Jefferts Schori to convention: reject “business as usual”

BY PAT MCCAUGHAN

The 76th General Convention can regard challenges as opportunities for ubuntu or togetherness, or choose “business as usual” and fail, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori told a joint session of bishops and deputies (clergy and lay representatives) July 7 in the Anaheim Convention Center.

The audience greeted Jefferts Schori with a standing ovation and sustained applause as she began her first convention address. General Convention runs from July 7 to 18.

The theme, from the African concept of ubuntu, means, “I can only become a whole person in relationship with others,” Jefferts said. “There is no I without you and in our context, you and I are known only as we reflect the image of the one who created us.

“Crisis is about focusing on the most important and most essential things first,” she told the gathering. “In the tradition that you and I have inherited, crisis response has a lot to do with caring for the most vulnerable – who is sick or hungry or dying or grieving? In the kind of crisis called a disaster, it’s about ensuring that people have food water shelter and medical care.”

Recalling the 1976 General Convention that approved women’s ordination, she said: “We’ll hear echoes of our debates in our conversations as this one, as we consider the needs of the poorest around us and inclusion of those who do not have full access to the life of the church.”

In addition to inclusivity and poverty, she cited as crises the... Continued on page 2
financial meltdown and the “great Western heresy—that we can be saved as individuals, that any of us alone can be in right relationship with God.” In some quarters it occurs through “insisting that salvation depends on reciting a specific verbal formula about Jesus.”

“That individualist focus is a form of idolatry, for it puts me and my words in the place that only God can occupy, at the center of existence, as the ground of all being. That heresy is one reason for the theme of this convention,” she added.

Jefferts Schori alluded to some 16 proposed resolutions regarding B033, passed by the 75th General Convention in Columbus, which called for a moratorium on consecrating bishops “whose manner of life presents challenges” to the wider communion.

“We may revisit some of the critical conversation of the last General Convention as we consider how the life of this church intersects with the life of other Anglicans,” she said.

The economic crises underlies “all the conversation and debate. That we do not have the same kind of financial resources to address them as we had three years ago – that is another kind of crisis both local and global,” she said.

But, amid laughter, she added: “However this is not a TSA announcement that the threat level has risen from orange to red … (but) a Gospel announcement that … our mission is to keep traveling bearing the good news of Jesus and working to transform the world.”

The temptation for deputes and bishops will be to see “one small part of God’s mission” as the overarching reason for the church’s existence, she said. But she added that: “the structures of this church are resources for God’s mission but are not God’s mission in themselves.

“The budget and the resolutions we debate here should be about those things that affect the whole of this church and the vision of a renewed creation for all of God’s handiwork,” she added.

“This crisis is a decision point – one which may involve suffering,” she said. “But it is our opportunity to choose which direction we will go and what we will build.

“We will fail if we choose business as usual. There will be cross-shaped decisions in our work but if we look faithfully, there will be resurrection as well. This is our moment of judgment, our crisis. We can make our decisions in hope, and we can speak the love of God through this church. And we can do it together.”

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Call to ‘a deeper sense of mission’

BY MELODIE WOERMAN

House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson on July 7 called deputes and bishops to a deeper sense of mission to the poor in her opening presentation to General Convention. Anderson, who is serving her first term as presiding officer of the House of Deputies, said this commitment to mission has to occur because of, not in spite of, today’s tough economic times.

She said that those who attended the previous 75 General Conventions could have described their own tough times, but she said today’s struggles are different because they are globally visible. “Our technology enables us to see and to know not only how we are affected,” she said, “but how the global economic crisis disproportionately affects the poorest people in the world. It is within our reach to do something about that, and that is the toughest thing about our tough times.”

Anderson applauded the dioceses and parishes that have made a commitment to mission through the UN’s Millennium Development Goals – an eight-pronged effort to halve global poverty by 2015 – but said that to close the gap between the needs of the world and the response of the church, the Episcopal Church needs the efforts of those outside its walls. “We must no longer be afraid to ask other people to join us in action,” she said. Public narrative, a tool being taught to General Convention deputes and bishops to help tell their faith stories, has great capacity to help church members engage others in action on behalf of mission, she said.

Anderson said her own faith journey brought her to the Episcopal Church 35 years ago through the efforts of a congregation that not only welcomed her deeply but helped her see how her gifts could be put to use. “God put me in the midst of a loving community of people who showed what it is to love my neighbor as myself,” she said.

That intersection between faith and mission is an essential part of one’s Christian identity, Anderson said. “We find our place in creation where the story of Jesus Christ intersects our own stories,” she said.

Bonnie Anderson, president of the House of Deputies, outlined the faith journey that brought her to the Episcopal Church 35 years ago and urged others “to join us in action.”

Photo/Jim DeLa
Archbishop of Canterbury makes debut appearance at General Convention

BY MATTHEW DAVIES

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams begins a busy schedule of meetings July 8 as he arrives in Anaheim, California to spend two days engaging with representatives at General Convention.

Attending convention for the first time, Williams will make a keynote presentation addressing the world’s economic crisis during a panel discussion webcast live July 8 on the General Convention media hub (http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub).

On July 8, Williams will meet with President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson and her Council of Advice and have a conversation with the official youth delegates at the meeting, 18 young people selected from across the Episcopal Church.

Williams will participate in some of the worship services at General Convention, including offering a brief meditation during a July 9 Community Eucharist.

Eight members of the Episcopal Church’s House of Deputies (clergy and lay members) are scheduled to meet privately with Williams in a session that is intended in part to address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in the church.

Williams is also scheduled to meet with the provisional bishops of the dioceses of Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, Quincy and San Joaquin to hear about the renewal in those places after the former bishops attempted to lead those dioceses out of the Episcopal Church.

Before returning to England July 9 in time for the Church of England’s main legislative gathering, General Synod, Williams will visit the triennial gathering of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and meet with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and her Council of Advice.

Williams is among 70 international visitors and one of 15 Anglican Communion primates attending the convention – the largest number ever.

Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi of Burundi noted that he appreciates “the history and openness of debating and coming together for worship” as he toured the convention center in a group led by the Rev. Chuck Robertson, canon to the Presiding Bishop.

“It is important to help leaders of other parts of the Anglican Communion understand how we come to decisions as a church,” Robertson said in an interview.

“The Episcopal Church “is investing considerably in relationships across the communion,” commented Archbishop Phillip Aspinall of the Anglican Church of Australia.

“It is important to involve the communion in this process,” said Bishop James Ochiel of Southern Nyanza in the Anglican Church of Kenya. He added that “in Kenya, we do our own business without involving others. The governance is quite different here and the policy direction of the Episcopal Church lies more with the deputies.”

Some guests were also invited by dioceses, some of which share relationships with other dioceses in the communion.

Public narrative helps Episcopalians find their voices in mission

BY LYNETTE WILSON

Through the art of public narrative – sharing your story and listening to others’ stories – Episcopalians can discern the challenges they are called to confront as a congregation, a community and a church and move into action.

“Public narrative is a language of mission,” said Marshall Ganz, who teaches the process at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. “It is a leadership art... accepting responsibility to enable others to achieve purpose in the face of doubt, uncertainty and challenge.”

Ganz provided on July 7 an introduction to public narrative to more than one thousand bishops, deputies, visitors and guests attending General Convention. During the conference, which officially begins July 8, participants will be able to learn it in three sessions.

The public narrative project is a response to resolution D043 passed by the 75th General Convention in 2006 that called for a dialogue on mission in the church, and is part of a Harvard University research project, said the Rev. Gregory Straub, executive officer and secretary of General Convention.

Diocesan representatives are encouraged to go through the public narrative project training as a group and take the skills home and adapt them to their diocese, churches and communities.

“Narrative, story telling, is how we learn to access the courage to confront the unknown, to make choices to act upon them, choices informed not only by our head, but by our hearts,” Ganz said. “Narrative, then, is a way we can communicate our own values, experience the values that we share with one another and find the courage to confront challenges to those values that require action. Through public narrative, we learn to link our own calling to others, and action, in other words, it is a way to put Ubuntu into action.”

(Ubuntu, a Zulu or Xhosa word that describes humaneness, caring, sharing, and being in harmony with all of creation, is the 2009 General Convention theme.)

The art of public narrative includes the "story of self," the "story of us" and the "story of now."
Budget committee to present resolution for mission priorities over next three years

BY MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG

The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance (PB&F) plans to offer to the 76th General Convention on July 8 a resolution setting mission priorities for the Episcopal Church in the next three years.

The mission priorities for the current triennium as approved at the 2006 General Convention in Resolution D031 are: justice and peace; youth, young adults and children; reconciliation and evangelism; congregational transformation and partnerships.

The General Convention, meeting at the Anaheim Convention Center until July 17, must agree to a set of mission priorities to guide PB&F’s budgeting work.

The committee is scheduled to present its proposed budget on July 15 to a joint session of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies in the deputies’ hall. Both houses must approve the budget. A vote is expected July 16, the day before the end of convention.

PB&F held an hour-long budget priorities hearing earlier in the day July 7. Fifty-one bishops, deputies and registered visitors spent one minute each suggesting priorities and calling for support for specific programs. Committee chair Pan Adams-McCaslin had insisted that the hearing was aimed at the budget’s big picture.

Reinstatement of a triennial budget line item appropriating 0.7 percent in revenue for specific Millennium Development Goals spending as well as Christian education and formation, Native American ministry, multicultural congregational development, alleviation of domestic poverty, youth ministry, and leadership development figured prominently in the testimony.

In a budget-balancing effort, Executive Council eliminated the MDG line item from its draft version of the 2010-2012 budget. In the 2007-2009 budget that line item amounts to about $924,000. Council’s draft budget attributes $13.9 million to what it calls “direct and indirect spending.” The 2007-2009 budget forecast shows $15.5 million in direct and indirect spending.

“In spite of the current economic downturn and in spite of the many demands and claims that our institution makes upon the budget, it’s imperative, I believe, that budget for the next triennium state explicitly – not implicitly but explicitly – our continued and generous commitment to the Millennium Development Goals,” Diocese of Colorado Bishop and Episcopal Relief and Development President Rob O’Neill told the hearing.

Three members of the convention’s official youth presence spoke to the committee about continuing a commitment to ministry with and to younger Episcopalians.

“The church needs to change how it trains and equips leaders,” the Rev. LeeAnn Watkins (Minnesota) told PB&F members.

“I am here to ask you to make leadership development a priority, specifically any leadership that is younger, that is increasingly lay-led, that is multicultural and that has more creative models for delivering theological education than we currently have.”

PB&F will hold an open hearing on spending decisions on July 9 and one on revenue July 10. Both hearings will be broadcast live at http://www.episcopal-church.org/gchub. The July 7 hearing is available on demand at that location as well. The hearings run from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. PDT in the Anaheim Hilton.
Native ministry highlighted

BY SHARON J. TILLMAN

Native American members of the Episcopal Church, gathered in Anaheim, Calif. for General Convention, said July 6 that one of the most important things the gathering can do is highlight Native ministry.

“We can be a gift to the wider church,” said the Rev. Bessie Titus, convention delegate and full Athabascan from the Minto village of interior Alaska.

The message was one of dire straits, but the atmosphere was upbeat as more than 60 guests gathered at a reception hosted by the national office of Native American/Indigenous Ministries (NA/IM) at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Anaheim.

“There are a lot of needs around the country and church, but none are more acute than that of the indigenous people of this land. Reservations are some of the poorest counties in the country. While we can’t lose sight of the need for justice and righting wrongs, we must recognize the unique giftedness the native peoples bring to our church and to our country. These are people who are proud of being native and who love Jesus Christ,” said Bishop Michael Smith, Diocese of North Dakota, and member of the Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma.

Sarah Eagle Heart, program officer for NA/IM, is a liaison among the Indigenous Ministries Board, Native American ministries and the four aided dioceses of Alaska, Navajoland, North Dakota and South Dakota, giving them one voice while valuing each group’s unique needs and diversity.

A key area of concern for the NA/IM at the convention is the Domestic Poverty Alleviation Resolution (A155). In addition, eight other resolutions (A146-153) address concerns ranging from the promotion of Anglican partnerships to federal tribal recognition.

“The first phase of Domestic Poverty Alleviation, should it pass, is supposed to bring aid specifically to Native Americans. The proposed nine-year plan includes aid to Appalachian and urban areas in future phases. This assistance would allow Native populations to build ecumenical partnerships and allocate funds and resources to areas of greatest need such as youth ministry and pastoral care,” Eagle Heart said.
Survival kit: comfy socks, your own pants

Did you pack for survival at General Convention?

For the House of Deputies, at least, there is significant turnover in members from the last General Convention in Columbus. It’s the first convention for four out of 10 deputies.

Herb Gunn of Michigan, a deputy in 2000 and 2003, returns as a deputy this year, but at Columbus he wore his journalist’s hat for the Convention Daily and solicited from veterans their tips for handling with aplomb what lies ahead.

“I think survival comes from keeping life simple,” the Rev. Barbara Cheney of the Diocese of Connecticut counseled. She must take her own advice, because this year she returns as chair of her diocese’s delegation for the eighth General Convention.

Cheney said surviving convention also requires “taking some time out for play, including occasionally just saying ‘no’ when the work of it all becomes too much and a little down time becomes essential.”

“Don’t try to master the details of all the legislation,” suggested Louie Crew, deputy from the Diocese of Newark, who has been a presence at General Conventions for more than 30 years. He said new deputies should focus on one committee’s work and build alliances with others whose interests complement theirs.

“Be more punctual than you have been elsewhere,” offered Crew, but he added “that’s difficult when you have to walk through crowds and encounter many people with whom you’d like to ‘natter.’” Crew admitted to taking side streets to bypass large groups.

Dr. Harold H. Brown from the Diocese of Maine returns for his 10th General Convention this year. He recommended that first-time deputies identify a mentor—someone with experience who can help a novice organize the cascading flow of legislative reports and amended resolutions.

At his first convention in 1982, Brown adhered to a formal Anglican dress code of chinos and a blue blazer. No longer.

“I had a pair of brand-spanking-new Bass Weejuns and by the fifth day my feet hurt so much I couldn’t have slept if I wanted to,” he recalled.

Ted Mollegen, another returning deputy from Connecticut, will likely arrive in Anaheim with heavy socks. He said he prefers heavy socks for the comfort they give, but when wet they can take days to dry. So after he washes them, he wraps them in towels or a bath mat and jumps up and down on them to extract excess water.

Finally, Herb Gunn offers his own advice. If sharing a room, be sure you are wearing your own clothes when you leave in the pre-dawn hours.

After dressing in the dark and leaving his hotel room one early morning, Gunn was surprised to find his wallet in his right back pocket rather than the accustomed spot on his left hip. “It was only when the door snapped shut that I realized that the wallet – and the pocket – weren’t mine. I was wearing my roommate’s pants!”

Official General Convention souvenirs and other gift items

New “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signs in Spanish

Bibles, Prayer Books, Hymnals and popular titles

100% cotton fair trade clerical shirts

Book signings

Need a shopping break?

Stop by Episcopal Books and Resources in the Exhibit Hall at Booth #301 and check out our quality books and merchandise
While the State of the Church reports decline in numbers, the Episcopal Church’s Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics presents fresh, new, and exciting evangelism opportunities. The Strategic Vision is the work of lay and clergy engaged in Latino/Hispanic ministries and experts in marketing over a two-year period.

Implementing marketing tools such as SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threat analysis) and Mind Mapping, the Strategic Vision promises to infuse a renewal and church growth to the Episcopal Church. This new approach to evangelism focuses the churches efforts from what we are seeking as a church to what people want. From a “marketing perspective”, our evangelism model focuses on the needs of the people we seek to reach and it challenges the Church to discover what we can offer in response to these needs.

The Strategic Vision is also being presented through Resolution D038 for adoption and financial support through the Evangelism Committee. The Evangelism Committee has called for a special hearing of the Strategic Vision today at 11:00 a.m. in the Anaheim Hilton El Capitan AB. To sign up to speak please do so 15 minutes prior to the hearing.

We invite you to read a copy of the Strategic Vision being distributed throughout the General Convention.

-The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillén

Aunque el estado de la iglesia reporta un decadencia en la membresía de la Iglesia Episcopal, la Visión Estratégica de La Iglesia Episcopal Para Alcanzar a los Latinos/Hispanos presenta una fresca, nueva y apasionante oportunidades de evangelismo. Esta estrategia es la labor de laicos y cleros envueltos en ministerios Latinos/Hispanos, juntos a expertos en mercadeo por un plazo de dos años. Implementando las herramientas del mercadeo como DOFA (Análisis de debilidades, oportunidades, fortalezas y amenazas) y Mapa Mental, la Visión Estratégica promete infundir una renovación y crecimiento a la Iglesia Episcopal. Este nuevo método de evangelismo enfoca en las necesidades del pueblo que procuramos alcanzar y presenta un reto a la Iglesia a descubrir lo que podemos ofrecer en respuesta a estas necesidades.

La Visión Estratégica es también presentada a través de la resolución D038 para ser adoptada y apoyada financieramente en el comité de Evangelismo. El comité de Evangelismo ha llamado para una audiencia especial sobre La Visión Estratégica mañana, miércoles a las 11:00 am en el hotel Hilton, el Cuarto El Capitán AB. Para dar testimonio a favor debe de registrarse 15 minutos antes de la audiencia.

Le invitamos a encontrar una copia de La Visión Estratégica siendo distribuida a través de la Convención General y la instamos a que la lea.

-El Rvdo. Canónigo Anthony Guillén
Puntos sobresalientes de la visión estratégica del Ministerio Latino/Hispano

Los Estados Unidos es el segundo país latino en el mundo. “Tales cambios demográficos tan radicales deben animar a la iglesia a ser valiente, ingeniosa, apasionada y entusiasta en su respuesta a estas nuevas circunstancias.” Tal respuesta invita la creación de una nueva y comprensiva visión estratégica. Históricamente los ministerios hispanos han sido identificados como ministerios exclusivamente para los inmigrantes. No obstante, las comunidades Latinas/hispanas son comunidades multiculturales y polifacéticas.

Los resultados de la investigación muestran

- Hay gran variedad de subgrupos latinos/hispanos que dependen del país de procedencia, por ejemplo: México, Cuba, Colombia y otros países.
- Los latinos/hispanos muestran una variedad de aculturación. Esto va en función del lugar de nacimiento, nivel educativo, empleo y el lugar en que vive.
- No toda persona latina/hispana habla, lee, y/o escribe el español. Muchos de los factores que determinan el nivel de aculturación afectan el uso del idioma.
- El estado de documentación difiere entre los grupos latinos/hispano.
- Por lo general existe un énfasis de valores religiosos y espirituales en las poblaciones latinas/hispanas. Los fe es importante para personas latinas/hispanas.

Los datos muestran

- Los que nacen en el exterior no representan la mayoría de Latinos/Hispanos en este país.
- En este país hay 4.2 millones de personas latinas/hispanas entre las edades de 20 a 30 años. Es a este grupo a quienes la Iglesia Episcopal quiere hacer alcance y evangelización.
- En la actualidad estados como Georgia, Carolina del Norte, Washington y otros muestran una población latina/hispana creciente. Hasta hace poco en estos estados no era obvio la presencia de una población latina/hispana.

Las investigaciones sobre religión y espiritualidad demuestran

- Uno de cinco latinos/hispanos indica que ha cambiado su afiliación religiosa o que ha dejado de afiliarse a cualquier denominación religiosa.
- El estudio demuestra que muchos de estos cambios fueron motivados por un deseo de conexión más personal y directa con Dios. Esta es la razón principal para cambiar de afiliación religiosa entre los latinos.

Implicaciones

- La población de latinos/hispanos es de 38 millones y entre ellos hay aproximadamente 7 millones de jóvenes adultos.
- Se han identificado 447 Iglesias Episcopales localizadas en regiones cuya demografía hispana es aproximadamente 40% de la población.
- Los latinos/hispanos que cambian su afiliación religiosa buscan una relación espiritual más íntima con Dios.
- Se han identificado tres áreas claves características de la Iglesia Episcopal que apoya su alcance a las poblaciones latinas/hispanas: (1) la liturgia (2) su apertura y hospitalidad; y (3) su pasión por el alcance social y comunitario.
- En la actualidad hay 298 congregaciones latinas/hispanas que encajan en el modelo litúrgico y de adoración que abraza la diversidad cultural de la Iglesia Episcopal.

El estudio de la Fundación Pew sugiere que los cambios de afiliación religiosa pueden ser asociados al proceso complejo de migración y asimilación. Los cambios de denominación son más altos entre los nacidos nativos que los nacidos foráneos. Además es más alta la incidencia entre latinos angloparlantes que latinos hispanohablantes.

Metas/Objetivos

1. Aumentar el número de nuevas congregaciones latinas/ hispanas Episcopales en un 15%.
2. Generar un crecimiento del 15% de miembros latinos/ hispanos en 100 congregaciones sin presencia latina en la actualidad.
3. Incrementar el liderazgo latino/hispano en la Iglesia Episcopal a través del reclutamiento y el desarrollo.
4. Desarrollar herramientas, entrenamientos y proveer recursos para apoyar el ministerio latino/hispano en áreas geográficas con poblaciones latinas/hispanas en crecimiento.

Estrategias y Oportunidades

1. Crear un ambiente latino/hispano hospitalario.
2. Crear presencia de la Iglesia Episcopal en las comunidades.
3. Construir programas que apoyen un crecimiento espiritual como grupos de oración, retiros, grupos de apoyo para padres/madres de familia, reuniones educativas con almuerzo o cena donde se discutan temas relevantes, etc.
4. Construir programas para desarrollar liderazgo de laicos y oportunidades educativas como por ejemplo cursos de computación, becas escolares y ofrecer orientación para solicitar admisión a las universidades.
The United States is the Second Largest Latino/Hispanic Country in the World. Such radically changing demographics should encourage the church to be courageous, resourceful, passionate, and enthusiastic in its response to the Latino/Hispanic presence. Such a response invites creating a new comprehensive strategic vision.

Latino/Hispanic Ministries have tended to be equated with Immigrant Ministry. Yet, the Latino/Hispanic community is complex and multi-faceted and multicultural.

Facts from research: General

- There are various Latino/Hispanic ethnic subgroups relative to country of origin, for example: Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, and other countries.
- Latinos/Hispanics have varying degrees of acculturation. This is a process that involves nation of birth, education, employment, place where one lives.
- Not all Latinos/Hispanics speak, read and/or write Spanish. Many of the same factors that determine acculturation effect language.
- Documentation status differs.
- There is usually an emphasis on religion and spirituality among Latinos/Hispanics. Faith issues are important for Latinos/Hispanics.

Data Shows

- Foreign born no longer represents the majority of Latinos/Hispanics.
- The sizeable “20-something” demographic represents 4.2 million individuals and is a very viable target audience for Latino/Hispanic ministry development.
- States such as Georgia, North Carolina, Washington, and others have a growing Latino/Hispanic population. In the recent past these states were not identified as having a significant Latino/Hispanic presence.

Religious or Spiritual research demonstrates

- Almost one in five Latinos/Hispanics, say they have either changed their affiliation from one religion to another or have ceased identifying with any religion at all.
- The study shows that many of these changes were motivated by the desire for a more direct, personal experience of God. This is by far the predominant motive for denominational change among Latinos/Hispanics.

Implications

- Latinos/Hispanics population is 38 million, with over 7 million young adults
- There are now 447 Episcopal Churches whose areas have greater than 40% Latino/Hispanics.
- Latino/Hispanics moving to other religious traditions are seeking a closer, spiritual relationship with God.
- We’ve identified three key strengths in the Episcopal Church that strongly support our ability to reach Latinos/Hispanics: (1) our liturgy; (2) our openness; and (3) our passion for social outreach.
- There are presently 298 Latino/Hispanic congregations that fit the desired model for culturally relevant worship in the Episcopal Church.

Pew Study suggests that changes in religious affiliation may be associated with the complex process of migration and assimilation. Such a change is higher among the native born than foreign born. It is also higher among English speaking Latinos/Hispanics than among Spanish speakers.

Goals/Objectives

1. Increase the number of new Latino/Hispanic congregations by 15%.
2. Generate growth to 15% within 100 existing non-Latino/English speaking congregations.
3. Increase Latino/Hispanic leadership through recruitment and development.
4. Develop shared tools, training resources to support Latino/Hispanic ministry for churches in growing Latino areas.

Strategies & Opportunities

1. Create a welcoming atmosphere.
2. Create awareness of the Episcopal Church and its offerings.
3. Build programs that create spiritual growth such as prayer groups, retreats, groups on parenting, educational forums providing culturally relevant topics where dinner is provided, etc.
4. Build programs to create empowerment opportunities such as: offer computer training, scholarship and college application orientations, career counseling.
Un Ministerio Para Familias

El Padre Antonio Rojas arribó con su familia al área de Newton Grove, Carolina del Norte 13 años atrás. Ahí el ejerció su trabajo pastoral y social como parte del “Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry.” Este Ministerio ha existido por más de 28 años, un ministerio conjunto de las Diócesis de Carolina del Este y del Norte. El Padre Tony me comentó en una entrevista telefónica en la mañana del 7 de julio, que 3 años después de comenzar los servicios regular, como parte de su visión de lo que el hoy es conocido como la Misión de la Sagrada Familia muy pocas personas participaban en los servicios. Las personas estaban familiarizadas con los servicios sociales de inmigración, traducción, y distribución de comida y otros servicios sociales que el Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry había ofrecido por años. Sin embargo las personas sabían muy poco de la vida sacramental que el Padre Tony buscaba implementar para los trabajadores del campo que formaban parte de este programa.

Hoy en día, La Misión Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia representa una nueva paradigrama, es una que transforma las vidas de los trabajadores y de todas las instituciones y personas que les ayudan a diario. Los trabajadores vienen a Newton Grove desde áreas remotas en sus países nativos; muchos son hombres que han dejado sus familias, aunque el Padre Tony me comenta que hay algunas familias que son parte de la congregación. Todos vienen en busca de un futuro mejor y trabajan arduamente en los campos de tabaco, maíz, pepino, papas, y de otros productos que se cultivan en el área. El Padre Tony habla con orgullo como el ministerio ha crecido y continúa creciendo a través de los años. El terreno de Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry es 18 acres de tierra tiene canchas de fútbol y voleibol, jardines y un edificio multifacético en el cual se reúnen más de 800 personas para celebrar la Eucaristía y festejar su vida comunitaria. El edificio también acoge la parte administrativa del Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry y ofrece servicios sociales como talleres para la superación personal, clases de inglés, servicios de inmigración, comida, ropa, productos de higiene personal y baile.

Es cierto que el Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry y la Misión Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia de las Diócesis del Este de Carolina y del Norte nos ofrecen un modelo de ministerio poco convencional; es un modelo de Iglesia que me recuerda la historia de la Iglesia primitiva cristiana donde los fieles se reunían a celebrar, aprender, compartir y dar gracias (Eucaristía) a Dios en una gran fiesta que duraba por muchas horas.

-Por Mario Emilio Milian para Perspectivas Latinas

A Ministry for Farm Worker

Father Antonio Rojas and his family arrived in Newton Grove, North Carolina 13 years ago. There, he began his pastoral and social work as part of the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry. The Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry is a 28 year old joint ministry of the Episcopal Dioceses of East and North Carolina. In a phone interview on July 7, Fr. Tony commented that 3 years after beginning a regular Sunday service, as part of his vision for what is today La Misión Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia (Holy Family Episcopal Church), very few people were in attendance. People were acquainted with the immigration, translation, food distribution, and other social services offered for many years by the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry. However, the people knew little about the sacramental aspect in the life of the church; something, Fr. Tony was seeking to implement as a seminal part of this ministry.

Today, La Misión Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia represents a new paradigm for ministry; yet, one that certainly transforms the lives of the farm workers as well as that of those who help them on a daily basis. These farm workers arrive in Newton Grove from remote areas in their own native countries, and many are men who have left their homes in order to come here and work tirelessly in the tobacco, corn, cucumber, potato, and other fields in the area. Fr. Tony speaks with pride about the continuous growth of this ministry throughout the years. “The Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry is located on an 18-acre property, which includes football and volleyball courts, beautifully designed gardens, and a multipurpose building in which over 800 people, including children, meet every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist and their life in community. The building also holds the administrative offices of the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry. Ministry that regularly offers social services encompassing a whole gamut of areas — from mental- health seminars, English classes and immigration services; to food, clothing, personal hygiene products and various recreational activities.

The Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry and La Misión Episcopal de la Sagrada Familia of the Dioceses of North and East Carolina offer us a new paradigm for ministry; yet, it is a model for ministry that can be equated to that of the ancient Christian community where people gathered to celebrate, learn, share and give thanks (Eucharist) to God in a great feast that lasted hours!

By Mario Emilio Milian for Perspectivas Latinas
Visit Us at General Convention

Stop by the Church Pension Group booth to say hello. And check out these special booth events:

- **Wed July 8**: Denominational Health Plan
- **Thurs July 9**: Celebrating Lay Employees
- **Fri July 10**: CREDO
- **Sat July 11**: Protecting Your Financial Future
- **Sun July 12**: Older Adult Ministries
- **Mon July 13**: Planning For Tomorrow Conferences
- **Tues July 14**: International Partners

We look forward to seeing you at Booth 309.
Welcome from Kay Meyer, ECW National President

ON BEHALF of the National Board of Episcopal Church Women, I extend to you a warm welcome to this 46th Triennial Meeting of Episcopal Church Women. May we “Grow in Grace,” as our theme from II Peter 3:18 says.

This Triennial Meeting is a very special time in the life of the church and in our lives. May we grow in grace with General Convention as we go through these days set aside to do the business of our beloved church and to be in community, especially in the mission conversations and in the worship.

May we grow in grace as we pray together for one another and for others in the ceremonies, services and celebrations. May we grow in grace as we listen and learn, legislate and elect in plenary meetings, workshops and our Share Fair. May we grow in grace as we debate, deliberate and determine together in our business sessions and hearings. May we grow in grace as we take home blessed memories and tangible aids to share with our families, parishes, convocations, deaneries, dioceses and provinces.

May we grow in grace with our times of fellowship, song, and inspiration with our chaplain, the Rev. Ellen Sloan, and musicians, Nancy Beach and David Stankey. May we grow in grace with visits from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson, and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. May we grow in grace with speeches from keynoters Phyllis Tickle and Bishop Steven Charleston and many workshop leaders.

Most of all, may we grow in grace as we are gathered together as the women of the Episcopal Church, continuing to broaden our work with the Millennium Development Goals, which is our heritage both here and abroad. May we grow in grace and in the bonds of affection we hold for one another—in prayer, in deliberation, in mission and in ministry, in play, in joy, in peace, in celebration and in thanksgiving for what our Lord has done for us and for what He calls us to do for others.

May God truly be glorified in all we have done and will do. Come Holy Spirit, come! Grow us up in your grace!

Kay H. Meyer is from the Diocese of Atlanta and is a member of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Fort Valley, Georgia. She was elected national president of ECW in 2006 in Columbus, Ohio.

ECW members conduct Prayer Walk

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United Thank Offering is a vital part of the ministry of ECW. The UTO Sharing Dinner will be at 7 p.m. Friday at the Anaheim Hilton. And at 10 a.m. Sunday, the triennial UTO Ingathering and Eucharist will be open to the wider Diocese of Los Angeles community in the General Convention Worship Space.
Episcopal Church Women to ‘Grow in Grace’ during 9-day Triennial

BY PAT MCCAUGAN

THERE’LL BE worship, business, elections, singing, fund-raising, celebration, social justice ministries, storytelling, workshops, mission conversations and a “share fair” this week as hundreds of women from as many as 110 dioceses in 16 countries meet for the next nine days for the 46th Triennial gathering of Episcopal Church Women.

But first a “prayer walk.” Small groups of ECW members went walking yesterday to various convention venues, from the Exhibit Hall to the hallways outside the House of Deputies and House of Bishops meeting rooms. “We wanted to say prayers over their meetings, to help them through their deliberations,” said Donna Keller, a parishioner at St. John’s, Corona, and vice president of the national ECW board.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will address the ECW gathering during opening ceremonies at 1 p.m. today. A welcoming dinner tonight will include a play depicting the history of the ECW, said the Rev. Canon Liz Habecker, rector of St. Mark’s, Downey, California, and vice president for information on the national ECW board.

Workshop topics range from leadership and storytelling to keeping a spiritual balance and environmental stewardship.

During the Friday, July 10, afternoon session, 120 women will be honored for outstanding service by their respective dioceses.

Like deputies and bishops, Triennial participants will also engage in mission conversations. The public narrative project is designed to engage participants in deeper conversations, to both tell their own stories and to listen to others’ stories of being called to mission through action in the world.

“It’s a unique time of fellowship with Episcopal Church women across the country,” said Christine Budzowski, who is president of the Daughters of the King in the Diocese of Los Angeles. “It’s one time to gather together and get to know one another, and it’s the largest gathering that ECW has. From a communications perspective, I’m looking forward to this opportunity to hear from ECW women across the country.”

Continued on page 14

Episcopal author Phyllis Tickle is the keynote speaker on Saturday, July 11.

dioceses of Louisiana and Mississippi were hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“It’s going to be a big night. We hope that a lot of people will be able to come to it,” said the Rev. Canon Liz Habecker, rector of St. Mark’s, Downey, California, and vice president for information on the national ECW board.

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Continued on page 14

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TODAY & TOMORROW

Wednesday, July 8
10:45–11:45 a.m.
Delegate Orientation, Plenary Room
11:45–1:00 p.m.
Registration/Delegate Certification
1:00–2:30 p.m.
Opening Celebration, Plenary Room
Address by the Presiding Bishop
2:30 – 4:15 p.m.
Welcome from the Diocese of Los Angeles, Plenary 1
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Public Narrative Project, Plenary Room
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
ECW Welcoming Dinner
Hilton, Pacific Ballroom A

Thursday, July 9
7:30 a.m.
Bylaws Hearing, Plenary Room
9:00–9:45 a.m.
Registration/Delegate Certification
9:00–9:45 a.m.
Gathering Time, Plenary Room
Archbishop of Canterbury scheduled to visit
10:00–11:30 a.m.
Mission Conversation, GC Worship Space
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Community Eucharist, GC Worship Space
12:45–1:30 p.m.
Registration/Delegate Certification
2:00–5:00 p.m.
Plenary 2
5:15–5:30 p.m.
President Kay Meyer Addresses House of Deputies

YOU’RE INVITED

Please join the ECW for an evening with
Elisabeth von Trapp
Sunday, July 12
7:30–9:00 p.m.
Hilton, Pacific Ballroom B
A benefit for Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative
Donations will be accepted at the door.
Triennial business will include elections of board officers and some changes in bylaws. Participants will also view a presentation on social justice ministries engaged during the last three years and have a "share fair," Budzowski said, "where we open up a whole plenary room to sharing various ideas and ministries that people do where they are. We want to offer a lot of things people can make use of and not just say what a nice meeting they came to."

Triennial chaplain is the Rev. Ellen Sloan, chaplain at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, who also serves on the General Convention Worship Committee. ECW delegates will participate in General Convention worship.

Nancy Beach and David Stankey, from St. Mark’s Church in Downey, will serve as musicians throughout the meeting.

Outgoing national ECW board vice president Donna Keller said about 350 women registered for the conference.

"It’s been wonderful. I’ve enjoyed it and would recommend it for anyone interested in doing more ECW work at a different level. It’s been most rewarding."

Helping to organize the Triennial has also been a good experience, she said. "We’re just trying to give women in the pews an idea of what’s going on in the greater church. So many times, we just get used to what’s going on in our parish, and we don’t know what’s going on outside. There are wonderful things going on in parishes clear across the country but we don’t hear about it at all."

The Rev. Pat McCaughan is a priest of the Diocese of Los Angeles and a provincial correspondent for Episcopal Life Media. The complete story was published originally in The Episcopal News.

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston is the keynote speaker on Friday, July 10.

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Two-act play ‘Yet We Persist’ tells ECW’s 150-year history

BY NAN ROSS

KATERINA WHITLEY loves literature, culture, theology and women’s stories—especially the stories of Episcopal women. She is an author, a playwright and an actress, and a teacher of college students, too. She is a wife, a mother and an exceptionally involved grandmother.

Tonight at the Triennial Welcome Dinner her two-act play, “Yet We Persist,” will be presented for the first time. And she’s counting on it being only the first of many presentations to come.

Based on ECW’s 150-year history, “Yet We Persist” will be presented in two acts in reader’s-theater style, with dinner and a musical break in between. The 16 members of the ECW board make up the cast.

“How do you get an organization to be interesting to a new generation?” Whitley asked as she sat down to read and eventually edit scores of ECW histories. Her many years as a teacher of college students helped.

“And I found stories of such great value! For example, the first woman missionary in the Episcopal Church was sent to Greece, my home. I never knew that.”

A former Episcopal Church journalist, Whitley has discovered over the years that a dramatic telling is the most effective way for getting a story across. A resident of western North Carolina, on countless occasions she has performed around the country monologues featuring what women from biblical times might have said.

“The board was very resistant to taking on these roles until they met me and we read through the play—script in hand with no need to memorize lines,” Whitley said. They practiced with her twice—at their meeting in New Orleans in March and again at the Proctor Center in Columbus, Ohio, in May.

“I incorporated some of their ideas and suggestions, and it feels a lot like a Greek chorus,” she said. “They interject comments, and we make liberal use of narrators.”

Costumes are very simple; for example dark skirts and blouses with high necklines are worn in the first part of the play.

Whitley arrived at the play’s title when she saw a recurring message in the histories she was reading: “Women do not give up; they work very hard to meet their goals.”

Now, when women lead the General Convention’s two deliberating bodies, one could say it’s no longer necessary to persist. But “not when so many women and children are suffering and living as if in the first century,” said Whitley. “Not when there’s so much important work being done by the unseen women in the pews” to combat such injustices.

Whitley has high hopes that tonight’s performance of her play will not be the only time it is staged. The script will be available free of charge to every diocesan ECW to share with parish groups. “I hope each group will add their own stories,” she said.

Episcopal Relief & Development is launching two new teas:

- Organic Earl Grey
- Organic Moroccan Mint

Bishop Blend Coffees are available in:

- Bishops Blend Regular
- Bishops Blend Decaf
- Kaldi’s Roast
- Cafe’ de la Paz
- Bishops Cinnamon Spice

Purchase Coffee and Tea at:

- EBaR Booth 301
- www.er-d.org/BishopsBlend
- 877-469-1431

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