as God’s creation and to learn to live sustainably, so that our children and children’s children (and on and on) will be able to live.

I myself have tried to reach people of the Episcopal Church – and beyond – through another medium: the printed page (Grounded in Love: Ecology, Faith and Action). Like you, I think that the good people of faith communities can become a resource in leading humanity into a new paradigm and lifestyle. This requires a change of heart and of will and feels like a vocation to me, as it does to you.

I rejoice that you have spoken out; let us hope that this vocation is contagious!

The Rev. Nancy Roth  
Oberlin, Ohio

Bold talk  
It is very refreshing to hear a bishop speak out so boldly about the environmental disaster that has been building for the last few decades. Now if parish clergy and lay people will take up the cause, the Episcopal Church can finally get on board as a total denomination and not just a scattering of members here and there.

The Rev. John Crist, president,  
Midwest Institute for Environmental Spirituality, Streator, Ill.

Help interims, too  
It would be wonderful if there also were better provision for those of us called to intentional interim ministry who struggle between positions to pay the mortgage, much less pay our own health coverage through Church Medical. We cannot afford to make payments to our pension fund either. Not all interims are independently wealthy or retired.

The Rev. Linda Baker Pinoe  
Woodstock, Ga.

Speed the process  
It’s nice to see some of the clay falling from the feet of the leadership of our church! Still, the church’s gay and lesbian children will have to wait yet another three years to see if same-sex blessing liturgies will be approved.

The work has been done, the theology scrutinized, the liturgies written. Shake the rest of the clay from your feet (as opposed to the sand!) and allow for the use of these trial liturgies now!

Priscilla Harrison Bates  
Tiverton, R.I.

Bless service animals  
A liturgy for companion animals is such a wonderful idea! One of the reasons I joined my parish was because of their Blessing of the Animals event.

But I also would like to bring to your attention that a liturgy for service and therapy animals needs to be created. Examples are guide dogs for the blind, animals for the deaf, animals certified by the Delta Society for therapy visits to nursing homes, hospitals, schools, etc.

This special liturgy would help bring those people into the church. Remember, Christ said bring all to him ... not just those that are able-bodied.

Cheryl May  
Lake Worth, Fla.

Praise for convention  
This week I have seen the Episcopal Church that I joined in 1976 become that church again: a church that opens its arms and embraces all people.

Congratulations to all at the [General] Convention for doing what Christ calls us to do.

Susann M. Eller  
Fort Worth, Texas

Send your comments to  
letters@episcopal-life.org
From breath to wonder: L.A. Night rocks arena

BY PAT MCCAUaghan and JANET KAWamoto

Church happened in a dynamic, big and “transformational” way with multimedia presentations on themes such as breath, sky, connectivity and wonder at the July 15 L.A. Night at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena.

Bishop Jon Bruno of Los Angeles welcomed some 3,000 convention-goers, armed with “post-modern votives” – glow sticks – to the program, which focused on emergent church.

Participants alternately clapped, danced, laughed and were silent and reflective during presentations by well-known emergent church author Brian McLaren; the Rev. Jimmy Bartz of Thad’s, a Los Angeles-area emergent church; the Thad’s band; and the Rev. Barry Taylor, a pastoral associate who began the “Se7en” emergent church service at All Saints Church in Beverly Hills.

Working in tempera paint on a lighted easel, artist Norton Wisdom depicted colorful scenes on glass throughout the program as photographic images of people and nature were projected onto screens.

The evening program was divided into seven “cycles:” breath, sky, water, earth, connectivity, mystery and wonder.

In the “water” cycle, an enormous translucent bowl of water was brought into the hall, where Bruno blessed it with words from the rite of baptism and young people from the congregation took bowls of water to sprinkle on participants.

“We are earth touched by water and light from the sky,” said McClaren, speaking during the “connectivity” cycle.

Weaving a theme of wholeness among God in Christ, humankind and nature, McClaren said, “Sin is, in a real sense, apartness.” In the King James version of the Bible, he said, the word now translated as “heal” is “make whole.”

Referring to the healing stories in the Gospels, McClaren said that in each case Jesus restores parts to the connectivity of the whole. “Jesus enters into the sickness of humanity,” he said. “He enters the body politic and binds us into wholeness with earth and sky and water and breath.”

Through music and words, Taylor described an encounter with God as “a sacred secret … that can only be birthed within us and lived through us.”

Bartz, a self-described “country preacher who’s never lived in the country … but likes it,” told the gathering, “I love to read back into the gospel and hear Jesus say the kingdom of Heaven is now, the kingdom of Heaven is at hand, and I can say to my brothers and sisters and co-renegades that I see the kingdom happening when we’re eye-to-eye, when we’re palm-to-palm, even when we’re at odds with one another. Even if it means the chair needs to be left at the table for a time and that’s part of our practice.”

Poet Dominic Flores delivered with 21st-century rapidity a “tweet”-style composition: Jesus do you love me? If you do text me LUV/Come on Jesus answer me ASAP/I need this immediately/Text me yo J/Hit me back man …

Those attending reacted enthusiastically to the event, which was produced by the Diocese of Los Angeles as a gift to the General Convention.

The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, who leads an emergent congregation in Boston, said, “I get excited every time we get to bring our whole selves before God in community. I looked back and saw the Presiding Bishop clapping along to the music, and thought, ‘This is my church!’”

Noting the enthusiasm shown by the crowd, she added, “This is how you ought to feel when you come out of church — to be sent out with energy for God’s mission.”

Volunteers needed for Episcopal Church work

The work of General Convention doesn’t stop after the July 17 adjournment.

The committees, commissions, agencies and boards (CCABs) of the Episcopal Church seek new volunteers to help them carry out the work assigned to them.

The CCABs may receive resolutions from General Convention; study, review and discuss matters within their mandates during the following three years; and recommend policies and resolutions for the next convention.

After General Convention concludes, the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies will make their appointments to the CCABs. The Presiding Bishop appoints bishops, and the President of the House of Deputies appoints lay persons, priests and deacons.

Except for the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church; the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance and the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, it is not necessary that nominees be bishops or deputys.

Most CCABs meet between two and four times each year, and all members must agree to serve a full term, which may be a six-or a three-year term, depending on the body.

Submissions are being accepted from May 1 until July 17, the last legislative day of General Convention. A form for volunteering to serve on CCABs for a six-year term is available at www.ccab09.org. This form can be completed online, or printed out and faxed to the General Convention Office at (212) 972-9322 or delivered to the General Convention Secretariat in the Anaheim Convention Center during convention. The forms will remain online until July 21.

General Convention’s Deputy Executive Officer, Caspar van Helden, is available to answer any questions. He can be reached at 212-716-6144, or cvanhelden@episcopalchurch.org. Kevin Lee Romero, van Helden’s assistant, is also available at 212-716-6044 or kromero@episcopalchurch.org.
Several times during this convention, and during Sunday’s media briefing, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has said, “We are an international church.” Our international guests have shared in our hope, and our brothers and sisters of Province IX share in our work. Perspectivas Latinas spoke with a few deputies and visitors of Province IX and Latin America to learn their feelings of this General Convention 2009.

Overall their feelings were positive and all said of convention, “Muy buena,” but many had the proposed budget in mind. The Rt. Rev. Armando Guerra of Guatemala said, “It’s always a welcome opportunity to meet old friends and brothers of faith… It’s an experience of faith to meet new people and find old friends.” While he noted that he will return home with “the warmth of humanity and good wishes,” Guerra also expressed some concern over budgetary matters and commented that he leaves with some “bad news… There are many programs and work [whose funds are gone] that need to be re-evaluated.”

The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench of Ecuador Central agreed that overall the convention was “positive,” but noted that the “next three years will be difficult. We must maintain a spirit of hope. We must sacrifice and do more with our resources.” Ramos-Orench reminds us, however, that “God is one of abundance and will provide the resources to enable us to do our work.”

Francisco Quiñones of Puerto Rico, a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, noted the “difficult and hurtful” work of the committee, and said that overall, General Convention is “very refreshing spiritually.”

Also on the minds of many were the resolutions dealing with sexuality. The Rev. Canon Emily Morales of Puerto Rico commented that “we have faced big challenges and we have been able to work with them and overcome them.” Morales added, “We continue to maintain good relations even though we differ on many issues, but the love of Christ overcomes all these differences.”

The Rev. Ramón Ubiera Torres of the Dominican Republic noted, “Sometimes we do not agree, but that is part of the learning that we take back.”

Deputies from the Diocese of Puerto Rico, Walmarie Gerardino and Gloria García-González.

Diputadas de la Diócesis de Puerto Rico, Walmarie Gerardino y Gloria García-González.

Arias veces durante esta convención, y durante el encuentro con los medios el domingo, la Obispa Presidenta Katharine Jefferts Schori ha dicho, “Somos una iglesia internacional.” Nuestros invitados internacionales compartieron nuestra esperanza, y nuestros hermanos y hermanas de la IX Provincia comparten en nuestro trabajo. Perspectivas Latinas conversó con varios diputados y visitantes de la IX Provincia y Latinoamérica para entender sus impresiones de la Convención General 2009.

Generalmente sus impresiones eran positivas y todos dijeron de la convención, “Muy buena,” pero muchos tenían en la mente el presupuesto de la Iglesia Episcopal. El Rvdm. Armando Guerra de Guatemala dijo, “Siempre es buena la oportunidad de encontrarse con amigos y hermanos de fe… Es una experiencia de la fe encontrarse con gente que uno no conoce y re-encontrarse con gente conocida.” Mientras que él notó que va a regresar a casa con “el calor humano y los buenos deseos,” Guerra también expresó preocupación sobre los asuntos presupuestales y comentó que va de regreso con “malas noticias… Hay muchos programas y trabajo [cuyos fondos han desaparecido] que tienen que ser re-evaluados.” El Rvdm. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench de Ecuador Central estuvo de acuerdo que la convención era “positiva,” pero notó que “los próximos tres años van a ser difíciles. Tenemos que mantener un espíritu de esperanza. Tenemos que sacrificar y hacer mejor con los recursos.” Ramos-Orench nos recuerda, sin embargo, que “Dios es uno de abundancia y proveerá recursos para hacer nuestro trabajo.”

Francisco Quiñones de Puerto Rico, miembro del Comité Permanente Conjunto sobre Programa, Presupuesto y Finanzas, dijo que el trabajo del comité fue “difícil y doloroso” y agregó que generalmente, la Convención General es “muy refrescante muy espiritual.”

También en las mentes de muchos estaban las resoluciones acerca la sexualidad. La Rvda. Canóniga Emily Morales de Puerto Rico comentó que “nos hemos enfrentado a grandes retos y hemos podido trabajar con ellos y superarlos.” Morales agregó que, “Nosotros seguimos manteniendo muy buenas relaciones aunque diferimos en muchos asuntos, pero el amor de Cristo sobrepasa todas esas diferencias.” El Rvd. Ramón Ubiera Torres de la República Dominicana comentó, “A veces uno no está de acuerdo, pero es parte del aprendizaje que nos llevamos.”
A Diocesan Ministry of Advocacy for Latinos/Hispanics

The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista Betances works as Canon for Latino/Hispanic Ministries in the Diocese of Washington. He is also priest at La Iglesia de la Ascensión, Gaithersburg, Maryland; and serves as vice-president of Casa Maryland, the largest advocacy group for the rights of immigrants in the metropolitan areas of Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Bautista spoke with us about the importance of creating ‘Latino Missioner’ diocesan positions. He commented that these positions are vital for the strategic growth and mission of the church, help Latino/Hispanic voices to be heard at the diocesan level, and serve as a recognition to the missionary focused ethos of Latino/Hispanic communities. In addition, Bautista shared with us his passion in the formation of lay leadership, where working together for a common good is the ultimate goal. In Padre Simón’s case, this common good is to bring about social justice, to support the immigrants in their constant struggle in society; and last but certainly not the least, accomplish comprehensive immigration reform for all those who do not possess the same rights of documented people. Hence, Bautista’s diocesan ministry serves as a decisive force that unites base communities with the people. Hence, Bautista’s diocesan ministry serves as a decisive force that unites base communities with the different political stratum of society in an effort to achieve equal rights and opportunities for all.

When questioned about the greatest need of the church in order to more extensively develop Latino/Hispanic Ministry, Bautista told us that, “the church has to take a closer and intentional look at the Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics. The future of the church ought to reflect the continuous growth of the Latino/Hispanic population in the United States; and how that growth is already a blessing for American Society, for all churches, and in particular for us.” He further asserted, “Latinos/Hispanics have already brought many gifts to the life of the church; and our leaders need to see in us that transformational power that transcends our communities, while Latinos/Hispanics from all over have to work together by recognizing the different gifts that each brings to the church—we have to equally reaffirm our Christian vocation by walking together in a listening and respectful process that includes and values the contributions of all.”

-The Rev. Mario Milián

Un ministerio diocesano de abogacía para los Latinos/Hispanos

El Rvdo. Canónigo Simón Bautista Betances trabaja como Canónigo para los Ministerios Latinos/Hispanos en la Diócesis de Washington. Por otra parte, él sirve como pastor de la Iglesia de la Ascensión, en Gaithersburg, Maryland; y desempeña el cargo de vicepresidente de Casa Maryland, el grupo de abogacía para los inmigrantes más grande en el área de Washington D.C., Maryland y Virginia. Bautista habló con nosotros acerca de la importancia de tener ‘Misioneros Latinos’ trabajando en nuestras diócesis. Él nos comentó que los misioneros diocesanos Latinos/Hispanos son una fuerza primordial en la misión y el crecimiento estratégico de la Iglesia, y que también ayudan a que nuestras voces sean escuchadas a nivel diocesano, sirviendo al mismo tiempo como reconocimiento al carácter misionero de las comunidades Latinos/Hispanas. Por otra parte, Bautista compartió con nosotros su pasión pastoral en la formación del liderazgo laical donde todos juntos trabajan y se esfuerzan en alcanzar una meta común. En el caso del Padre Simón esta meta está basada en la promulgación de la justicia social, el apoyo a los inmigrantes en la lucha por sus derechos; y definitivamente en alcanzar una reforma migratoria para todos aquellos que están indocumentados. Por esta razón, el ministerio diocesano de Bautista sirve como una fuerza vital que une a las comunidades de base con los diferentes estratos políticos de la sociedad en un esfuerzo por alcanzar igualdad de derechos para todos.

Cuando le preguntamos acerca de la mayor necesidad de la Iglesia para poder desarrollar el Ministerio Latino/Hispano más exitosamente, Bautista nos dijo, “que la Iglesia tiene que intencionalmente estudiar La Visión estratégica para alcanzar a los Latinos/Hispanos. El futuro de la Iglesia debe reflejar el crecimiento continuo de la población Latino/Hispana en los Estados Unidos; y como ese crecimiento es una bendición para nuestra sociedad, las iglesias cristianas, y particularmente la nuestra”. Él agregó: “Los Latinos/Hispanos hemos brindado lo mejor de nosotros a la vida de la Iglesia; y nuestros líderes necesitan ver en nosotros ese poder transformador que va más allá de nuestras comunidades. Por otra parte, los Latinos/Hispanos de todas partes tenemos que trabajar juntos, reconociendo los diferentes dones que cada uno posee—tenemos que reafirmar nuestra vocación Cristiana al caminar juntos en un proceso donde las contribuciones de cada uno serán respetuosamente escuchadas y valoradas”.

-El Rvdo. Mario Milián

Perspectivas Latinas

The Rev. Cn. Anthony Guillén,
Program Officer: Latino/Hispanic Ministries
Dr. Luisa Bonillas, Editor
luisabonillas@alum.wellesley.edu

The Rev. Richard Aguilar
Eddie López
The Rev. Adrián Cárdenas
Sergio Maldonado
Hilario Cisneros
The Rev. Mario Milián
Nancy Frausto
Rosanna Rosado
Luis González
Alejandra Trillos
The Rev. Christy Laborda
The Rev. Daniel Vélez Rivera
Ema Rosero-Nordalm

¿Hay Blog en español durante la Convención General!
La dirección electrónica para la página de Blog es:
http://episcopalchurch.typepad.com/bloggersontheground/
**The Future of Our Country**

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER recently celebrated its 150 years of their spiritual presence in Elgin, Illinois. On average, there are 50 members in the English speaking service and 200 members participating in the Latino/Hispanic service. Church of the Redeemer has experienced first hand the transitioning of its neighborhood and has actively responded to the changing needs. Eucharist services accommodate the current needs of their community; they have become a bi-cultural community living out their Mission to be Christ within their community, affirming one another’s spiritual growth, individual gifts, and faithfulness. The Rev. Pedro López, Rector, and The Rev. Amity Carrubba, Associate Rector, work collaboratively on securing that the joining of the ministries respond to the growing and changing needs of their communities. Carrubba shared “I was enticed by the bi-cultural ministry here at Church of the Redeemer.”

The congregations celebrate quarterly bi-lingual Eucharist, the booklet is written in both language and the language is alternated. The music is fully incorporated using both traditions of organ and guitars. Carrubba shared “The challenge has been on how to incorporate the various cultural aspects of the liturgy.” Traditionally, the English service is held at 9:30 am and the Spanish at 11:30 am. The vestry is made up of equal representation of both communities; securing that everyone is bilingual and their finances have been unified.

In addition, both congregations immersed their youth in mission trips collaborating with the relief efforts in New Orleans and Mississippi, youth retreats, annual cook outs and in January chilly cook-offs. Additional programs consist of soup kitchens feeding an average 120 people, Cursillos, Sunday school for youth and children, couples counseling and leadership development programs. Carrubba resonated that “we need to become a bi-lingual congregation; it’s the future of our country and the church if we are to remain relevant.” López also shared “We must really love all of the people God has placed in our paths; make them feel welcomed, give them a real Bienvenida.”

-Rosanna Rosado

**El futuro de nuestro país**

LA IGLESIA DEL REDEENTOR, celebró recientemente sus 150 años de presencia espiritual en Elgin, Illinois. Por regla general, hay 50 miembros en el servicio en inglés y 200 miembros que participan en el servicio latino/hispano. La iglesia del Redentor ha experimentado de primera mano la transición de su comunidad y ha respondido activamente a las cambiantes necesidades. Los servicios eucarísticos se amoldan a las necesidades cotidianas de su comunidad; se han convertido en una comunidad bi-cultural que vive su misión hacia fuera, a fin de ser Cristo dentro de su comunidad; afirmando el crecimiento espiritual de prójimo, sus dones individuales, y la fidelidad. El Reverendo Pedro López, el Rector, y la Reverenda Amity Carrubba, Asociada al Rector, trabajan colaborativamente para asegurarse de que la interconexión de los ministerios responda ante el crecimiento y las necesidades cambiantes de sus comunidades. Carrubba compartió: “fui atraído por el ministerio bi-cultural en la Iglesia del Redentor.”

Las congregaciones celebran una Eucaristía bilingüe cada tres meses, el programa es escrito en ambas lenguas y de forma alterna. La música se encuentra totalmente integrada usando ambas tradiciones de órgano y guitarras. Carrubba compartió con nosotros que “el desafío ha sido sobre el cómo incorporar varios aspectos culturales de la liturgia.” Tradicionalmente, el servicio en inglés es ofrecido a las 9:30 a.m. y el servicio en español a las 11:30 a.m. El Consejo Parroquial está compuesto con igual representatividad de ambas comunidades; asegurando que cada uno sea bilingüe y sus finanzas se encuentran unificadas.

Además, ambas congregaciones han involucrado a su juventud en viajes de misión donde colaboran haciendo esfuerzos por aliviar a otros en Nueva Orleans y Mississippi; también realizan retiros juveniles, preparan picnics, y competencias en la preparación de “Chilly.” Otros programas adicionales consisten en la realización de “Ollas Comunales” con un promedio de 120 personas, Cursillos, Escuela Dominical para jóvenes, niños y niñas, el asesoramiento de parejas y programas de desarrollo de liderazgo. Carrubba señaló que “tenemos que hacernos una congregación bilingüe; esto es el futuro de nuestro país y de nuestra iglesia, si es que queremos permanecer relevantes.” López también compartió: “Debemos amar de verdad a todo el pueblo que Dios ha colocado en nuestro camino; hagámonos sentir bienvenidos, démosles una verdadera Bienvenida.”

-Rosanna Rosado

Many also look forward to the future of Province IX and the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dimas David Muñoz of Puerto Rico explained that “there is a connection between Hispanic ministry and Province IX, and we need to help each other and unite to take our voice as Hispanics and Province IX to the Episcopal Church.” Finally, a young deputy from Puerto Rico, Glorianne García-González, noted, “[I wish] for there to be more opportunities for young people... for them to be able to express themselves not only in English but also in Spanish. It is very important that we highlight that we are a multicultural and multilingual church.”

-Luis González & Eddie López

Muchos además miran hacia delante, al futuro de la IX Provincia y la Iglesia Episcopal. El Rvdo. Dimas David Muñoz de Puerto Rico explicó que “hay una conexión entre el ministerio hispano y la IX Provincia y que necesitamos ayudarnos unos a otros y unirnos para llevar la voz como hispanos y de la IX Provincia a la Iglesia Episcopal.” Finalmente, una diputada joven de Puerto Rico, Glorianne García-González, comentó, “[Quisiera] que se les dé más oportunidades a los jóvenes... de que puedan expresarse, no solo en inglés sino que se puedan expresar también en español. Porque es muy importante que se resalte que somos una iglesia multi-cultural y multi-lingüística también.”

-Luis González & Eddie López
MILDRED GONZÁLEZ is a Latina Episcopalian of Puerto Rican descent; she has extensive experience with the Episcopal Church Center. González has been involved with the Church Center since 1996. She began as secretary to Bishop Charles L. Keyser of the Armed Forces in the areas of health and prison ministry. From 2001 to 2005, she worked for The Rev. Canon Daniel Caballero, the former Director of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, subsequently she continued to work for the Latino/Hispanic office with The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillén from 2005 to 2007.

González is currently the technical support specialist for the Partnerships Center. She explains that the office has various program areas and that she is in charge of the logistics of events, conferences, trips and church meetings. She also added, “Since 2008, I’ve been working under the leadership of Antoinette (Toni) Daniels, the Director of the Partnerships Center. I can say that I am excited with this work, it affords me the opportunity to be in contact with old and new friends from Provence IX, Regional Central American Anglican Church (IARCA, by its Spanish acronym) and the Coalition of the Episcopal Dioceses of the Northern Part of South America (CONDENSA, by its Spanish acronym).”

She also shared with us that in all the years of work in the church she’s has noticed the increase in the Latino/Hispanic personnel in every department of the Episcopal Church Center. That has motivated her and has filled her with great joy and satisfaction. Through her experience, González recognizes that the Episcopal Church values the gifts we bring as Latino/Hispanics to the life of the church. She goes on to state, “this is reflected in the great support the Strategic Vision received during this General Convention.”

Finally, having been in front of an experienced Latina Episcopalian in the Episcopal Church Center, we wanted to ask for her advice or recommendation for the future emergent Latino/Hispanic leadership. González shared, “I would recommend as in every job, give importance to communication and in our case, in particular, to study and dominate English.” When González initiated her work in 1996, she was a recent graduate, she knew very little English; although she shared that she always found the support of colleagues and supervisors. She states, “These experiences made me feel welcomed and helped me to grow as a professional and as a Christian. I am convinced that the new thriving generation of Latino/Hispanic Episcopal leadership, will find the same support I received.”

---

-The Rev. Adrián Cárdenas


González es actualmente Especialista de Soporte Técnico del Centro de Compañerismos. Ella nos explicó que esta Oficina cubre varias áreas de programas, y que ella en particular se encarga de la logística para eventos, conferencias, viajes y reuniones de la Iglesia. También agregó: “Desde que me uní a este trabajo, en el año 2008, bajo el liderazgo de Antoinette (Toni) Daniels, la Directora del Centro de Compañerismos; puedo decir, que me encuentro fascinada con las posibilidades del cargo. Mis labores me brinda la oportunidad de estar en contacto con muchos viejos y nuevos amigos de la IX Provincia, Iglesia Anglicana de la Región Central de América (IARCA) y Coalición de Diócesis Episcopales del Norte de Sur América (CONDENSA).”

Nuestra entrevistada nos compartió que en todos estos años de trabajo en la Iglesia ha podido notar el incremento del personal hispano/latino en cada departamento del Centro Episcopal, eso la ha motivado y le ha llenado de una profunda alegría y satisfacción. Por su experiencia, González conoce que la Iglesia Episcopal valora los dones que traemos los latinos a la vida de la Iglesia, y según sus palabras: “eso se comprueba en el tremendo apoyo que ha recibido la Visión Estratégica presentado en esta Convención General.”

Finalmente, aprovechando la ocasión de estar frente a una mujer latina de experiencia en el Centro Episcopal, quisimos pedir su recomendación o consejo para el liderazgo latino episcopal emergente y futuro, a lo que González nos dijo: “Yo recomendaría que como en todo trabajo den mucha importancia a la comunicación, y en nuestro caso en particular, al estudio y dominio del inglés.” Cuando González inició sus labores en 1996, siendo apenas una recién graduada, conocía muy poco el idioma; no obstante, ella nos señaló que siempre contó con el paciente apoyo de sus colegas y jefes. Ella dice, “Esta experiencia me hizo sentir bienvenida y me permitió crecer más como profesional y como cristiana. Estoy convencida que la floreciente nueva generación de líderes hispanos/latinos episcopales por venir contarán con mismo apoyo que yo tuve la oportunidad de recibir.”

-El Rvdo. Adrián Cárdenas
Dear Delegates and Board Members,

I end this endurance test with a full heart and a sense of accomplishment. Thank you, Kay Meyer, for asking me to edit Triennial Today. I enjoyed it much more than I could have imagined. Most of that was because of the many wonderful women who helped, served and encouraged our efforts. Thank you. Your stories and witness are such an inspiration.

Thank you also for praying and rejoicing with me this week on the birth of my first grandchild, a little girl. It’s been like being embraced by 350 fairy godmothers! Go safely and in the peace of Christ.

Nan Ross, editor

It has been a blessing to be among you and an honor to hear and tell your stories in Triennial Today. Thank you for your support and contributions. We so appreciate your willingness to write stories, proof read, take photos, post issues to the Web site and round up information or people when we needed help. You are all Honored Women to us!

Special thanks to these contributors: Karen Birr, Michael Brooks, Christine Budzowski, Richard Burt, Jim DeLa, Liz Habecker, Marcia Himes, Kay Meyer, Karen D. Powers, Mary Ann Ransom, Beverly Ruebeck, Ellen Sloan, Erin Smith, Barbi Tinder, Lisa Towlie, Diane Walker, Mary Williams

Stephanie Ciscel Brown, designer
Delegates take UTO resolutions to bishops, deputies

BY NAN ROSS

A TEAM of six representatives of the Episcopal Church Women Thursday went to both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies to present two resolutions passed unanimously earlier in the day by Triennial delegates.

One resolution states delegates “strongly recommend” the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies add one more UTO representative and two ECW representatives to a committee studying the relationship of the church and United Thank Offering.

The other resolution invites the Executive Council to reactivate its liaison representation on the UTO board and the ECW board, which would uphold the two groups’ bylaws.

Triennial delegates confer with Bishop Wayne Wright of the Diocese of Delaware, head of dispatch of business for the House of Bishops, about the opportunity to introduce two resolutions from ECW. From left are Lynn Tyler of the Diocese of New Hampshire, Anne Hover of the Diocese of Northwest Texas and Amy Swiernik of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. PHOTO: BARBI TINDER

Himes brings leadership skills, passion

MARCIA HIMES of Riverton, Wyoming, was elected president of the ECW board to serve until the next Triennial Meeting in 2012 in Indianapolis.

Himes served on the board from 2003 to 2006 and ran for president in 2006 but was not elected. She said she felt called to run again.

Himes became an Episcopalian early in her marriage and she and her husband are members of St. James’, Riverton, in central Wyoming. She considers herself a team player and believes in the servant leadership method, believing “no job is too small or mundane.”

As a middle school educator, she feels strongly about mentoring young people, “not only for their education, but for ours. They do bring a lot to the table if we just give them a chance.”

Himes said she brings her “leadership skills and passion for women’s and young people’s ministries” to the national ECW board. “I know this is a board of dedicated and passionate women who accomplish any goals they set.”

At the July 16 installation of the new ECW board are President Marcia Himes (right) of the Diocese of Wyoming and social justice member-at-large Irene Radcliff of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Each new board member is presented with a shawl. PHOTO: BEVERLY RUEBECK

DELEGATES take UTO resolutions to bishops, deputies

BY NAN ROSS

A TEAM of six representatives of the Episcopal Church Women Thursday went to both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies to present two resolutions passed unanimously earlier in the day by Triennial delegates.

One resolution states delegates “strongly recommend” the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies add one more UTO representative and two ECW representatives to a committee studying the relationship of the church and United Thank Offering.

The other resolution invites the Executive Council to reactivate its liaison representation on the UTO board and the ECW board, which would uphold the two groups’ bylaws.

Triennial delegates confer with Bishop Wayne Wright of the Diocese of Delaware, head of dispatch of business for the House of Bishops, about the opportunity to introduce two resolutions from ECW. From left are Lynn Tyler of the Diocese of New Hampshire, Anne Hover of the Diocese of Northwest Texas and Amy Swiernik of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. PHOTO: BARBI TINDER

Himes brings leadership skills, passion

MARCIA HIMES of Riverton, Wyoming, was elected president of the ECW board to serve until the next Triennial Meeting in 2012 in Indianapolis.

Himes served on the board from 2003 to 2006 and ran for president in 2006 but was not elected. She said she felt called to run again.

Himes became an Episcopalian early in her marriage and she and her husband are members of St. James’, Riverton, in central Wyoming. She considers herself a team player and believes in the servant leadership method, believing “no job is too small or mundane.”

As a middle school educator, she feels strongly about mentoring young people, “not only for their education, but for ours. They do bring a lot to the table if we just give them a chance.”

Himes said she brings her “leadership skills and passion for women’s and young people’s ministries” to the national ECW board. “I know this is a board of dedicated and passionate women who accomplish any goals they set.”

At the July 16 installation of the new ECW board are President Marcia Himes (right) of the Diocese of Wyoming and social justice member-at-large Irene Radcliff of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Each new board member is presented with a shawl. PHOTO: BEVERLY RUEBECK

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Friday, July 17
Remember those involved in communication and all staff, visitors and guests.

Episcopal Church Women’s Prayer
Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.

MEET YOUR COMMUNICATION VP

Marilyn Rishkofski just completed a three-year term as Province 1 representative on the ECW board and Monday was elected to serve as vice president for information and communication. She wants to connect women of the Episcopal Church “whether it’s using the telephone or Twitter.” Rishkofski says, “Communication is about listening too. We want to hear what women need and want” from ECW. Contact her at marilyn@artexperienceinc.com. Owner of an art gallery and framing company, Rishkofski is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Hampton, N.H.

Himes brings leadership skills, passion

MARCIA HIMES of Riverton, Wyoming, was elected president of the ECW board to serve until the next Triennial Meeting in 2012 in Indianapolis.

Himes served on the board from 2003 to 2006 and ran for president in 2006 but was not elected. She said she felt called to run again.

Himes became an Episcopalian early in her marriage and she and her husband are members of St. James’, Riverton, in central Wyoming. She considers herself a team player and believes in the servant leadership method, believing “no job is too small or mundane.”

As a middle school educator, she feels strongly about mentoring young people, “not only for their education, but for ours. They do bring a lot to the table if we just give them a chance.”

Himes said she brings her “leadership skills and passion for women’s and young people’s ministries” to the national ECW board. “I know this is a board of dedicated and passionate women who accomplish any goals they set.”

At the July 16 installation of the new ECW board are President Marcia Himes (right) of the Diocese of Wyoming and social justice member-at-large Irene Radcliff of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Each new board member is presented with a shawl. PHOTO: BEVERLY RUEBECK