

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to have this first opportunity to greet you as we look ahead to the 74th General Convention in Minneapolis this summer. The President of the House of Deputies and I commend this report and proposal to you for your study in preparation for the work we will do together.

I write in a time of global uncertainty, not knowing whether we may or may not be at war by the time you see this booklet. And yet, through uncertainty, I can look ahead to our time in Minneapolis. General Convention provides us with a unique opportunity both to discern the course of the Episcopal Church over the next three years and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

The theme of our General Convention is: *Engage God's Mission*. God's mission—God's project—in which we participate by virtue of our baptism, is the reconciliation of all things to God's own self in Christ through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Our Prayer Book tells us that the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The mission of the Church is to participate in God's work, in God's mission. God's mission is not an abstraction; it is incarnate, made flesh in the lives of men and women who, through baptism, have become limbs of Christ's risen body and share in Christ's own work of drawing all things to himself. And, it is very

clear in these days that there is an urgent need to participate in God's reconciling work in the world.

As we gather in Minneapolis we will be reminded once again that the Episcopal Church is a diverse community of faith, which is both a strength and a challenge. It is a strength because we each bring our own experiences and perspectives. Our challenge is to attend carefully to holding together our various perspectives and not slip into fragmentation. The experience of coming together in worship, prayer, conversation and legislation provides us with an opportunity to see each point of view. As we encounter Christ in one another, may we be drawn more actively into God's mission for the sake of the world.

Yours in Christ,

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The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate