



Topics

The following reference guide is offered to you as a resource for information on subjects and terms you may hear in reference to The Episcopal Church.

This resource also contains links to past and current General Convention legislation related to the subjects listed here.

For additional information on these and other topics, please visit:

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[Archives of the Episcopal Church](#)

[The Public Affairs Office](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

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Revivals
Same-sex marriage
Shootings/violence
Title IV
Young Adult Service Corps (YASC)



Addiction

The Episcopal Church has consistently and repeatedly called for policy, education, and support to raise awareness around issues of substance abuse. Most recently, Resolutions [2015-A158 - Adopt Policy on Alcohol and Other Substance Misuse](#) and [2015-A159 - Promote a Healing Ministry to Those Affected by Addiction](#) were passed at the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, UT, in July 2015. There is also a [Commission on Impairment and Leadership](#), which according to its enabling resolutions, serves as “an independent commission to explore the canonical, environmental, behavioral, and procedural dimensions of matters involving the serious impairment of individuals serving as leaders in the Church, with special attention to issues of addiction and substance abuse.” The Commission on Impairment and Leadership was adopted by the Executive Council at its March 19-21, 2015 meeting in Salt Lake City. The Executive Council was acting in affirmation of the March 17, 2015 House of Bishops resolution.

The members of The Episcopal Church Commission on Impairment and Leadership:

- Jan Brown, Williamsburg, VA, member of the board of Episcopal Recovery Ministries and Co-Director of SpiritWorks Foundation, a recovery community organization serving individuals affected by the disease of addiction
- The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real
- The Rev. Dr. Mark Hanson, Minnesota, former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The Rev. Dr. William Harkins, III, Atlanta, GA, Senior Lecturer in Pastoral Care and Director of the Th.D. program, Columbia Theological Seminary; therapist with clinical experience treating clients with addictions; and Canon Associate at the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio
- The Rev. Martha Horne, Alexandria, VA, Convener, Dean and President, emerita of Virginia Theological Seminary
- The Very Rev. Cynthia Kittredge, Th.D., Austin, TX, Dean and President of the Seminary of the Southwest
- Canon Jill Mathis, Philadelphia, PA, Canon for Transition Ministry in the Diocese of Pennsylvania
- The Rt. Rev. Robert O’Neill, Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado
- The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Bethlehem



- The Very Rev. Steven Thomason, M.D., Seattle, WA, Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral; Chair of House of Deputies Special Legislative Committee on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse; former physician with experience working with the Impaired Physicians Committee of the Arkansas State Medical Board

Resource Links

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Substance Abuse](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori announces members of Commission on Impairment and Leadership](#)

Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)

The role of the [Anglican Consultative Council](#) (ACC) is to facilitate the cooperative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, to exchange information between the Anglican provinces and churches, and to help to coordinate common action. It offers advice on the organization and structures of the Anglican Communion and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the church, including ecumenical matters.

The ACC serves the worldwide family of Anglican/Episcopal churches as one of the four Instruments of Communion:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury in his international role as *primus inter pares*, the senior bishop in the Anglican Communion
- The Lambeth Conference, which meets every 10 years for the bishops of the Anglican Communion (first meeting in 1867)
- The Primates' Meetings, which are regular meetings of the senior archbishops and bishops of the 38 provinces (first meeting in 1979)
- The Anglican Consultative Council, which meets every three years or so and whose members include bishops, clergy, and laity appointed by the 38 provinces of the Communion (first meeting in 1971)

The ACC is the only one of the four Instruments of Communion that includes lay representation. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas (Diocese of Connecticut), the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings (Diocese of



Ohio), and Rosalie Simmonds Ballantine, Esq. (Diocese of the Virgin Islands) are the elected members of ACC for The Episcopal Church.

Resource Links

The Public Affairs Office:

[A Letter from Lusaka: Episcopal Church team writes to the church at conclusion of ACC meeting](#)

Anglican Communion

The Episcopal Church is a member of the worldwide [Anglican Communion](#). The member churches of the Anglican Communion are joined together by choice in love, and have no direct authority over one another. The Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Church of England, is acknowledged as the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion, but the Archbishop does not have direct authority over any Anglican church outside of England.

Resource Links

The Public Affairs Office:

[Episcopal Presiding Bishop named to Anglican Communion Task Force](#)

Episcopal News Service:

[Anglican Communion Task Group holds first meeting to ‘maintain conversation’](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury

The [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), the primate of the Church of England, is recognized by Anglicans throughout the world as the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion. He is the Focus for Unity for the three other Instruments of Communion of the Anglican Communion, and is therefore a unique focus for Anglican unity. The current Archbishop of Canterbury is the [Most Rev. Justin Welby](#). He was named 105th Archbishop of Canterbury on November 9, 2012, and was enthroned on March 21, 2013. Upon taking office in March 2013, Archbishop Welby announced three priority areas for his ministry over the coming years:

- The renewal of prayer and the religious life
- Reconciliation



- Evangelism and witness

The roles of the Archbishop of Canterbury include:

- **Leader of the Anglican Communion** – The Anglican Communion includes all 38 provinces in communion with the See of Canterbury, with a total of over 70 million members throughout the world.
- **Primate of All England** – The archbishop has this title in recognition of his lead ecclesiastical role in England. The Church of England has 13,000 parishes and 13,000 full-time parochial and other clergy. He is regarded as the nation’s senior Christian and spiritual voice.
- **Metropolitan for the Southern Province of the Church of England** – The Archbishop of Canterbury has metropolitan authority (that is, a supervisory authority for defined purposes) in relation to all bishops and clergy in the 30 dioceses in southern England. The Archbishop of York has the same authority in relation to the 14 dioceses in northern England.
- **Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury** – Since 597, the Archbishop’s See has been at Canterbury. The current Archbishop is the 105th. His diocese in East Kent has a population of 825,000 and comprises 270 parishes in an area of nearly 1,000 square miles.
- **Ecumenical role** – The Archbishop of Canterbury takes a lead in respect to Anglican relationships with other Christian churches in the United Kingdom and abroad.
- **Interfaith role** – Similarly, the Archbishop of Canterbury takes a lead in respect to Anglican relationships with other faiths.

The Archbishop of Canterbury calls the once-a-decade **Lambeth Conference**, chairs the meeting of **Primates**, and is president of the **Anglican Consultative Council**.

Church planting

The [General Convention Advisory Group on Church Planting](#) was established through [Resolution D005](#) of the 78th General Convention in July 2015 and called for the creation of “a church-wide network for planting congregations, training and recruiting planters, and establishing new congregations each triennium.”



The Advisory Group is also working closely with Latino/Hispanic Ministries to support and develop new Spanish-speaking and bilingual congregations. Additionally, the group has been charged with the distribution of further funding for Mission Enterprise Zones.

Members of the General Convention Advisory Group on Church Planting and their dioceses:

- The Rev. Jane Gerdson, chairperson, Southern Ohio
- The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, Newark
- Erendira Jimenez-Pike, Kentucky
- The Rev. Michael Michie, Dallas
- The Rev. Alex Montes Vela, Texas
- The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, Alabama
- The Rev. Zachary Nyein, East Tennessee
- The Rev. David Perkins, Lexington
- The Rev. Canon Jesus Reyes, El Camino Real
- Bishop George Sumner, Jr., Dallas
- The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, Fort Worth

The Rev. Canon Frank Logue of Georgia and the Rev. Canon Tanya Wallace of Western Massachusetts are liaisons from Executive Council. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings are ex officio members. The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers is staff advisor, and the Rev. Tom Brackett is staff liaison.

Resource Links

The Public Affairs Office:

[Church Planting and Missional Initiative grant applications now available](#)

[Advisory Group puts church planting efforts into motion](#)

Climate change

Care and justice for all creation is a core value of The Episcopal Church. Through education, advocacy, and action, [eco-justice ministries](#) seek to heal, defend, and work toward justice for all God's creation and to respect the kinship and connection of all that God created.

In December 2015, an eight-member diverse delegation represented Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry and The Episcopal Church at the critically important international United



Nations Climate Change Conference, formally known as the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Episcopal Church also works “to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth” as one of its Five Marks of Mission. On March 24, 2015, The Episcopal Church gathered for an important forum on [The Climate Change Crisis](#). This practical discussion touched on the issues that we face from our own actions and examined what we can do to respect God’s creation. In addition to stimulating conversation and raising awareness about the Climate Change Crisis, the live webcast served as the kickoff to 30 Days of Action. Various activities were offered to help individuals and congregations better understand the environmental crisis. The activities culminated on Earth Day, April 22, 2015. The webcast is available on-demand, and the forum is ideal for group viewing and discussion. It is appropriate for Sunday school, adult education, discussion groups, and community gatherings. Resources such as a bibliography, on-demand video, materials for community and individual review, discussion questions, and lesson plans are [available here](#).

Resource Links

[The Episcopal Ecological Network](#)

[Resolution 2015-C013 – Oppose Environmental Racism](#)

[Resolution 2012-B023 – Seek Environmental Justice](#)

[Resolution 2009-A157 – Refer a Resolution on Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals](#)

[Resolution 2009-D031 – Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output](#)

[Resolution 2006-B002 – Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Share in prayer with climate conference team; December 3 webinar examines climate change](#)

[The Climate Change Crisis: Forum now available for viewing](#)

[The Climate Change Crisis: watch, participate, engage](#)

[Panelists announced for The Climate Change Crisis](#)

[Episcopal Church will host forum on today’s critical issue: The Climate Change Crisis](#)



Episcopal News Service:

[Episcopal forum raises awareness about climate change crisis](#)

[Reclaiming climate change as a moral issue](#)

Diocesan Asking

The funding policy for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 is adopted based on a single Asking of the dioceses. After a \$150,000 exemption from total income, a single Asking shall be applied at flat rates of 18%, 16.5%, and 15%, respectively in years 2016, 2017, and 2018 of the balance of income to the diocese, reported in the diocesan financial statements for the year two years prior to the year to which the pledge is applied (e.g., 2016 Askings are to be based on 2014 actual income figures). “Income” includes (1) all congregational giving to the diocese, (2) all unrestricted investment and endowment income to the diocese, (3) restricted investment and endowment income to the diocese that covers costs in the operating budget, and (4) other earnings from investments or enterprises. It is intended that income shall include revenues that fund normal operating and program expenses of the dioceses. It is not intended to include pass-through income that is used for expenses for programming that are simply administered by the dioceses, or that would not be otherwise funded by contributions from parishes or out of investment income. It shall be the duty of each Diocesan Convention to forward to the Treasurer of the General Convention annually, on the first Monday of January, the amount of the assessment levied upon that diocese.

We rejoice with dioceses that have moved toward and those that have given at and above 19% during 2013-2015. Such giving creates a strong financial basis for vital mission and witness of The Episcopal Church. We encourage all our dioceses to adopt the Asking to the mission priorities that we have embraced in this 78th General Convention.

Resource Links

[2016-2018 Budget Adopted by General Convention](#)

[Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, pp. 22, 33, 34, and 227](#)

Ecumenical relations (ELCA, Moravian Church in North America)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



The Episcopal Church is in communion with the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A merger of three Lutheran churches formed the ELCA in 1988. They were The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America.

The ELCA traces its roots back to the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to America from Europe, settling in the Virgin Islands and the area that is now known as New York. Even before that, Martin Luther sought reform for the church in the 16th century, laying the framework for ELCA beliefs.

Since its beginning in 1988, the ELCA has been one church body organized in three expressions – congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. Each expression has its particular functions, but all three together share a common mission of doing God’s work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Together, they ensure a solid foundation of leadership, active involvement in communities, opportunities for dialogue and diverse perspectives, creative partnerships, and support for members and ministries of the ELCA.

ELCA congregations are centers for evangelical mission, where people of faith celebrate, learn, and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship.

The ELCA’s 65 synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing, and program. The smallest synod has 30 congregations and the largest nearly 300. The synods are grouped into nine regions, which are points of connection for them and the churchwide organization. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates. In order to strengthen the relationship between synod leaders and the churchwide office, many churchwide teams relate to and support the work of the synods.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to diverse and interdependent leadership across its three expressions – in nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods, and the churchwide organization. Leaders in these expressions work together, with guidance from the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, and elected churchwide officers, to ensure a strong foundation of leadership and support for the ELCA and its members.

The churchwide organization is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions with the ELCA’s 65 synods and nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, the Caribbean, and



the U.S. Virgin Islands. The churchwide organization's work and functions are guided by the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and four elected officers. Its staff and elected officers work at the Lutheran Center and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners, and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries.

The ELCA also nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith partners and related organizations. The churchwide organization works alongside 26 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, eight seminaries, more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions across the country and throughout the world.

The ELCA churchwide organization, working collaboratively with congregations, synods, agencies and institutions and other partners, will give priority to:

- Accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission; and
- Building capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.
- To this end, the churchwide organization continues to play a significant and pivotal role in the life of this church by working with its local and global mission partners to build, support, and extend the mission of this church.

Resource Links

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – ELCA](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Prayers of the People developed to recognize landmark 10th Anniversary of Episcopal-Lutheran 'Called to Common Mission'](#)

Moravian Church in North America

The Moravian Church in North America is part of a worldwide Christian communion formally known as the *Unitas Fratrum*, or Unity of the Brethren. The United States is divided into two provinces, the Northern Province (centered in Bethlehem, PA) and the Southern Province (centered in Winston-Salem, NC).

In 1997, The Episcopal Church General Convention established an official Episcopal-Moravian dialogue with the [Moravian Church in North America](#). The 2003 General Convention authorized



a relationship of Eucharistic sharing so that the two communions could worship together and begin working together in mission, while continuing to work on a reconciled ordained ministry.

At General Convention 2009, The Episcopal Church approved full communion. The Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Northern Province and Southern Province of the Moravian Church have likewise approved this proposal.

This is the first time that three churches (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Episcopal Church, and Moravian Church) have entered into full communion on the basis of separately negotiated concordats of full communion.

Resource Links

[Ecumenical and Interreligious](#)

[Resolution 2009-A073 – Add Canon I.20.3 \[Full Communion: Moravian Church in America\]](#)

[Resolution 2006-D080 – Commend and Encourage the Moravian-Episcopal Dialogue](#)

[Resolution 2003-A087 – Establish Interim Eucharistic Sharing with the Moravian Church in America](#)

[Resolution 1997-A021 – Establish a Dialogue With the Moravian Church of America](#)

Election

The 2016 election in the United States remains at the top of the news in media outlets, and it is inevitably a topic in personal conversations. To provide education about the election and to assist in voter preparation, The Episcopal Church developed an online toolkit with a webpage that outlines how individual Episcopalians and congregations can participate in the electoral process through a number of nonpartisan activities.

Among the possible nonpartisan activities offered are engaging young adults who are eligible to vote for the first time, hosting a candidate forum, advocating for voting rights legislation, and hosting Get Out The Vote campaigns. Through the [Episcopal Public Policy Network \(EPPN\)](#), information is also available on an important initiative, the Episcopal Pledge to Vote.

- Election engagement resources, including the downloadable Episcopal Election Engagement Toolkit, [are available here](#).



- Bulletin inserts [are available here](#).
- A Facebook/Twitter social media campaign highlights state-by-state registration deadlines, information on voting rights, ways to support civil discourse, and historical fun facts of Episcopal political engagement through the centuries of our country. Find it on [Facebook here](#) and on [Twitter here](#).
- Look for and use the hashtag #EpiscopaliansVote.

Resource Links

[Presiding Bishop Curry offers video election message, encourages voting as “a Christian obligation”](#)

[Election Toolkit helps Episcopalians engage in nonpartisan activities](#)

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) traditionally draws hundreds of youth from throughout The Episcopal Church. 2017 will mark the 13th time that this popular and well-attended event takes place. EYE2017 will be held at the [University of Central Oklahoma](#) in Edmond, OK on July 10-14, and is being planned by The Episcopal Church in partnership with the [Diocese of Oklahoma](#). EYE17 is geared for youth who are in grades 9-12 during the 2017-2018 academic year, as well as their adult leaders.

EYE is held every three years in accordance with General Convention [Resolution 1982-D079](#).

Resource Links

[EYE Planning Team](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Applications accepted for EYE17 Pastoral Care Team](#)

[Planning team named for Episcopal Youth Event 2017](#)

[EYE2017 Mission Planning Team application deadline extended](#)

[EYE17 location announced; Mission Planning Team applications accepted](#)



Evangelism

A lot of Episcopalians get skittish the moment they hear the “E” word. Let’s imagine evangelism that is true to the bold, generous, and hopeful spirit of the Jesus Movement; evangelism that welcomes people into a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ; evangelism that first listens for what God is doing in our lives and in the world, and then celebrates and shares it.

[Episcopal Evangelism Initiatives](#) represent the many ways to celebrate and share the good news of Jesus’ life and love with everyone everywhere: first, by sharing stories that energize and inspire Episcopalians; then, by spreading resources that equip regular Episcopalians and churches to become evangelists and storytellers in daily life; finally, by sharing good news with people beyond the Episcopal fold via new ministries and digital evangelism.

Share your thoughts and experiences. Ask for what you need. Join the movement.

Resource Links

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Evangelism](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Registration open for Evangelism Matters Episcopal Church Evangelism Conference in November](#)

[Save the date: Episcopal Church Evangelism Conference in November](#)

Executive Council

The [Executive Council](#) has the duty to carry out programs and policies adopted by General Convention. The Executive Council comprises 20 members elected by General Convention (four bishops, four priests or deacons, and 12 laypersons) and 18 members elected by provincial synods.

General Convention

[General Convention](#) is the main governing body of The Episcopal Church, and it meets every three years. The General Convention is made up of two houses – House of Bishops (HOB) and House of Deputies (HOD) – and they present, consider, modify, and ratify resolutions that direct



the work of the Church for the next three years. In 2018, General Convention will be held July 5-13 in Austin, TX ([Diocese of Texas](#)).

Resource Links

The Public Affairs Office:

[General Convention 2018 dates announced: July 5 – July 13 in Austin, TX](#)

Gun violence

The ongoing issue of gun violence has been addressed by The Episcopal Church in a variety of ways, including prayer, procession, and General Convention legislation. Another example is [Bishops United Against Gun Violence](#), a group of more than 60 Episcopal bishops working to curtail the epidemic of gun violence in the United States.

Resource Links

[Bishops Against Gun Violence](#)

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Gun Control](#)

[Resolution 2015-B008 – Support Handgun Purchaser Licensing](#)

[Resolution 2015-C005 – Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence](#)

Episcopal News Service:

[Bishops United Against Gun Violence plans prayerful procession at General Convention](#)

[Video: Bishops lead march against gun violence](#)

[Bishop Curry speaks at prayerful procession against gun violence](#)

Haiti

On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, a diocese of The Episcopal Church, killing more than 300,000 people, seriously injuring more than 250,000, and leaving 1.3 million homeless. An extensive number of private and public buildings were destroyed, including Holy Trinity Cathedral and the affiliated Episcopal institutions in the cathedral complex.



As Episcopalians, we are committed to supporting just reconstruction and sustainable development in Haiti. While significant steps have been made to rebuild Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, Haitian communities continue to face rampant disease, poverty, and violent crime. The Episcopal Church works to address these issues through advocating for food security, the elimination of cholera, viable housing solutions, poverty reduction, and gender-sensitive development for this island nation.

Resource Links

Development Office: [Haiti: More Than a Cathedral](#)

Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN): [Haiti Policy](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry on sixth anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti](#)

House of Bishops (HOB)

All bishops of The Episcopal Church, active or retired, make up the [House of Bishops](#). The House of Bishops has nearly 300 active members and comprises half the governing body of The Episcopal Church. Like the governing body of the United States, the governing body of The Episcopal Church (called “General Convention”) is comprised of two houses: the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. They meet and act separately, and both houses must concur to adopt legislation. General Convention meets every three years, and the House of Bishops meets twice a year between conventions in a non-legislative capacity. The Presiding Bishop is the president of the House of Bishops.

Immigration

The Episcopal Church is committed to welcoming the stranger and advocating for a humane and proportional immigration system. For more than a century, The Episcopal Church has been engaged in the ministry of welcoming immigrants and refugees, walking with them as they begin their new lives in our communities and advocating for immigration policies that protect families from separation, offer meaningful access to citizenship, and respect the dignity of every human being.



For the first time since World War II, there are more than 60 million displaced people worldwide, including more than 19 million refugees.

[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) is the Church's foremost response to refugee crises. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the Church, as well as with governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and a network of 30 affiliate offices in 26 dioceses, Episcopal Migration Ministries assures safe passage and provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in the United States: English language and cultural orientation classes, employment services, school enrollment, and initial assistance with housing and transportation. For each family, the goal is self-reliance and self-determination. After years of living in limbo, refugees now have the opportunity to begin again on a strong foundation that honors their stories and dignity, thanks to Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Each year, Episcopal Migration Ministries and its network of local affiliate partners welcome more than 5,000 refugees from more than 30 countries. From the moment they arrive in their new communities, refugee clients receive care, hospitality, and assistance from professional affiliate staff and from the hundreds of generous church volunteers who welcome the stranger through this ministry each year.

Resource Links

Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN): [Immigration and Refugee Policy](#)

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Immigration](#)

Jesus Movement

In his first address as Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry outlined the Jesus Movement:

“Now is our time to go. To go into the world to share the good news of God and Jesus Christ. To go into the world and help to be agents and instruments of God's reconciliation. To go into the world, let the world know that there is a God who loves us, a God who will not let us go, and that that love can set us all free.

“This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world.”

Resource Links



The Public Affairs Office:

[Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry new video: Loving, liberating, and life-giving](#)

[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry: This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world.](#)

Latino/Hispanic Ministries

[Latino/Hispanic Ministries](#) guides The Episcopal Church in forming hospitable communities of faith that nourish, strengthen, and develop disciples of Christ in the Anglican tradition within Spanish-speaking communities.

Middle East policies

The Office of Government Relations advocates for sustainable, comprehensive peace and security for all God's people. The office works closely with Anglican partners in some of the world's most challenging conflicts, and pursues public policies by the governments of the United States and other nations, to help foster global reconciliation and ensure that all might eventually live safe, secure, prosperous lives, including in the Middle East, Sudan and South Sudan, Cuba, the Philippines, and everywhere religious freedom is compromised.

Resource Links

Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN): [Peace and Reconciliation in a War-Torn World](#)

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Middle East](#)

[2015-C018 - Affirm the Work of Christians in Israel and the Occupied Territories](#)

Native American/Indigenous Ministries

The goal of [Native American/Indigenous Ministries](#) is the full inclusion of Native and Indigenous peoples in the life and leadership of The Episcopal Church.

Resource Links



Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Native Americans and Ministry](#)

[Resolution 2015-A025 – Authorize Ministries for At-Risk Teens](#)

[Resolution 2015-A026 – Support for Ministry Development among Native American Men](#)

[Resolution 2015-A027 – Develop and Support Tribal College Campus Ministry](#)

[Resolution 2015-C053 – Support Subsistence Rights of Indigenous Cultures](#)

Navajoland

In 1978, The Episcopal Church founded Navajoland Area Mission on approximately 26,000 square miles in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Today, there is a new spirit and energy in this land. Several churches have been reopened. While there has only been one Navajo priest, there are now 11 candidates for ordination and two who were ordained as priests in June 2013.

Resource Links

[Navajoland: Our American Heritage](#)

[Resolution 1988-B003 – Support Proposal to Elect a Bishop for the Church in Navajoland](#)

[Resolution 1985-A175 – Review the Status of the Navajoland Area Ministry](#)

[Resolution 1982-B030 – Accept the Resignation of the Bishop of the Navajo Area Mission](#)

[Resolution 1982-D013 – Amend Canons I.8, 10 as follows:](#)

Canon I.8.1 [Of Provinces]

Canon I.8.2 [Of New Dioceses in Provinces]

Canon I.8.7 [Of Provincial Representatives]

Canon I.10.2 [Representation of an Area Mission]

Canon I.10.3 [Transfer of Status of Missionary District]

[Resolution 1979-C051 – Accept Diocesan Action to Cede Jurisdiction for the Navajo Area Mission](#)

[Resolution 1976-B175 – Accept Diocesan Lands on Behalf of the Navajo Area Mission](#)



Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry

[The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry](#) was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church on November 1, 2015. He was elected and confirmed at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, UT on June 27, 2015. He is the Chief Pastor and serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and chair of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

Born in Chicago, IL, on March 13, 1953, Presiding Bishop Curry attended public schools in Buffalo, NY, and graduated with high honors from Hobart College in Geneva, NY, in 1975. He received a Master of Divinity degree in 1978 from Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, CT. He has furthered his education with continued study at the College of Preachers, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wake Forest University, the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary's Seminary, and the Institute of Christian Jewish Studies.

Presiding Bishop Curry was ordained to the diaconate in June 1978 at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY, by the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson and to the priesthood in December 1978 at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, NC, by the Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess. He began his ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, in 1978 and was rector from 1979 to 1982. He next accepted a call as rector at St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights, OH serving from 1982 to 1988. In 1988, he was called to become rector of St. James', Baltimore, MD where he served until his election as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in February 2000.

Throughout his ministry, Presiding Bishop Curry has been active in issues of social justice, speaking out on immigration policy and marriage equality.

In his three parish ministries in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland, Presiding Bishop Curry had extensive involvement in Crisis Control Ministry, the founding of ecumenical summer day camps for children, preaching missions, the Absalom Jones initiative, creation of networks of family day care providers, creation of educational centers, and the brokering of millions of dollars of investment in inner-city neighborhoods.

In the Diocese of North Carolina, Presiding Bishop Curry instituted a network of canons, deacons, and youth ministry professionals dedicated to supporting the ministry that happens in local congregations. He refocused the diocese on The Episcopal Church's Millennium Development Goals through a \$400,000 campaign to buy malaria nets that saved over 100,000 lives.



Presiding Bishop Curry has served on the boards of a large number of organizations, including the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC), and as Chair and now Honorary Chair of Episcopal Relief & Development. He was a member of the Commission on Ministry in each of the three dioceses where he has served.

Presiding Bishop Curry has a national preaching and teaching ministry, having been featured on *The Protestant Hour* and as a frequent speaker at conferences around the country. He has authored numerous publications including columns for the *Huffington Post* and the *Baltimore Times*. His most recent book, *Songs My Grandma Sang*, was published in June 2015; *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus* was his first book, in August 2013. He has received honorary degrees from Episcopal Divinity School, Sewanee, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Yale.

He is married to the former Sharon Clement, and they have two daughters, Rachel and Elizabeth.

Resource Links

[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Media releases and statements by and about the Presiding Bishop](#)

Racial reconciliation

Reconciliation lies at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; it is simultaneously that which we long for and that which remains elusive. How do we define the “ministry of reconciliation” in our daily lives and ministries? What barriers impede our reconciliation with God and one another?

There are as many perspectives on what racial reconciliation looks like as there are Episcopalians. While we share the commitment to justice and equity as proclaimed in the [Baptismal Covenant](#), heartfelt and legitimate differences between us can prevent our listening deeply to one another and seeing Christ in each other. Yet Episcopalians throughout the Church are engaged in the important work of reconciliation and healing, building loving, inclusive, and resilient communities in a diverse range of social, cultural, and political contexts.

Resource Links

[Racial Reconciliation](#)

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Racism](#)



[Resolution 2015-A024 – Direct Dioceses to Examine the Impact of the Doctrine of Discovery](#)

[Resolution 2015-A182 – Address Systemic Racial Injustice](#)

[Resolution 2015-D040 – Develop Anti-Racism Youth Ministry Curriculum](#)

Refugees

For the first time since World War II, there are more than 60 million displaced people worldwide, including more than 19 million refugees.

[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) is the Church’s foremost response to refugee crises. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the Church, as well as with governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and a network of 30 affiliate offices in 26 dioceses, Episcopal Migration Ministries assures safe passage and provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in the United States: English language and cultural orientation classes, employment services, school enrollment, and initial assistance with housing and transportation. For each family, the goal is self-reliance and self-determination. After years of living in limbo, refugees now have the opportunity to begin again on a strong foundation that honors their stories and dignity, thanks to Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Each year, Episcopal Migration Ministries and its network of local affiliate partners welcome more than 5,000 refugees from more than 30 countries. From the moment they arrive in their new communities, refugee clients receive care, hospitality, and assistance from professional affiliate staff and from the hundreds of generous church volunteers who welcome the stranger through this ministry each year.

Resource Links

[Resolution 2015-D033 – Support Human Rights and Refugee Relief in Central America](#)

[Resolution 2015-D074 – Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Live Episcopal Church webcast discusses refugee resettlement on September 14](#)

[Presiding Bishop Curry on World Refugee Day: “We must find a way to end the suffering of human beings.”](#)



[Free webinar reviews resources for individuals, congregations to observe 2016 World Refugee Day](#)

[Ways and resources to observe World Refugee Day on June 20](#)

[National AmeriCorps grant funds 10 positions in Episcopal Church refugee program](#)

[Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry addresses Syrian refugee crisis: “Be not afraid!”](#)

[Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society presents special important webinars: Syrian refugees in the USA](#)

Revivals

Through revivals, The Episcopal Church seeks to vigorously engage in evangelism, reconciliation, and new ministry development. Revivals are planned throughout 2018 in various dioceses and will include energizing worship, dynamic preaching, testimony, storytelling, speakers, and sessions that connect to relevant topics.

Same-sex marriage

At the General Convention in Salt Lake City, UT ([Diocese of Utah](#)) in June/July 2015, the canons of The Episcopal Church were changed to make the rite of marriage available to all people, regardless of gender.

Resource Links

[Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music \(SCLM\)](#)

[Resolution 2012-A049 - Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships](#)

[Resolution 2012-A050 - Create a Task Force on the Study of Marriage](#)

Episcopal News Service:

[Marriage study task force begins work by sharing experiences](#)

[Dioceses respond to marriage equality decision by US Supreme Court](#)



Shootings/violence

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offers the following responses to recent episodes of violence both domestically and internationally. The Episcopal Church responds to violence through prayer and conversation, and by reminding us of our Baptismal Covenant promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

Resource Links

Archives of the Episcopal Church, The Acts of Convention: [Topic Search – Violence](#)

[Resolution 2015-C055 – Condemn Violence Against Christians and Commit to Prayer](#)

[Resolution 2015-D044 – Discontinue Display of the Confederate Battle Flag](#)

The Public Affairs Office:

[Video: Presiding Bishop asks for prayers following shootings Resources: prayer and conversation](#)

[Video: Presiding Bishop asks for prayers for Nice, France](#)

[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry: Prayers for Orlando](#)

[Presiding Bishop calls for a season of prayer](#)

[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls for prayer in response to the Paris violence](#)

[Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop J. Jon Bruno visit site of San Bernardino shootings](#)

[Presentations, workshops, panel examine violence in society at Episcopal Church special event in April](#)

[Call for workshop proposals for presentation at Episcopal Church special event Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace 2014](#)

Title IV

Title IV is the canon related to ecclesiastical discipline.

Resource Links

[Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church](#)



[General Convention 2015 Acts related to Title IV](#)

Young Adult Service Corps (YASC)

The [Young Adult Service Corps \(YASC\)](#) is a one-year international mission assignment that brings young adults into the life of the worldwide Anglican Communion and into the daily work of a local community. At the same time, YASC brings the gifts and resources of the Church into the lives of young adults as they explore their own faith journeys.

Resource Links

The Public Affairs Office:

[20 Episcopalians serving as missionaries through the Young Adult Service Corps](#)

[Rachel McDaniel named 2016-2017 United Thank Offering/Young Adult Service Corps Intern](#)

[Application deadline extended for Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps](#)

[Deadline nears for opportunities through Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps](#)