A Final Report on
2017 Episcopal Youth Event:
Path to Peace

The 2017 Episcopal Youth Event (EYE17) was held July 10-14 at University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) is a triennial international event mandated by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church through #1982-D079 so “that the energy of the youth of the Episcopal Church can continue to be utilized in active ministry as members of the Body of Christ.” This was the 13th Episcopal Youth Event.

Location: University of Central Oklahoma
Siting EYE is solely the task of Presiding Bishop’s staff. A number of locations were considered for EYE17. The Diocese of Oklahoma initiated conversations about holding EYE in Oklahoma City at EYE11 in Minnesota. Among the most important criteria for siting EYE is the local diocese’s passion for supporting and resourcing an event of this magnitude. Other criteria for site selection:

- Location and ease of transportation to airport
- Ability to facilitate an event of up to 1,500 individuals
- Capacity for large worship space accommodating up to 1,500 individuals
- Capacity for campus housing and configuration to meet standards set in Safeguarding God’s Children Model Policies and practices
- Dining hall capacity
- Workshop and meeting space capacity
- Affordability
- Availability

EYE17 Planning Team
Serving on the Episcopal Youth Event Planning Team requires a major commitment of time and energy from youth and adult leadership across the church. This relatively small team plans and implements every component of the event. Team participants are proven leaders in the church, who have demonstrated maturity in leadership, passion for service and a commitment to living out the Gospel.

This EYE17 Planning Team, comprised of 16 youth and 8 adult mentors, was chosen from the more than 49 youth and over 37 adult applicants who took the faithful and vulnerable step to offer themselves for this service. The Team was chosen for its demographic and geographic diversity as well as each applicant’s capacity for evangelism, service learning, cultural diversity, liturgy, music, teaching, spiritual practices, and pastoral care.

The application process was entirely online and required completion of several essay questions by both the applicant and her/his nominator.

Serving on the EYE17 Planning Team were:
Youth

- Enmanuel Almeida, Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana
- Tyler Benting, Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Kiera Campbell, Diocese of Olympia
- Christi Cunningham, Diocese of Fond du Lac
- Jenna Elmer, Diocese of Oklahoma
- Rachel Feenstra, Diocese of Connecticut
- Josh Floberg, Diocese of North Dakota
- Andrés Gonzalez-Bonillas, Diocese of Arizona
- Pierce Hubbard, Diocese of Spokane
- Rebecca Loncar, Diocese of Michigan
- Trevor Mahan, Diocese of Kansas
- Avery Nasworthy, Diocese of Massachusetts
- Leyla Robinson, Diocese of Maryland
- Devon Shank, Diocese of Southwest Florida
- Sharisma Ubiera, Diocese of New Jersey/Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana
- Chenyeng Vang, Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Adult Mentors

- Arlette Benoit, Diocese of Atlanta
- Mindy Boynton, Episcopal Church in Minnesota
- Ronald Ruiz Braman, Diocese of Idaho
- Maggie Foote, Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Myra Garnes, Diocese of Long Island
- Samantha Haycock, Diocese of California/Diocese of Arkansas
- Christoph Herpel, Convocation of Episcopal Church in Europe
- Frank Sierra, Diocese of West Missouri

Additionally, adults served in a variety of Team support roles for EYE17. They are:

Presiding Bishop’s Staff

- Bronwyn Clark Skov, Youth Ministries Office
- Valerie Harris, Association, Formation Department
- Wendy Johnson, Event Coordinator
- Shannon Kelly, Pastoral Care Team Coordinator

Diocese of Oklahoma Liaison

- Elizabeth Canaday, Diocese of Oklahoma

Chaplains

- Grace Aheron, Diocese of Virginia
- Randy Callender, Diocese of Maryland

Medical Team

- Julia Dominick, Diocese of Georgia
- Sarah Klitzke, Diocese of Dallas
Musician
- Sam Hensley, Diocese of Texas

Interpreters
- Dinorah Padro
- Gabriela de Castro

Pastoral Care Team Leadership
- Rich Clark, Diocese of Florida
- Gladys Rodriguez, Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Sister Barbara Jean Brown, Diocese of Delaware
- Cookie Cantwell, Diocese of Upper South Carolina
- Jess Elfring-Roberts, Diocese of Chicago

As indicated in the timeline, the EYE17 Planning Team met four times. Work was accomplished both with the entire Team working together as well as in four smaller groups:

- Liturgy & Music
- Hospitality
- Program
- Evangelism

**EYE17 Planning Team Meetings**
At the first EYE17 Planning Team meeting in Edmond, OK, participants spent time getting to know each other, discerning personal work and communication styles, reviewing the Four Core Values of EYE, and defining the terms used during EYE. For example, the Team considered the differences between a sermon and a keynote address in the large event context. The Team also discerned committee assignments and spent significant time in scripture and prayer to discern a theme. The final EYE17 theme, Path to Peace, was chosen at this first meeting based on the team’s sense of call from the chosen scripture, the Beatitudes, and their experience of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

The second EYE17 Planning Team meeting was held October 13-16 in Minneapolis, MN. During the meeting, the Team spent time reviewing each smaller group’s tasks for EYE17 and then cycling between group meetings and Team meetings to ensure time to be both task-oriented and collaborative.

The third Planning Team meeting was held February 23-26 at Kanuga Camp & Conference Center in North Carolina. During this meeting the groups dug into the hard work of detail planning for EYE17.

The final Planning Team meeting was held April 20-23, back in Minnesota. The meeting focused on wrapping up final details for EYE17 and identifying work that needed to be done between April and the event start in July. This time the Planning Team was joined by 14 adults from Province IX, who
are in the initial stages of planning a youth event in Province IX. Their attendance was facilitated by a grant from the Constable Fund.

**Pastoral Care Team**

The Pastoral Care Team was expanded for EYE17 to give adults, especially young adults, in the Episcopal Church an opportunity to serve at EYE17 in a new capacity. Pastoral Care Team members were chosen through an application process that opened in fall 2016. There were four possible roles:

- Dorm Crew – 12 individuals served in this capacity
- Peer Minister – 14 individuals served in this capacity
- Medical – 5 individuals served in this capacity
- Chaplain – 4 individuals served in this capacity

35 individuals were chosen for the Team out of 84 applications received through the online process. All chosen participants had at least one reference checked and were background-checked and Safe Church trained. The Pastoral Care Team met online prior to EYE17 with the Team Coordinator, the Rev. Shannon Kelly, to prepare. In addition, the Pastoral Care Team arrived on campus the day before EYE17 was underway to organize and take care of any last minute preparations.

**Registration and Pricing**

As with previous EYEs, dioceses were asked to appoint a registrar to coordinate logistics, registration, transportation and payment. EYE17 was open to youth enrolled in 9th through 12th grade during the 2016-2017 school year.

In an effort to keep prices low, the cost for EYE17 was set at $350/individual, which included programming, housing, meals and transportation to and from the airport/train station. This represented only a $25 increase over EYE14. Dioceses were responsible for arranging their own transportation to Oklahoma City.

Each diocese was allowed to register up to 30 individuals; 24 youth plus adults observing a ratio of no more than one adult for every 4 to 6 youth. Adult leaders were required to be Safe Church trained and background-checked as affirmed in writing by their diocesan bishop. It was also recommended that adult leaders be at least 25 years old. Some younger adults were welcomed as leaders being mentored by older, seasoned adult leaders.

Registration opened January 9, 2017 and was an entirely online process. Participants were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through the deadline of March 15, 2017.

**Online Footprint**

One of the most significant expansions of EYE continues to be our online footprint. Using #EYE17, we used Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube to publish original social media posts leading up to and during the event. During the event, social media traffic was so high that the hashtag was “trending” on Twitter each day of the event. In May 2017, EYE17 debuted a mobile app that included a live schedule, worship materials, campus map, special instructions, announcements, and social media hub. Everything published on the app was also available in paper.
New this year, EYE17 expanded into Spanish-language social media with a Facebook group, listed below, targeted to a Spanish-speaking audience. EYE17 contracted with Edgar Giraldo, who contracts with the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, to post and manage the page.

Each of the EYE17 plenary and worship sessions were webcast in both English and Spanish using YouTube Live with the original footage remaining on the EpiscoYouth YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/EpiscoYouth. The Spanish webcasts picked up the feed from our Spanish simultaneous interpreters. Edited, branded videos of all keynote addresses and sermons were made available following the event.

Worship at EYE17
The worship experience was carefully planned by the EYE17 Planning Team’s Liturgy & Music Team in consultation with Presiding Bishop’s Office staff. All worship was projected and offered on paper and on the EYE17 app. Both services incorporated both English and Spanish, offering simultaneous interpretation, as needed both through interpreters and on screens. EYE17 contracted with Hugo Oliaz to provide Spanish translation for all worship services. During the final Eucharist, youth from a primarily-Hmong congregation in St. Paul, MN sung the Lord’s Prayer in Hmong.

Both worship services were webcast in both English and Spanish and linked through the Formation Department’s English and Spanish social media channels.

EYE17 contracted with Carrie Thomas, St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, for layout of the worship bulletins.

Music at EYE17
All music was provided by the House Band, organized by EYE17 Team Musician Sam Hensley, included: Aimee Bostwick, Joel Joa, Blaigne Sixon, Demethia McVea, Edward Dickerson, Erin Walter, and Samuel Belcher. The House Band rehearsed twice before EYE17. The song setlist is here: http://bit.ly/EYE17Songs.

Offering at EYE17
EYE17 generously gave $3,424.12 in cash offering and three car trunks full of toiletries for donation to three local charities. The cash offering from both worship services were combined and divided between our two plenary organizations. Offering recipients and amounts were:

- Kids4Peace received $2,282.74
- The Oklahoma City National Memorial received $1,141.38
**Praxis Sessions**
Attached is a list of the 45 EYE17 Praxis sessions that were offered on Tuesday and Thursday. Session ideas were submitted online and presenters were chosen from participants, exhibitors, and volunteers already planning to attend EYE17. Resources and materials from Praxis Sessions are available here: [http://bit.ly/EYE17Praxis](http://bit.ly/EYE17Praxis).

**New Community Luncheon**
On Tuesday afternoon, the Offices of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, Indigenous Ministries, Black Ministries, and Asiamerican Ministries hosted the New Community Luncheon as a “celebration of the Episcopal Church which is increasingly diverse, multicultural, and multilingual.” 276 EYE17 participants attended this event.

**Jr/Sr Dinner**
On Thursday evening, the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Office hosted a dinner for Juniors and Seniors designed to help them connect with young adult and campus ministries and the wider church as they graduate from high school. 360 EYE17 participants attended this event.

**Oklahoma Day/Red Dirt Carnival/Beautiful City Compline**
On Wednesday, the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma sponsored a day-long pilgrimage, of sorts, to important and meaningful sites in Oklahoma City, the state fairgrounds, National Cowboy Museum, Oklahoma History Center, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, among others. That evening, the diocese sponsored the Red Dirt Carnival. Dinner was provided by food trucks. Following the Red Dirt Carnival, participants made their way to the Oklahoma City National Memorial for a compline service planned and sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma and led by the Rev. Tim Sean Youmans and The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Day was the result of a year of planning by staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, especially Sabrina Evans, Director of Christian Formation and Beth Canaday and Aaron Mooney, diocesan volunteers.

**Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma**
The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma provided invaluable support, resources, and guidance throughout the planning and implementation of EYE17, including the following diocesan leadership:

- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of Oklahoma
- Sabrina Evans, Director of Christian Formation
- Nicole Baxley, Communications Director
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Bill Carroll, Canon to the Ordinary and Chief of Staff

Oklahoma recruited more than 75 volunteers to staff the event. In particular, the following volunteers provided countless hours of support:

- Beth Canaday
- Aaron Mooney
- Tim Sean Youmans
- Kate Huston
EYE17 Daily Schedule

Monday, July 10
Because participants were arriving throughout the day and into the event, Monday of EYE17 was devoted to welcoming weary travelers and orienting participants to the campus, with an evening of dinner and informal but organized recreational opportunities, including sports and games, open mics, inflatable equipment, and crafts. The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, especially Sabrina Evans, Christian Formation Director, and Beth Canaday and Aaron Mooney, local volunteers, organized all aspects of the airport welcome for EYE17.

Tuesday, July 11
At 9 am, we welcomed participants to EYE17 with a Celebration Eucharist. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached and the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell presided. Immediately following the worship service, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma, and two youth from the EYE17 Planning Team, Kiera Campbell and Trevor Mahan, joined local media for a press conference, organized by Neva Rae Fox, Officer for Public Affairs for the Episcopal Church, and Nicole Baxley, Communications Director for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. Lunch was provided in the cafeteria and individuals identifying with the four ethnic ministries of the Episcopal Church were invited to attend a New Community Luncheon. There were two sets of workshops after lunch in the afternoon. That evening’s plenary session began with Forward Movement announcing the play-in for one of the saints to compete in Lent Madness 2018; winner to be announced Thursday morning. Survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing spoke during the plenary session, sharing their witness of tragedy and hope. Talking points for discussing the plenary session and bedtime snacks were provided for participants at dorms.

Wednesday, July 12
Oklahoma City Day was organized and implemented by the Diocese of Oklahoma. EYE17 participants boarded buses after a brief morning prayer and visited locations of interest across Oklahoma City, including the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. The pilgrimage concluded with the Red Dirt Carnival, on the street between the St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Following the Red Dirt Carnival, participants processed through Oklahoma City, aspering businesses, open spaces, and roadways. Finally, they gathered for a candlelight vigil at the Memorial with The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma, offering a reflection. Throughout the day the Medical Team, Peer Ministers, and Chaplains spread across the sites to check-in on participants for pastoral and medical concerns. Snacks, sponsored by Episcopal Church Foundation, were provided on the bus for the trip home.

Thursday, July 13
Thursday, the final day of EYE17, kicked-off with a plenary session in the morning with reflections from Kids 4 Peace, including three youth who traveled from as far away as Jerusalem, and the K4P Executive Director, Father Joshua Thomas. Workshops followed lunch and the evening concluded with a final Eucharist with the Rev. Winnie Varghese preaching and the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings presiding. A highlight of this final Eucharist was Andrés González-Bonillas’ reading of his original spoken word poem, “Alabanza,” which can be found here: http://bit.ly/EYE17alabanza. Also at this Eucharist, participants received the gift of three Peace Coins. Modelled after challenge coins, these
coins were given to remind each individual of their call to be peacemakers. They were encouraged to give their second coin to someone they witnessed engaged in peacemaking. More about the Peace Coin: [http://bit.ly/EYE17PeaceCoin](http://bit.ly/EYE17PeaceCoin). Thursday evening snacks were sponsored by Forward Movement.

*Friday, July 14*

Participants began departing EYE17 with the first airport bus leaving campus at 3:30 am and the last departing at 11 am. The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, especially Aaron Mooney, who served as the local volunteer coordinator, organized final departures.
The Four EYE Core Values
The established core values for EYE were revisited and updated by EYE17 Planning Team. Originally created in 2011 by the Youth Ministry Advisory Council, these statements define the identity of the event and inform design and planning decisions.

1. Focusing on God’s presence in our lives, EYE will provide an opportunity and create an environment where young people and adults who accompany them can continue to grow on their journey in faith.

2. Striving to be a uniquely Episcopal Community and acknowledging that each person is a child of God and that we are called together into a full relationship with God and God’s Creation, we claim that we are a sacramental people of common prayer with diverse understandings and cultural contexts, all of whom work together as the Body of Christ.

3. Celebrating our mission and our ministry as the Body of Christ in Community, we will offer training for young people and adults and equip, inspire, and empower them to be faithful servant leaders and to work for peace in their local and diocesan communities.

4. Embracing the Anglican Mark of Mission: “To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation,” as our charge, we will strive to engage the passion and energy of faithful youth, to embrace their call to ministry, and to empower them to put their faith into action.

Formation Formula
The Offices of Young Adult and Campus Ministries and Youth Ministries have created a shorthand formula as a resource in guiding planning and work in Lifelong Christian Formation. The formula is:

\[
\text{Information/Education} + \text{Worship/Spiritual Practice} = \text{Transformation}
\]

While the formula is not intended to be exhaustive, it is a simple, practical way to engage conversations and resource development geared toward Christian formation. All of EYE17 was planned and implemented with the tenets of this formula in mind. In particular, Praxis sessions were named to specifically emphasize the intention of using those sessions to facilitate movement from education and worship to transformation through practice.

Collect for EYE17
In discerning a collect for EYE17, the Liturgy & Music Committee drew upon the liturgical resources from the church including the Book of Common Prayer. The EYE17 Planning Team invited all participants and Episcopalians across the church to join them in praying this collect in preparation for EYE17.

\[
\text{Almighty Lord, peacemaker of the world. We pray that you lead us down the path to peace as we yearn for peace in every form. We open our hearts to you as you reveal our calling through this mission. May there be love and acceptance in our hearts. May we also root ourselves in your vine and make our branches your path. As your roots strengthen all. In the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.}
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### EYE17 Timeline

- **EYE location scouting and logistics planning**: late 2015/early 2016
- **Application deadline for EYE17 Planning Team**: April 30, 2016
- **EYE17 location and date announcement**: April 30, 2016
- **EYE17 Planning Team announced**: June 2016
- **First EYE17 Planning Team meeting, Edmond**: July 12-17, 2016
- **EYE17 registration information released**: August 22, 2016
- **EYE17 Pastoral Care Team registration opens**: September 14, 2016
- **Diocesan Registrar webinars**: October 10 & 11, 2016
- **Second EYE17 Planning Team meeting in Minnesota**: October 13-16, 2016
- **EYE17 Theme announced**: November 2, 2016
- **Pastoral Care Team application deadline**: November 4, 2016
- **EYE17 online application opens**: January 9, 2017
- **Evento de Jóvenes Episcopales Constable Grant accepted**: February 9, 2017
- **Third EYE17 Planning Team meeting, Kanuga**: February 23-26, 2017
- **EYE17 participant registration deadline**: March 15, 2017
- **Final EYE17 Planning Team meeting, Minnesota**: April 20-23, 2017
- **EJE19 representatives from Province IX announced**: April 25, 2017
- **EYE17 final arrival and participation instructions sent to dioceses**: May 5, 2017
- **Diocesan Registrar webinars**: May 9 & 10, 2017
- **EYE17 staff arrive on campus**: July 8, 2017
- **EYE17 Planning Team arrives on campus**: July 9, 2017
- **EYE17 participants arrive on campus**: July 10, 2017
- **EYE17 participants and Team depart**: July 14, 2017
- **EYE17 staff depart**: July 15, 2017

### EYE17 By the Numbers

More than 1,400 participated representing 95 dioceses including Guam, the Convocation of European Churches, Alaska, and Hawaii.

- **755 youth** participated as members of diocesan delegations
- **217 adult mentors** participated
- **More than 300** staffed the event in various roles including as chaplains, dorm crew, 34 workshop leaders, 4 medical staff, 22 DFMS staff, and local hosts and volunteers.
- **17 individuals**, representing Episcopal organizations and offices, participated as exhibitors
- **35 bishops** attended EYE17
- **360 participants** attended the Jr/Sr dinner, sponsored by the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries
- **276 EYE17 participants** attended the New Community Luncheon, sponsored by the offices of Latino Ministries, Indigenous Ministries, Black Ministries, and Asiamean Ministries
## Final Summary Budget/Actuals

### Expenses

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| **Total**                               | $818,281.25 | $759,194.72  |

### Income

| EYE: From TEC Budget                     | $460,000.00 | $392,000.00  |
| EYE Registration ($350x900 participants) | $315,000.00 | $340,000.00  |
| Bishops                                 |             | $6,875       |
| Off Campus/Exhibitors                   |             | $2,875.00    |
| Pastoral Care Team                      |             | $2,625.00    |
| Staff                                   |             | $2,775.00    |
| NC Luncheon reimbursement                |             | $3,651.20    |
| Donations/Outside support               | $7,550.50    | $8,284.82    |
| Lost key fees                           | $300.00     | $300.00      |
| **Total**                               | $782,850.50 | $759,386.02  |