A Final Report on

General Convention
Official Youth Presence

General Convention
Children’s Program

Young Adult Festival

Episcopal Generations
Booth

Submitted by the Office of Formation and Vocation Ministries
Every third summer, Episcopalians from around the world gather for two weeks to form a body of believers charged with discussing, discerning and, in some ways, deciding the course of the church for the coming three years.

General Convention is a legislative meeting, an informational gathering, a collaborative opportunity and a spiritually uplifting and challenging experience. It is a chance to meet Episcopalians from all walks of life and all parts of the church and to share faith, food and a few laughs.

General Convention has intentionally incorporated young people into the life of the church through representation at General Convention. Beginning in 1982 with the creation of the Official Youth Presence and following in 2000 with the creation of the Children’s Program and the Young Adult Festival, General Convention has witnessed the ever-growing presence of younger people.

For the first time in 2012, the “generations” of the Episcopal Church gathered as one organized Booth to be represented at General Convention. This was intended to both present a new way of being church that breaks down generational barriers and to stimulate important theological conversations on all the ways we create divisions.

This report is on the four aspects of the involvement of younger people at General Convention.

Section 1:
General Convention Official Youth Presence, pages 3 through 7
Highlights include: 18 young people participating in the legislative process of the Episcopal Church, presenting testimony at committee meetings, addressing the House of Deputies from the floor, meeting with leadership and introducing important legislation that passed both houses.

Section 2:
General Convention Children’s Program, pages 8 through 10
Highlights include: Participation of more than 100 children and youth and 70+ adults in a substantive, faith-filled program.

Section 3:
Young Adult Festival, pages 11 through 13
Highlights include: 106 young adults learning about the legislative processes of the Episcopal Church and creating community among their peer group.

Section 4:
Episcopal Generations Booth, pages 14 through 16
Highlights include: Landmark collaboration across generations to create a Booth for the Exhibit Hall that generates new conversations about intergenerational church.
General Convention Official Youth Presence

For each General Convention since 1982, the Office for Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Church has convened and supported an Official Youth Presence to take part in the discernment of legislation on the floor of the House of Deputies with seat and voice (Resolution #1982-B045, see below).

Two youth per province are gathered, for a total of 18 young people who are selected to represent a diverse cross section of the Episcopal Church.

To be eligible a young person must be a Communicant in Good Standing, must be a minimum of 16 years of age at the time of General Convention and no older than 19, and must still be enrolled in high school during the previous school year. Each applicant and one nominator must complete an application form, including a statement of why the individual young person is interested in serving on the General Convention Official Youth Presence.

Preparing for the 77th General Convention

This year the Office for Youth Ministries utilized an online application and nomination process that was open from December 1 through January 15. The nine Provincial Youth Ministry Coordinators followed up on all nominations with calls to nominators and engaged in a prayerful discernment process to work together with Youth Ministries Officer Bronwyn Clark Skov to identify the best and most diverse representation possible of youth in the church.

Each coordinator prepared a slate of six top nominees that included an even number of males and females, diversity across ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and representation from all sizes of congregations across urban, suburban, small town, and rural settings.

The nine Provincial Youth Ministry Coordinators gathered in New Orleans with Skov ahead of the Forma (formerly known as NAECED) conference to discern the final picks.

For purposes of rooming in double rooms in the training and convention hotels, there has to be an even number of males and females causing the split to be 10 youth of one gender and 8 of the other. From the original field of 109 complete applications accompanied by complete nominations, in prayer and consultation with the coordinators, Skov determined the final choices.

Invitations were issued on February 6 and participants were announced on March 13.

If we think of the youth presence as like a diocese, no diocese is at the microphone more often than the youth presence. I mean that in a positive way. They seem to be fearless. They don't seem to be cowed by the fact that they're addressing the House of Deputies, and they're not afraid to ask questions or to express opinions. They use the position very well and often.

The Rev. Canon Gregory Straub, executive officer and secretary of convention, in an ENS article on Young People at Convention
Selected were:

Province I
- David Karpf, *Diocese of Connecticut*
- Sarah Neumann, *Diocese of Massachusetts*

Province II
- Elisabeth Engle, *Diocese of Western New York*
- Grace Steele, *Diocese of Long Island*

Province III
- David Kilp, *Diocese of Central Pennsylvania*
- Isabelle Lock, *Diocese of Maryland*

Province IV
- Benjamin Cowgill, *Diocese of North Carolina*
- Nora Vinas, *Diocese of Southeast Florida*

Province V
- William Burton-Edwards, *Diocese of Indianapolis*
- Julia Robinson, *Diocese of Ohio*

Province VI
- Emma Grundhauser, *Diocese of Minnesota*
- Cole Mayer, *Diocese of South Dakota*

Province VII
- Laurent De Prins, *Diocese of Western Louisiana*
- Maria Taylor, *Diocese of Arkansas*

Province VIII
- Ariana Gonzalez-Bonillas, *Diocese of Arizona*
- Patrick Melendez, *Diocese of California*

Province IX
- Darling Daniel Ortiz Chemountd, *Diocese of the Dominican Republic*
- Marlene Rodriguez, *Diocese of Puerto Rico*

Skov also received applications for Adult Mentors to accompany the 18 youth. The nine adults were chosen according to their specific gifts for ministry and skills. Shepherding 18 youth for 10 days through a largely adult event requires knowledge in Episcopal polity and legislative process without imposing partiality, energy to work long days one after another, attentiveness to basic needs for the entire group, ability to teach on the run as questions emerge, and intentionality in spiritual practices.

A chaplain was recruited for the group to assist Skov with the spiritual, pastoral, and medical needs of all participants. The 18 young people, along with the Adult Mentors gathered in Indianapolis the weekend following Easter to begin their journey to General Convention. The orientation and training weekend included community building, legislative education, parliamentary protocols, and discussion of broader issues impacting youth and the church.

**Highlights of participation in the 77th General Convention**

All participants in the Official Youth Presence are required to attend legislative committee meetings and hearings and are encouraged to speak to issues in hearings and during debate on the floor in the House of Deputies.

Youth events have taught me to speak even when my voice trembles.

Nora Vinas, Official Youth Presence member from the Diocese of SE Florida
Highlights of this participation included:

- Pre-Convention media training with Neva Rae Fox, Office of Public Affairs
- Meeting and conversation with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori
- Dinner and conversation - including a video interview that was posted online - with House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson
- Testimony given on a whole range of issues in committees, from baptism as a prerequisite for communion (Resolution C040) to a rite for same gender blessings
- Official Youth Presence participants speaking on the floor of the House of Deputies in favor of restoring funding for the Episcopal Youth Event
- Nora Vinas and Patrick Melendez addressed the House of Deputies, House of Bishops, and the Episcopal Church Women Triennium on behalf of the Official Youth Presence
- Official Youth Presence member, Ariana Gonzalez-Bonillas worked with the Rev. LeeAnne Watkins, Deputy from Minnesota, to draft and submit Resolution D067, encouraging dioceses to support the DREAM Act and to create a scholarship fund for undocumented youth
- Testimony on D067 was given both in committee and on the floor of the House of Deputies in both English and Spanish, demonstrating the wide reach of this important resolution and the meaningfulness of it to our Province IX representatives
- Passage of D067 and the work of Ariana Gonzalez-Bonillas, and all of the Official Youth Presence members, garnered a standing ovation on the floor of the House of Deputies
- Multiple participants spoke on the floor of the House of Deputies and worked actively to support D045, which would restore funding for youth ministries in DFMS
- Ariana Gonzalez-Bonillas, Nora Vinas, and Luz Cabrera (Young Adult Mentor/Spanish Interpreter) were interviewed on a panel for New Generation Latinos (NGL)
- Official Youth Presence members had the opportunity to meet and engage former Official Youth Presence participants currently serving as elected deputies
- Official Youth Presence members actively engaged Resolution A049 on Same Gender Blessings, both for and against passage of the Resolution

The youth participating in the Official Youth Presence for the 77th General Convention were motivated, poised, and responsible in their work. They were impressive in their passion and engagement and sincere in their presence. They modeled decorum and respectfulness throughout the Convention and demonstrated that the voice of young people can and should have an impact as the church discerns its future.

Being with OYP at General Convention is like dancing with the Holy Spirit. Those who think the Church is dying have never spent time with GCOYP. Keep it up -- keep being the Church and changing the Church and listening to God's call.

The Rev. Vincent Black, Diocese of Ohio and GCOYP Mentor
**Staffing**

The Official Youth Presence was accompanied by a team of Adult Mentors who were discerned from their work on previous youth events. They are:

- The Rev. Vincent Black, Diocese of Ohio Canon for Christian Formation
- Luz Cabrera (Spanish Interpretation Assistance) Diocese of Texas and GCOYP Alumnus
- The Rev. Randy Callender, Diocese of Maryland, S.O.U.L. Conference Alumnus, Youth Advisor for the Union of Black Episcopalians
- Cookie Cantwell, Diocese of East Carolina and Province IV Youth Ministries Coordinator
- The Rev. Earl Gibson, Diocese of Los Angeles and Province VIII Youth Ministry Coordinator
- Jane Gober, Diocese of Rio Grande
- The Rev. Shannon Kelly, (OYP Chaplain) Diocese of Ohio and Province V Youth Ministry Liaison
- The Rev. Francisco Morales Colon, Priest in the Diocese of Puerto Rico, Province IX
- Jay Phillippi, Diocese of Western New York and Province II Youth Ministry Coordinator
- Cecilia Alomia, Spanish Simultaneous Interpreter for training weekend
- Dinorah Padro, Spanish Simultaneous Interpreter for training weekend
- Wendy Johnson, (Social Media Consultant for OYP) Diocese of Minnesota
- Valerie Harris, Associate for Formation and Vocation Ministries DFMS staff
- Bronwyn Clark Skov, Officer for Youth Ministries DFMS Staff

**Communication**

The 77th General Convention represented a watershed year for digital communication in the Episcopal Church, and the Official Youth Presence was no different.

Beginning with the nomination process and running throughout General Convention, the Official Youth Presence was represented online through a combination of blogging, YouTube videos, and photography, all of which can be found on the EpiscoYouth blog, [episcyouth.org](http://episcyouth.org) - combined with official reporting from Episcopal News Service.

Video introductions of each provincial Official Youth Presence pair were published before the start of General Convention.

From Convention, daily video blogs highlighting members of the Official Youth Presence were the cornerstone of communications. These 3-5 minute videos were augmented by videos taken of testimony as it was given, as well as photos and short reflections submitted to the EpiscoYouth Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/EpiscoYouth](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscoYouth), via smartphone. These

---

You have done yourselves proud, you have represented your dioceses, parishes and families magnificently well.

Jay Phillippi, Diocese of Western New York and Official Youth Presence Mentor
posts increased traffic on the Facebook page and blog by as much as 4-5 times.

**Resolutions that Created the Official Youth Presence**

**Resolution # 1982-B045** Concurred as amended at GC 1982, New Orleans
Title: Invite a Youth Presence at Future General Conventions
*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 67th General Convention of the Episcopal Church through the administration of the National Church invite a youth presence as a permanent part of all future General Conventions of the Episcopal Church.

**Resolution #1994-D115** Concurred as Amended at GC 1994, Indianapolis
Title: Support Seat and Voice for Youth at Church Conventions
*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention allow, support, and accept seat, and voice, for the official Youth Presence of the General Convention; and be it further *Resolved*, That seat, and voice, be allowed, supported, and accepted for youth at their respective diocesan conventions.

**Resolution #2000-D027** Adopted GC 2000, Denver
Title: Amend House of Deputies Rule XV.60(a)[Official Youth Presence on Floor]
*Resolved*, That the house of Deputies Rule 60(a) be amended, with an additional sentence as follows: In addition, up to 18 youth (not more than two youth from each Province) who are duly authorized representatives known as the Official Youth Presence, shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the House.

---

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Convention meeting</td>
<td>$30,455.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention registration - GCOYP</td>
<td>$7,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention registration - adults</td>
<td>$540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background checks</td>
<td>$268.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention expenses</td>
<td>$17,266.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention travel</td>
<td>$12,323.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention hotel</td>
<td>$19,239.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$87,653.37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constable Grant</td>
<td>$80,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$80,200.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Expenses above and beyond the Constable Fund Grant were covered from the budget of the Office for Youth Ministries.*
The General Convention Children’s Program is so much more than just a place for children to be while their parents do church work. Having children on-site means the entire church community is present. It has been reported that the presence of the children impacts how Bishops and Deputies go about their work and gives meaning and context to the decisions being made.

Providing meaningful programming can impact the lives of our youngest Episcopalians. It is an opportunity that not only transforms the child but can impact the age of deputations by allowing parents/guardians of school age children to serve as deputies.

**History**

The first Children’s Program was offered in 2003 at the 74th General Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Children from 5 years to 10 years of age were welcomed and provided substantive faith formation programming throughout the event.

At the 75th General Convention in 2006 in Columbus, Ohio, **2006-D058 Provide Child Care Facilities** at General Convention was passed in direct response to requests to expand the ages offered programming:

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangement be directed to make age appropriate care and educational programs available for children birth to age twelve available for the duration of the 76th General Convention and all future General Conventions; and be it further Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces be encouraged to provide similar services for conventions and synod meetings.*

The program offered at the 76th General Convention held in 2009 in Anaheim, California consisted of a full program for children from birth to 11 years of age.

**Children’s Programming at 77th General Convention**

A full Faith Formation Program for Children was offered throughout the 10-day General Convention. Programming was offered whenever official business was being conducted, typically from 7 AM to as late as 9:30 PM, as dictated by the General Convention legislative and hearing schedule. In total in 2012, the Children’s Program was offered for 150 hours over a period of just 10 days.

**Staffing**

The Children’s Program was comprised of a total of 72 staff (75% of whom were volunteers) offering 1,350 hours of time to the General Convention.

**Children’s Program Vision:**

*To provide an environment grounded in Safety, Security, Community, Mission and Fun for children attending the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.*
All were trained in Safeguarding God’s Children and full background checks were performed on all staff. In addition, licensed, professional childcare providers were hired for the nursery and licensed nurses were hired to be on-call.

Staffing included the following positions:
- Overall Program Coordinator, Contracted by DFMS
- Local Program Coordinator, Diocesan Staff/Volunteer
- Licensed Nursery Caregivers, Paid based on enrollment
- Counselors, Volunteers based on enrollment
- Nurses, Paid based on enrollment

**Program Elements**

The Children’s program was a partnership between the office of the DFMS Formation & Vocation Office and the local diocese. The Office supported the program design, operations, program coordinator, training and partial funding. The local diocese provided the staff, resources, training and partial funding. Planning began a full two years before Convention occurred.

The diocese recruited, trained and scheduled volunteers. Christ Church Cathedral housed a private chef who provided healthy delicious child friendly food. The “In Kind” donations of supplies and materials from individuals and congregations in the diocese is valued at $3,600. Additionally, the diocese paid $12,366 toward the program expenses. This is an unprecedented donation that has no precedent in past Conventions.

Youth counselors from Camp Way Cross helped design the program, which was experiential, interactive and grounded in our Episcopal identity.

**Worship**

For the first time the children had a reserved “soft space” at the front of worship. Parents were allowed to join their children and children not enrolled in the program often joined the gathering at the front. The location made it possible for visitors to spend time with the children after worship. Bishops visited and musicians would join the children and let them experience the instruments and answer any questions. There were several child readers and on several days the children helped with the administration of communion.

**Space**

One of the biggest challenges of coordinating the Children’s Program is finding appropriate physical space. The rooms used by the Children’s Program must be close enough to meeting spaces so that parents can conveniently drop-off and pick-up their children. The nursery had to meet local and state requirements regarding restrooms and running water.

*There was never a time when the Diocese of Indianapolis said we can’t do this….they not only rose to the task at hand but exceed all expectations. The diocesan team was creative, imaginative, flexible and caring. They approached the work as a ministry to with and for the Children, not as a task.*

Ruth-Ann Collins, Staff Officer for Lifelong Christian Formation
Additionally, the nondescript hotel space had to be transformed into a safe, welcome space for children.

Team work was key in meeting these challenges. Lori Ionititiu, General Convention Manager, worked with the planning team to ensure we had four rooms: one for the Children, one for the younger children, a room that was converted to a nursery complete with rocking chairs and cribs, and a space for staff to take much needed breaks.

**Partnerships**

2012 marked the first year additional partners participated in developing the Children’s Program. These included:

- Camp Way Cross (the diocesan camp): Marking the first year the Children’s Program worked with the local camp, Camp Way Cross provided 10 individuals who worked as counselors.
- Episcopal Relief and Development: Using the Abundant Life Project curriculum, Cindy Coe, Episcopal Relief & Development Education Consultant, taught several sessions for the older children. The children also visited the exhibit hall and had an opportunity to meet Rita Mosquito in the ERD Booth. Each child received a t-shirt and Tool Bag full of gardening tools and instructions on how they along with their parents could bring the Abundant Life Project back to their congregations.
- National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM): Since the Children’s Program is recognized as a “child care” program under federal and state regulations, nurses were required to be available during all operating hours. While this is a budget item of $2,000, NEHM provided on call nurses for use for no cost and local nurses volunteered their time.
- Latino Ministries: Margarita Santana was trained as a Children’s Program coordinator. Since General Convention adjourned, Margarita coordinated a Children’s Program for 2012 Nuevo Amanecer, the first time a full children’s program has been held at a Latino Episcopal conference.

**Highlights of General Convention Children’s Program**

- Largest number of participating children (48)
- Children as young as 8 months old were in the nursery
- Inspired by their visit to the Episcopal Relief and Development booth, the children raised money to buy a net for the Nets for Life program.
- For the first time in the program, 3 generations of one family were able to be present: 8 month old Tiberius was there with his mother who was a deputy and his grandfather who is a bishop.
- Children visited the Indianapolis Zoo, Children’s Museum, Camp Way Cross and got to go swimming
- In-kind donations from individuals, congregations, and diocesan groups totaling roughly $3,600.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention-related expenses</td>
<td>Registration fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and housing expenses</td>
<td>Total income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total paid by DFMS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses paid, Diocese of Indy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind donations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now in its fourth occurrence, the Young Adult Festival is an integral part of General Convention. The Festival encourages and equips young adults, ages 18-30, to engage fully in General Convention by providing access, training, and a community of support for processing the events of convention with peers and mentors. It is designed to develop a new generation of church-wide leadership and to raise the profile of young adults and young adult ministries at General Convention and across the church as a whole.

History
In 2003, the first Young Adult Festival was held at General Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At that first event, the Festival was located in a house off site and focused on self-care and personal development aspects. About 40 people participated. Despite lower numbers, the energy and passion of these young adults had such an impact on DFMS that young adult ministry was affirmed as a top mission priority for the coming triennium.

The Young Adult Festival continued to grow over the following three Conventions, changing both in format and substance with each location and the nature of the issues facing the church.

Young Adult Festival at 77th General Convention
In 2012, the Young Adult Festival welcomed 106 participants, fewer than a dozen of which were engaged as chaperones or ministers, for six days of the 8 day Convention. Thirty dioceses were represented as well as the Philippine Independent Church.

Cost was $275 for a shared room, $425 for a single room, $100 for commuters. At the 77th General Convention, Young Adult Festival participants outnumbered young adult deputies 5:1.

Staffing
The Young Adult Festival relied primarily on three staff for organization and leadership:

- Jason Sierra, Officer for Young Adult Leadership and Vocations
- Glenn Libby, Campus Ministry Coordinator (DFMS Consultant)
- Campus Minister at UCLA and USC, Diocese of Los Angeles
- Shannon Kelly, Young Adult Network Development Coordinator (DFMS Consultant) – Diocese of Southern Ohio
Program Elements

The program was designed by a team of committed young adults:

- Patricia Egbert, Chicago
- Shawn Evelyn, Los Angeles
- Laura Oliver, Texas

Programming was developed to incorporate both education and ample time for participation in the life of the church and of General Convention.

Education: Workshops were offered in three general tracks:

- Equipping young adults to take part in GC: Mary Getz of Episcopal Public Policy Network offered an “Intro to General Convention.” Jason Sierra offered “Episcopal Church Polity 101.”
- Equipping young adults for continued ministry in the church: Church leaders participated in a panel to talk about their road to ministry and current work, including Kim Robey of Anglican Women’s Empowerment, Larry Bourgeois of the diocese of Southern Ohio, Matthew Moretz of “Fr Matthew Presents” fame, and Caroline Hall of Integrity. Other topics included Starting a Young Adult Ministry, led by Lauren Caldwell, diocese of Atlanta and Nils Chittenden, diocese of North Carolina. and Staying Involved In the Church, led by Jason Sierra.
- Fun: No Young Adult Festival would be complete without fun. The Fun workshops included a Drumming Workshop for both youth and young adults led by Lacey Brown.

Internships: For the first time, internships were incorporated into the fabric of the Young Adult Festival. Based on the model of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship’s Young Adult Presence, a total of 24 interns were deployed among 9 organizations. Most organizations took 1-2 interns, with exception of Episcopal Peace Fellowship, which took 9, and Episcopal Service Corps, which took 4. Each individual organization paid the Festival registration fee for their interns (including housing and program). Interns performed any number of tasks, such as event facilitation, advocacy, testifying at committees, tracking legislation, shadowing staff, staffing the organizational booths, meeting with leadership, communications/social media, reporting, and blogging.

Worship
Worship was focused on centering the Young Adult Festival engagement with General Convention and building community. Worship was led by professional musician, liturgist, percussionist, music teacher and youngish adult, Lacey Brown from Seattle’s Church of the Apostles (COTA) in the Diocese of Olympia. Lacey was assisted by KJ
Lysen, also of COTA.

Through worship, the Festival reimagined traditional hymns as well as celebrated through Brown’s original compositions.

**Celebration of Young Adult Ministries – “Leading Not Leaving”**

On Saturday, July 7, the Young Adult Festival and Episcopal Young Adult and Campus Ministries joined Episcopal Service Corps in sponsoring a Celebration of Young Adult Ministries titled, “Leading Not Leaving.” The reception was designed to recognize and honor the importance of young adult participation in General Convention and the life of the church, to celebrate the partnership between Episcopal Service Corps and DFMS, and to provide a chance for all young adults and young adult ministers to gather in community.

More than 250 attended, including youth visitors, interns, workshop presenters, Episcopal Service Corps representatives, bishops, the President of the House of Deputies, Presiding Bishop, and DFMS staff.

**Space**

The primary location for the Young Adult Festival was the Hilton Downtown, located just a few blocks from the Convention Center where General Convention was held. Having the Festival in the hotel where participants were staying facilitated development of community through common housing. A lounge was provided on the hotel second floor with art supplies, information, refreshments, games, and prayer space.

**Partnerships**

The Young Adult Festival worked with several partner organizations:

- Episcopal Service Corps hosted an evening snack and information break
- Forward Movement hosted an evening snack and information break
- Megan Castellan of Arizona hosted a Millennial Leaders conversation
- Black Ministries hosted a conversation on school to prison pipeline

In addition, the Episcopal Church Indigenous, Latino, and Asiamerican Ministries all sponsored young adults so that they could attend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenses</strong></th>
<th><strong>Income</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Convention expenses</td>
<td>Participant registration $11,123.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Convention meeting travel</td>
<td>Sponsoring organizations $ 6,240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention travel</td>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong> $17,363.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals and refreshments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Convention expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$67,058.57</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Episcopal Generations Booth - and all that it set in motion - was the result of a Planning Team made up of five generations of Episcopalians. Each was deeply gifted, motivated, faith-formed and willing to take on the very difficult task of living and working faithfully out of personal experiences and contexts, while also becoming open and respectful towards those who have other experiences and contexts. In other words, the Planning Team was able to “Mind the Gap” enough so that the Spirit could work.

The Booth Planning Team learned from their experiences of “the generation gap.” The gap wasn’t simply funny, or something far-off in a more remote (safe) category of social justice, or advances in technology, or even theology. The gaps are much more about intimate concerns of comfort, identity, security, connection, meaning, welcome, exclusion, or the lack there-of, as they pertain to being part of the Church of Episcopal Generations.

With this theme at the center of the work, the Episcopal Generations Booth incorporated this playful and recognizable slogan, “Mind the Gap,” throughout the booth’s elements.

Planning team members were:
- The Rev. Les Carpenter
- Sarah Midzalkowski
- Kate McKey
- Kathryn Rickert
- Janie Stevens
- Bronwyn Skov
- Ruth Ann Collins
- Jason Sierra and
- The Rev. Daniel Brown.

Booth Elements
Several cartoons, brainstormed by the group and authored by Jason Sierra, were displayed around the perimeter of the booth that depicted examples of generation gaps. Questions for conversation about how to identify and bridge each of the gaps were articulated as a beginning place for discussions.

Several of the cartoons can be viewed at http://episcopalgenerations.wordpress.com/category/general-convention/.

The group is also working on developing a study guide for this resource to be offered as a vehicle for congregational conversations, adult forums, and study groups. Release of the guides will be announced by the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team in winter of 2012/13.
The Booth used daily themes based on the Charter for Lifelong Learning. They were:

- **July 3, 4 & 5 centered on “Invite”:** God invites all people to enter a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service to hear the Word of God through scripture, to honor church teachings and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, to respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, reflecting our diversity and cultures and to hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the gospel message. The Booth provided a variety of playing cards, books, and drawing materials for participants to create an invitation to experiencing God.

- **July 6 & 7 centered on “Inspire”:** God inspires all people to experience Anglican liturgy, to study Scripture, to develop new learning experiences and to prepare for a sustainable future. Play-Doh® was provided for people to mold as they were inspired.

- **July 8 & 9 centered on “Transform”:** By doing the work Jesus calls us to do, carrying out God’s work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace; by striving to be a loving and witnessing community, by seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration, and by holding all accountable to lift every voice to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Booth also incorporated the Five Marks of Mission and the Baptismal Covenant which are embedded in the Charter for Lifelong Learning.

**Interactivity**
“Interactivity” was incorporated into many of the activities especially the Play-Doh® and the Godly Play story. These activities often led to meaningful and substantive conversations on God, Spirit, church and other theological topics with those who stopped to explore.

“A Rite for the Blessing of Episcopal Generations Cards” was one of the examples of unintended outcomes!

**Connectivity**
As with all Exhibit areas, some walked right by the booth but more often than not they stopped and were very clearly drawn into the issues and questions around minding the gap. This is clearly a topic that is at the heart of the church - one that engages the hearts and minds of faithful Episcopalians across the DFMS. The decks of playing cards, Episcopal Generations, worked very well when we used them as a way to begin a conversation and to meet people.
Engagement
Going beyond simply connecting, more than a few people returned to the booth day after day to continue conversations about the gap.

Inquiry
The Booth was a place of questions. Some folks came by just to ask “how to” or “where to find” kinds of questions.

In addition, the Booth was a place of developing clarity around the “Generations” branding. Use of the word “Generations” is a little confusing to folks who are not on the inside of the church.

**Budget/Actuals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Convention meeting expenses</td>
<td>$140.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Convention travel</td>
<td>$1,450.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>$15,937.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>$1,651.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,180.12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This report is based on a full report from the Episcopal Generations Booth. The full report is available by contacting Valerie Harris, Associate for the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team at vharris@episcopalchurch.org.*