



Purpose/Vision

The Episcopal Church (TEC) and friends and supporters of The Episcopal Church of Cuba (ECC) seek to invite all Episcopalians in a process of welcoming and reconciliation with the ECC, by participating in the Cuba Pensions Campaign.

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, the 27th Presiding Bishop, invites us to think beyond the immediate goal of fund raising for the pensions of our brother and sister clergy. “That is a worthy effort; but there is more. We are inviting the whole church to a common moment of mission. This is an opportunity to learn about Cuba and the Episcopal Church there and for us all to get to know each other. This is a time and moment of doing some work of reconciliation between our peoples especially in the US and Cuba. This is part of the work of reconciliation, bringing us together across historic divides. This is not just fund raising, it’s following Jesus and finding our way back to each other.”

When this Campaign effort ends after a few months, we expect that it will have created lasting bonds of affection and support for ECC across our church.

Background/History

The Episcopal Church of Cuba traces its origins back to 1901, when the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church established the Missionary District of Cuba under the jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop. During the 1960s, the government led by Fidel Castro began cracking down on religion, jailing religious leaders and believers. Because most interaction between Cuba and the US was embargoed, in 1966 ECC was made an autonomous diocese within the Anglican Communion, under the oversight of a Metropolitan Council comprising the Primates of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Church in the Province of the West Indies, and TEC. That action caused considerable pain during ECC’s time of great need. ECC was not left without some economic support. Local US parishes, plus the Anglican Church of Canada and TEC have provided substantial grants to support the operating budget over the years.

In July 2018, with great joy after 52 years of separation, the 79th General Convention voted to re-admit the Episcopal Church of Cuba as a diocese of the Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Cuba will join TEC’s Province II, which includes two other Caribbean dioceses – Haiti and the Virgin Islands.

Led by the Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, the ECC is a church that is growing and increasingly having an impact on communities throughout Cuba. With 46 congregations and missions led by 23 priests, along with an active lay leadership, it serves 10,000 Cuban Episcopalians and their neighbors. Its operating budget in 2017, which also includes all clergy compensation, was \$155,000.

The Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, 26th Presiding Bishop urges us all “To rejoice at the return of Cuban Episcopalians to this body and offer what we can for the well-being of those who have served so long and faithfully.”

What need is the Campaign for Cuba Pensions seeking to address?

When the ECC was separated from TEC, all of its systems and benefits, including pension contributions for the clergy, were no longer available. With readmission and reconciliation, justice requires that Cuban clergy be treated in a manner equivalent to their brother and sister clergy throughout TEC. Consider: The average monthly salary for the 23 Cuban clergy is \$55; but when they retire, they will not be eligible for any state pension or social security because the government does not recognize their service as employment.

How much are you seeking and when?

A one-time amount of \$800,000 is needed promptly – by June 9, 2019 – to provide funding for past contributions that, when invested by the Church Pension Fund, will provide future retirement benefits for 23 current clergy, three current retirees, and one surviving spouse.

Who is leading this effort?

With the blessing of the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, and his predecessors, the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, and the Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, the group is co-chaired by the Rev. Matthew Heyd, Church of the Heavenly Rest and the Rev. Dr. William Lupfer, Trinity Church Wall Street, and includes generous involvement from: the Rt. Rev. Chip Stokes, Diocese of New Jersey, Francis Armstrong, Church Pension Group, the Friends of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, The Episcopal Church, and other advisors listed below.

How will the funds be collected and where will they go?

All funds will be collected by The Episcopal Church and be relayed to the Church Pension Fund for their administration and asset management. No funds will be sent to or received directly by the Episcopal Church of Cuba.

What is the Church Pension Fund (CPG) Involvement?

CPG is a partner in this work. While clergy pension plan assets cannot be used to fund benefits for clergy for whom assessments have not been paid, CPG is lending its expertise and encouraging its employees to contribute to support ECC and make pension benefits available to eligible clergy.

What kinds of gifts will be accepted?

- **Cash:** Cash contributions allow one to receive the tax benefits of a gift in the year it is made. Outright contributions of cash are the most direct and immediate way of helping in this important effort.
- **Pledges:** Pledges may be made over a period of up to three years. All gifts will be acknowledged.
- **Securities:** Gifts of appreciated securities or other marketable assets are welcome. A gift of appreciated securities either publicly traded or from a private company, may provide significant tax advantages when compared to gifts of cash. The donor may deduct the current "fair market" value of the donated securities as a charitable gift and be exempt from the capital gains tax on the appreciation.
- Gifts are tax deductible, as provided by law. Please consult with your financial advisor to determine the maximum tax benefits for you.

How can I make a gift?

- Give securely online at episcopalchurch.org/give and select "Cuba Pension Fund" in the designation drop-down.
- Text 'PENSION' to 41444 (*messaging and data rates may apply*).
- Send your check in care of: The Episcopal Church Office of Development, Pensions Campaign, 815 Second Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- Learn more by visiting us at episcopalchurch.org/development/pension-campaign.
- Commemorative gifts may be given in memory of a loved one, or to honor someone special, and will be listed in accordance with the donor wishes, as appropriate.
- For questions, or to make your gift via wire or stock transfer, contact T.J. Houlihan, *Development Officer*, at thoulihan@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6271.

Campaign Leadership

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, 27 th Primate and Presiding Bishop	Chair
The Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, Bishop, Episcopal Church of Cuba	Honorary Co-Chair
The Rev. Gay C. Jennings, 33 rd President of the House of Deputies	Honorary Co-Chair
The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe, Executive Officer of the General Convention	Honorary Co-Chair
The Rev. Matthew Heyd, Rector, Church of the Heavenly Rest, NYC	Executive Co-Chair
The Rev. Dr. William Lupfer, Rector, Trinity Church Wall Street, NYC	Executive Co-Chair
Mrs. Patricia Cage, Friends of the Episcopal Church of Cuba	Executive Co-Chair
The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, 26 th Presiding Bishop	
The Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold, 25 th Presiding Bishop	
The Rt. Rev. William Stokes, Bishop, Diocese of New Jersey	
The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton, Rector, Christ Church, Exeter, NH	

Advisory Committee

Canon Bonnie Anderson, 32 nd President of the House of Deputies	
Mr. Francis Armstrong, Executive Vice President, Church Pension Group	
The Rev. Canon Lucinda Ashby, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Idaho	
The Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche, Bishop, Diocese of New York	
The Rt. Rev. Leo Frade, Bishop, Diocese of Southeast Florida, Retired	
The Rev. Dr. Luis León, Rector, St. John's Church, Washington, DC, Retired	
The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop, Diocese of Western North Carolina	
The Very Rev. Troy Mendez, Dean, Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ	
The Rev. Susan M. Moss, Diocese of Minnesota Commission on Cuba Ministry	
The Venerable Halbert Pons Santana, Archdeacon, Episcopal Church of Cuba	
The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, Bishop, Diocese of Oregon, Retired	
The Honorable Byron Rushing, Vice President, House of Deputies	
Mr. Joe Swimmer, Executive Director, Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes	
The Very Rev. George L.W. Werner, 31 st President of the House of Deputies	