

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



OCTOBER 18, 2015 - TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B) UNITED NATIONS DAY

The United Nations celebrates its seventieth anniversary on this United Nations Day. On October 24th, 1945, the United Nations charter was ratified. This founding was the birth of a new hope for peace, just as World War II was ending. At its best, the UN has remained the world's most broadly representative forum for peacemaking and dialogue on diverse global issues. Today it gathers 193 member states and specialized agencies focused on peace and security, arms reduction, sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, human rights, environmental protection, and more.

As Episcopalians – and as Anglicans – we have been part of the UN from the beginning. Fellow Episcopalian Eleanor Roosevelt was the only woman on the first United States delegation to the United Nations (1945-1952), the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We continue this legacy because our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has called us to care for our world, heal the sick, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, serve the poor and proclaim good news to the captives and the oppressed. We do this to respond to our Baptismal Covenant and engage with the Five Marks of Mission.



Delegate Eleanor Roosevelt at a meeting of the United Nations, 1947

Photo: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library

Our relationship with the UN is built on that strong legacy and a mutual dependence. The Episcopal Church has expertise to offer, stories to share, voices in our midst that need to be heard, and resources and services at our disposal. We offer this through participating in events such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or Episcopal Migration Ministries' participation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Episcopal Relief & Development's fine work with a number of UN agencies.



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2012.

Photo: Lynnaia Main

The Episcopal Church is in turn enriched by its relationship with the United Nations. Among many benefits, the Church is connected to a global dialogue on peace building, justice and reconciliation, supporting sustainable development through the new Sustainable Development Goals, reversing climate change and protecting the environment, ensuring food security, protecting human rights, empowering women and girls, supporting the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples, and more.

To celebrate its 70 years, the UN has identified “70 Ways the UN Makes a Difference” (<http://www.un.org/un70/en/content/70ways>). Have a look and ask yourself: How does my or my community's ministry connect with these 70 ways? Do we have a concern to bring to the attention of the UN? A ministry to celebrate? A voice to uplift? A need for information, connection, and community on a global issue? A contribution to share? Let us know so that we can bring this to the UN's attention. Help us identify “70 Ways – and more – The Episcopal Church Makes a Difference at the UN.”

Contact Lynnaia Main, Global Relations Officer at lmain@episcopalchurch.org.