

Dear Friends,

Today, I write to share some of the ways we, together as The Episcopal Church, witness to the loving, liberating, and life-giving way of Jesus Christ, and to ask for your financial support through this first Annual Appeal.

Most of the Church's ministry is done by dioceses and local congregations and ministries, and your support of these is vitally important to the work of Jesus in the world. But there are some ministries that only can be accomplished by the entire Church working together. Here are a few examples:

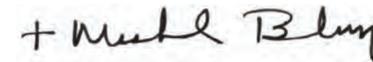
- Our Office of Government Relations seeks to represent the moral voice of our Church in Washington, D.C., before the councils of government. The office hosts a morning prayer service for legislators and their aides and staff, bringing Episcopalians together across the aisle to rest, pray, and listen for God's guidance in their lives and the work they do.
- Our Armed Forces and Federal Ministries support chaplains serving in the military, VA hospitals, and federal prisons. Most of this work is with people ages 18-30. Our presence brings spiritual healing and comfort to people who need to know God's love in a troubled world.
- Our Evangelism Ministries have helped Episcopalians to rethink and reclaim the sharing of the Good News. Our Episcopal Revivals campaign has trained more than 1,000 diocesan leaders to practice evangelism (in English and Spanish), welcomed more than 5,000 people to discover new and renewed life with Jesus, and gathered 200,000 participants on Facebook. This spring, we will host the second Evangelism Matters conference and launch the Beloved Community Story-Sharing Campaign, a churchwide effort to share and welcome stories of faith, race, and difference.

This Annual Appeal is intended to support ministries that can only happen when we work together as a whole Church. Why do I make this appeal now? The dioceses of our Church are generous in their giving to support churchwide ministry, and income from endowments is steady; however, the work before us requires more.

Please prayerfully read the stories in this booklet about these ministries. I hope they inspire and energize you as they do me. We will continue to share these narratives with you throughout the year.

Then I hope you will join me, House of Deputies President Gay Jennings, and the Executive Council, along with the staff of The Episcopal Church, as we launch this annual campaign to support the whole Church's work. Your gift or pledge to the Annual Appeal will directly impact our life and witness as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

Yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

The 2015 General Convention called on our presiding officers to make racial reconciliation one of The Episcopal Church's highest priorities. In response, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings partnered with Church leaders and staff to craft **Becoming Beloved Community**, a groundbreaking vision of long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice.

Becoming Beloved Community invites Episcopalians to find local, particular ways of engaging in the spiritual practice of reconciliation and healing. Instead of focusing on one-time trainings and programs, the plan welcomes people to explore four commitments, arranged around a labyrinth:

- Telling the Truth about Our Churches and Race
- Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community
- Practicing the Way of Love in the Pattern of Jesus
- Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions



Churches, dioceses, and provinces from Alaska to Latin America, El Camino Real to Georgia have grabbed hold of the vision and made it their own. One of the first was the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, where racial discord has long simmered in towns and rural areas alike. Following violent white nationalist rallies in the summer of 2017, leaders in this small diocese used **Becoming Beloved Community** as a blueprint for calling together faith communities and civic groups that fall for a series of community conversations.

They welcomed Dr. Wornie Reed, a sociology professor at Virginia Tech, to offer insights and facilitate the sessions, which drew hundreds of Episcopalians and their neighbors. The series also spawned ongoing work for justice and healing across the region.

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia Bishop Mark Bourlakas said that the churchwide resources and public will came together at exactly the right time. "The tragic events in Charlottesville strengthened our resolve to be the hands and feet of Christ in our communities, urging one another onward in the mission of God," he said. "The work of reconciliation is very hard, very necessary, and our duty as followers of Jesus Christ."

CREATION CARE

In 2017, the Stewardship of Creation Advisory Council launched a new Stewardship of Creation Grants Program to plant and nourish more than 20 creation care ministries across the Church.

One such ministry is the Kairos Earth Church of the Woods, located in New Hampshire. The ministry's River of Life project in the spring of 2017 brought together Episcopalians and their neighbors from the seven New England dioceses for a 40-day pilgrimage down the Connecticut River.

More than 50 pilgrims joined in hiking, paddling, intense prayer, spiritual reading, and thanksgiving for the gift of water. Each pilgrim traveled at least one day on the river by kayak; many paddled up to 14 consecutive days at a time, traversing nearly 400



miles. At night, pilgrims lodged in local churches or camped in tents. Day and night, they gathered around a special River of Life Prayer Book that pilgrimage leaders said they hoped would equip "people to be transformed, so the Earth may be renewed." That book is now available as a free resource to the whole Church.

EVANGELISM

What is an Episcopal Revival? Far more than a megawatt worship service or a church growth strategy, Episcopal Revivals are part of a churchwide campaign to stir and equip Episcopalians to have a deeper loving relationship with God and their neighbors. Every one of these multiday events is shaped by a diocesan team that spends months discerning and planning around one question: What does the good news of Jesus Christ look and sound like to us and our neighbors today? Churchwide staff and consultants partner closely with those teams by resourcing local leaders, offering Evangelism 101 trainings across the diocese, helping local and regional leaders discern God's mission for them today, connecting them with the resources to sustain what the revival has stirred, and inviting them to become a resource for other dioceses seeking new life in Christ.

After nearly 10 years of deep division and slow rebuilding, the Diocese of San Joaquin was ready for rebirth. The diocese's Episcopal Revival – titled "Called to be ... a safe place for all God's people" – boldly proclaimed the Church's unique vocation in California's Central Valley.

The churchwide Evangelism Initiatives Team ran three trainings prior to the revival. Hundreds of people joined the three-day revival as it made stops in Stockton, Fresno, and Bakersfield. The revival featured a rally with emotional testimonies from immigrants, a Stations of the Cross-like neighborhood prayer walk, and a service welcoming new Bishop David Rice to the Cathedral, followed by dinner served from local food trucks.

The final bilingual celebration moved seamlessly from the altar to the street, where Episcopalians filled hundreds of yellow backpacks with goods for homeless and poor people. "We have spent nearly 10 years needing to focus on our own rebirth," local priest Nancy Key said. "We are ready to look outside and to really live into this revival of the Jesus Movement."

EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

We face an unprecedented refugee crisis in the world. At this critical moment in history, 65.6 million women, children, and men live forcibly displaced from their homes because of war, violence, or persecution. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), the official refugee resettlement program of The Episcopal Church, is the Church's foremost response to the worldwide refugee crisis. It is a living example of our commitment to aid the stranger in our midst, which is a core ministry of the Jesus Movement. The Episcopal Church began its formal ministry with refugees in the late 1930s, as news of the horrors of the Nazi regime poured out of Europe. Now one of nine federally recognized agencies resettling refugees in the United States, EMM does work that is vital to Jesus' call to "welcome the stranger" and alleviate human suffering.



EMM lives the call of welcome by supporting refugees, immigrants, and the communities that embrace them as they walk together in The Episcopal Church's movement to create loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships rooted in compassion. EMM collaborates with local partner agencies in 26 Episcopal dioceses and 17 states to welcome refugees. In 2017, EMM helped more than 3,187 refugees from 34 countries build new lives in peace and security in 30 communities across the United States. To date, EMM has helped more than 80,000 persons resettle and thrive in this land.

Every refugee who reaches our shores brings tremendous gifts and capabilities to achieve success in the United States. Our mission is to provide all whom we serve with the foundation required to live out their gifts to the fullest, giving them a head start to realizing their dreams and potential.

ARCHIVES

The Archives of the Episcopal Church is an amazing resource, as it tells the story of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. The Archives documents the Church's roots in earliest America and the growth of its international and domestic mission in areas of relief, poverty alleviation, peace, and racial reconciliation. The Archives reminds us of both our saints and our human failings, from which we draw inspiration or aim for a better direction.

Recently, the Archives acquired the personal papers of Dr. Charles Radford Lawrence II, the first and only African American president of the House of Deputies, a position he held from 1976 to 1985. This distinguished professor of sociology led The Episcopal Church through a crucial period of turmoil. His archive provides an important perspective on the radical adjustments in the Church's life during that era and the remarkable influence of lay leadership.



Two of the most controversial changes in the Church in the 20th century – the ordination of women and the adoption of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer – occurred during his presidency. A large set of letters between Charles and his wife, Dr. Margaret Morgan Lawrence, speak endearingly of their close personal relationship and the poignancy of their joys and interdependence as they strived to exercise their considerable intellectual gifts against the obstacles of racial prejudice.

The Archives uses stories such as these to engage in racial reconciliation and evangelism of a historic faith, with deep reservoirs of commitment to discovering new ways toward a loving, liberating, and life-giving community.

NAVAJOLAND

Before sunrise, Gerlene “GJ” Gordy, a member of the Diné, one of the largest Native American tribes in the United States, drives over dirt roads to a morning service at St. Mark’s, an Episcopal church nestled in the mountains near Coal Mine, New Mexico. Services in the winter at St. Mark’s are held early, usually finishing before 9 a.m., because the frozen roads will begin to thaw, making them impassable rivers of mud.

St. Mark’s is one of nine Episcopal churches that comprise the Navajoland Area Mission. The impact of past traumas and injustices continue to haunt the Navajo people today. Through the Navajoland Area Mission, The Episcopal Church is working to help alleviate the widespread poverty and unemployment, substance abuse, and criminal violence that affect nearly every family.



A lay leader at St. Mark’s and a parishioner for more than 20 years, GJ finds reasons for hope through her own involvement. “The Episcopal Church is helping our young people to become stronger,” she said. “Food pantries, after-school programs, grief and addiction counseling – all these things the Church does are helping keep families together.”

While raising a four-year-old daughter, GJ has become a web developer. With training and financial support from The Episcopal Church, she founded a small business together with two fellow Episcopalians, Ryan Sam and Marty Buck, called Cheii’s Web Development Shop. GJ said, “My connection to The Episcopal Church has not only helped me to grow in my relationship to Christ, but also to grow in the pride I feel in myself and my community.”

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

The Episcopal Church was a leader in founding a number of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the 19th century, many of which were created after the Civil War to educate newly freed African Americans. Today, HBCUs play a crucial role as institutions that educate thousands of African American professionals, create a pipeline for greater diversity in leadership positions, and advocate for the advancement of people of color in all fields.

Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh, North Carolina, was founded in 1867 by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. The mission of the university is to sustain a learning community in which students can prepare academically, socially, and spiritually for leadership in a complex, diverse, and rapidly changing world.



A notable graduate of Saint Augustine’s is Cynthia “Mother” Pratt, former deputy prime minister of the Bahamas. Her memoir, “An Ordinary Woman from the Heart of the Inner City,” is being made into an upcoming film starring Viola Davis. Mother Pratt credits Saint Augustine’s with giving her the skills and opportunities she needed to build a successful career in politics and advocacy for the rights of low-income people.

Voorhees College is a historically black liberal arts institution affiliated with The Episcopal Church. Located in Denmark, South Carolina, Voorhees was founded in 1897 as the Denmark Industrial School by Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, a young black woman and former student of Booker T. Washington. As such, Wright fulfilled her seemingly impossible dream of starting a school for African American youth in rural Bamberg County, South Carolina.

HAITI

St. Barnabas Agriculture College (CASB)

St. Barnabas Agriculture College (CASB), established in 1983 in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, provides agriculture technology education and field farm practices training to students in northern Haiti. In addition to its educational mission, the college strives to impact the entire area and its inhabitants through infrastructure and repair projects; economic development programs, including aquaponics and production of sisal, soybeans, and bananas (plantains); establishment of an animal husbandry facility and an initial Regional Support Center to prepare farm produce for market; and student scholarships. CASB’s long-range goal is to become a premier agriculture technology training institution for Haiti and a regional resource for agriculture technology information.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Restoration

In 2010, a major earthquake destroyed the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti’s historic Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince. Since then, the essential pre-construction work has begun, including clearing the site, as a first step toward rebuilding this iconic symbol of hope, life, and faith. To coordinate this enormous undertaking, the Holy Trinity Cathedral Project Committee was established, which has moved planning for the new cathedral forward. The Project Committee is engaged with both architects and construction consultants as they prepare the final architectural drawings.

CHURCH PLANTING

There is a swelling wave of new ministries springing up all over The Episcopal Church! In partnership with other denominations, we are opening our hearts and church doors to the New Americas growing up around us. Some of these new ministries look like traditional churches, but many of them are taking on the shapes of the communities they are called to serve. They meet in schools, libraries, storefronts, and even art galleries. In other words, instead of waiting for the community to come through our red front doors, we are joining God in the neighborhood, offering ministry on the streets as well as at the communion rails.



The leaders of these ministries have banded together to form a network of coaches and trainers who are standing by – waiting to support leaders of new ministries all across the Church. As a result, The Episcopal Church now has a durable learning community of new ministry leaders who are inspired and growing in wisdom. Leaders from nearly 100 new ministries meet regularly to share learnings from both failures and successes, as well as to lend and borrow the courage needed to innovate, together. All of this is possible because of the financial and spiritual support of our denominational leadership. We believe that we are tilling the soil for a spirit-filled harvest that is already sprouting up in communities all across the Church. We invite you to join us in this Jesus Movement that offers hope to the world!

Text **APPEAL** to 51555 to make your gift



For information, contact:
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2018 Annual Appeal

