

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

July 22, 2022
St. Mary Magdalene

“As you prepare to march meditate on the life and teaching of Jesus.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lambeth Calls and Gathering of our House at Lambeth

This week, we all received the Lambeth Calls Study Guide which includes the ten Lambeth Calls and the process by which we will be considering them together at the conference. There is much there that is important and profound for us as followers of Jesus in our world today. The inclusion of resolution 1.10 from Lambeth 1998 in the call on Human Dignity midway through the document is a matter of deep concern for many. I have heard concerns from many of you, many of which I share as well. I have likewise heard some wisdom from many which might help us along the way.

We were so blessed at our recent gathering as a House at the General Convention in Baltimore to embody a community of deep listening and faithful discernment with a generosity of Spirit. I believe and trust that the way the Spirit of God is moving in our House can help us to discern together how best to respond to the challenging circumstances presented by both the question of voting on the Lambeth Calls, and the inclusion of Lambeth 1:10 in the Call on Human Dignity.

As a result, I would like to ask that we gather as a House of Bishops at the Lambeth Conference to discern prayerfully what God would have us do as the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.

Indicating our Views

While the “Lambeth Calls” document does not use the word “vote,” each Bishop will be invited to “indicate their view” electronically during the conference, selecting one of two choices. While it may not be necessary to say, allow me to underscore what is probably self-evident. Each of us should feel free to exercise his or her own agency as a bishop in “indicating their view,” and in sharing their perspectives on any question coming before us. Your vote and voice matter. We as a community will respect the decision of each on this just as we have on who has decided to attend or not to attend the conference.

Our Presence

We are as a church a work in progress. We have not arrived. But we are, I believe, “pressing on toward the mark of the upward call of Christ Jesus.” We are truly working at and learning how to truly embrace communion across differences with mutual love, respect and integrity. We are trying, by God’s grace, to be a community in which there is “plenty good room for all of God’s children.” We cannot claim to be there yet. But we are at least seeking to walk the way of love as Jesus teaches us. We can bear witness to that and to the power of God’s love!

The Most Reverend Michael Curry
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE



Dr. King 1963 Commitment Card “Walking the Way of Love”

I’ve included with this the text from spiritual rule and commitment that Dr. King developed for those engaged in the nonviolence social change in 1963 during the Birmingham campaign. The spiritual principles that he summarized apply not only to nonviolent social change then, but also to human relationships across difference then and now. They reflect Dr. King’s application of the teachings of Jesus in the context of nonviolent social change and human relationships. I trust and believe that these principles can be of help to us in our ministries generally and in the spirit of our presence with our family of bishops from around the Anglican Communion gathering at the Lambeth Conference. We will have additional copies for you when we are there.

Recalling our time together in Baltimore just ten days ago, we as a House of Bishops worked hard at conversations across difference, interrupting the legislative process at times in order to find ways to listen and respond to each other as beloved children of God, even when we disagree. This is the Way of Love in action, to which we believe Jesus calls us. It is my hope that we can do this with other bishops from throughout the world during our time at Lambeth.

The Jesus Movement *Walking the Way of Love*

A Practice for the Lambeth Conference 2020

- "As you prepare to march meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus."
- Remember the nonviolent movement seeks justice and reconciliation - not victory
- Walk and talk in the manner of love; for God is love
- Pray daily to be used by God that all men and women might be free
- Sacrifice personal wishes that all might be free
- Observe with friend and foes the ordinary rules of courtesy
- Perform regular services for others and the world
- Refrain from violence of fist, tongue and heart
- Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health
- “As you prepare to march meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus.”

God bless you and keep the faith,



The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop & Primate