

# ISSUES 2009

WEDNESDAY JULY 15

## ***The Consultation Platform for Baptismal Ecclesiology***

### *The Consultation on Baptismal Ecclesiology*

The Presiding Bishop and the Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission are sponsoring The Consultation on Baptismal Ecclesiology.

The purpose of this significant and long ranged program is to address the baptismal theology that the redactors of the Book of Common Prayer intended to establish in 1979. This Consultation will seek to develop a strategic plan to equip our church, at all levels of diocesan and parish life, to better express being Christian and Episcopalian in the context of our baptismal ecclesiology.

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori is the Co-Chair; the Chair of the designing group is Byron Rushing, with his long experience as a lay leader and advocate for justice and reform. The Staff Officer is Clay Morris of the Office of Worship and Spirituality and the APLM Council. Participants include bishops: Neil Alexander, Wilfredo Ramos, Henry Parsley, Wayne Smith, Joe Burnett; parish priests and deacons: Georgia Beasley, Stephanie Spellers, Devon Anderson; liturgical scholars: Lee Mitchell, Louis Weil, Ruth Meyers; Christian educators: John Westerhoff, Linda Grenz; ecclesiology and history: Bill Petersen; canon lawyers: Sally Johnson; and advocates for justice and reform: Hisako Beasley. APLM Council members on the Baptismal Consultation (the organizers) are Robert Brooks, Michael Merriman and Bishop Joe Morris Doss.

The specific goals of the Consultation will be to:

- Explain the Prayer Book vision of baptismal theology to the whole church with clarity and conviction.
- Define the place of Baptism in relation to the post-baptismal celebrations of Confirmation, Reception, and

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

- Produce new materials and programs for education, formation, and leadership training to replace the use of Confirmation for a minimal educational standard for participation in the Episcopal Church and significantly improve what is offered.
- Distinguish Anglican identity and Christian identity and provide appropriate educational and formational standards and opportunities for each.
- Provide a canonical vehicle to assure that a formation program is enforceable.
- Provide a plan for the canonical establishment of standards and qualifications for valid voting membership and for un-ordained leadership in the church.
- Provide new models for the visitation of bishops to congregations.
- Propose resolutions and canons for General Convention.
- Identify parishes to serve as models for how to establish the baptismal ecclesiology in concrete and on-going parish life, ranging, particularly in the building of community through the relationship of worship and ministry.

Joe Doss, APLM

### **FOR SALE: IKEA FURNITURE**

(from Consultation Exhibit next to Food Court)

Available for sale and removal on Thursday:

20 folding chairs	\$5.00	each
4 drop-leaf tables	\$40.00	each
3 square tables	\$25.00	each
25 assorted pillows	\$2.00	each
2 potted palms	\$5.00	each
2 lockable cabinets	\$50.00	each
1 bookcase	\$40.00	

Visit the Consultation Exhibit and tag what you want!

### ***Misinformation Impacts Legislation***

Part of the Episcopal Church's ability to respond to the ongoing HIV/AIDS issues was dealt a serious blow late last week. Resolution A117 was amended on the floor of the House of Deputies to remove the continuation of the Committee on

HIV/AIDS of Executive Council. Unfortunately, the decision resulted from incorrect information provided to the House by the proposer of the amendment. Contrary to the testimony on the floor, HIV/AIDS is indeed a greater problem than malaria and is not as well controlled. Similarly, comparisons of cancer to HIV/AIDS fail to remember that people do not get fired from jobs, evicted from apartments, or socially stigmatized when they have cancer. People with HIV/AIDS suffer stigma so great that it may prevent them from seeking access to health care, including finding out their HIV status.

After years of stabilized infection rates, new infections are again on the rise. The most heavily impacted group is young gay men, only now most of them are men of color. Geographically the Southeastern United States, including Province IV of The Episcopal Church, now has become “home” to HIV/AIDS. Infection rates are highest and rising in that geographic area.

HIV/AIDS brings together the worst impact of racism, sexism, homophobia, economic poverty and ignorance about disease in a deadly combination that remains with us, even 28 years after the epidemic began. Having the HIV Committee as a committee of Executive Council facilitates the Episcopal Church’s interactions with other AIDS service organizations and keeps awareness of the HIV pandemic high within multiple ministries of our church so we can continue to be in the forefront in responding to the HIV pandemic with education and in ministering to those whom it affects.

Bruce Garner, NEAC  
Member, Executive Council

### ***Let’s Tell the Truth about B033***

It’s been said again and again, D025 doesn’t change anything because B033 didn’t affect the canons of the Church. The canons call for non-discrimination in the discernment process – so not confirming elected bishops wasn’t a canonical change. B033 didn’t really change reality.

Of course B033 changed the reality of LGBT people. B033 did affect the discernment process. OK, maybe Search Committees were, strictly speaking, able to nominate LGBT candidates. But, knowing that an openly gay candidate would almost certainly not have a chance of being confirmed, what Search Committee would go to the expense of nominating one? California did, and they got a tremendous amount of negative press for doing so, and at least one (liberal)

diocese instructed their Search Committee not to consider gay candidates.

There are sociological terms for organizations that claim they don’t discriminate but whose policies have the effect of discriminating. B033 did create discrimination. What LGBT person was willing to put themselves out there only to be crucified in the confirmation process? That takes a special kind of saint as Bishop Lawrence of S. Carolina can tell us.

The House of Bishops wants to tell the truth so let’s do that. Let’s stop kidding ourselves that B033 didn’t change anything, that D025 just states the way things are, that partnered gay people have been able to become bishops these last three years – just none of them wanted to.

All LGBT potential bishops please sit in the back of the bus.

Caro Hall, Integrity

Today at 1:00 PM **Church Publishing** welcomes you to its booth for a **book signing** and conversation about **Latino Ministry**. I will be presenting the main ideas of the book about the future of Latino Ministry. The Rev. Anthony Guillén, National Coordinator for Latino Ministries, will join me to introduce the new National Strategy for Latino Ministry Development. Pick up your lunch and join us!

Juan Oliver APLM

### ***Fair Trade, Just Coffee, and Illegal Immigration***

Is there an economic complicity “North of the Border” that contributes and perhaps even perpetuates and cooperates in this process of illegal immigration? In their book *Just Coffee – Caffeine with a Conscience*, Mark Adams and Tommy Bassett write the following:

“We save money by hiring immigrants [in the United States]. Our building contractors, our lumbering businesses and dairy farms, our office and hotel cleaning firms, our restaurants and landscaping operations, our agricultural enterprises and orchards enlist these workers for extremely low wages – and they pass on at least some of those savings to us.

Since an employer can go to jail for not paying income and Social Security taxes, almost all employers collect and pay these taxes. The Social Security revenue collected on these wages, however, enters our system without future

repayment liability. Undocumented workers in the U.S. contribute an estimated seven billion dollars a year to our Social Security system. These workers will never receive Social Security checks from the system. It's not all that bad a deal for those of us who are beneficiaries of the immigrants' efforts."

The need for immigration reform goes beyond appeals for family unity, it goes beyond attempting to appeal to human dignity, and sometimes it even goes beyond what is fair or what is just. "Border issues are complex. Proper registration, adequate border security and protection, and a process of legal order are needed. To be sure, the system that manages the line in the sand between our two countries is flawed at best. However, the single most powerful force driving the migration inward across our southern border remains economics. Until this issue is adequately resolved, hopefully humanely, we will not be able to change the realities at our border – no matter how high or how long the fence." (Mark Adams and Tommy Bassett)

The challenge to us as a Church could be this: ask questions about immigration reform over and over and over again until immigration reform with workable and effective solutions is discovered and implemented.

Carmen Guerrero ENEJ  
Canon for Peace and Justice  
in the Diocese of Arizona

### **Lunchtime Speakers**

(1:00pm) in the Consultation Exhibit Area (next to the food service area) Each day deputies, bishops, exhibitors and visitors are invited to hear riveting talks from cutting edge Episcopalians speaking Christ' message of Justice and Peace. We will also have some afternoon speakers at 2:00pm.

**July 15th** – Rev. Wilma Jacobsen: Born and educated in Cape Town, South Africa and currently Senior Associate at All Saints, Pasadena, CA.

**2:00 pm** – Brent Bourgeois, (Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and activist) Author of "Left Behind: Jesus in the age of American Empire"

**Jesus Rocks—U2charist** with Pavel Sfera,  
Thursday, July 16, 7:30 pm  
Hilton Anaheim – Pacific Ballrooms C & D  
Offering to benefit E4GR and ERD



SOME DEPUTIES ARE TAKING THE ART OF PUBLIC NARRATIVE TO NEW LENGTHS.

Susan Williams

### **Friends don't let friends miss ISSUES**

ISSUES and other publications than the Convention Daily are restricted by Convention and City of Anaheim policy to be distributed in front of the main Convention Center entrance, on a table near that entrance, and in the Red Lion, our Hotel. Look for ISSUES in our hotel lobby, on the Convention Center literature table, on line at [www.theconsultation.org](http://www.theconsultation.org) or the blog, ISSUES-TheConsultation.blogspot.com or at The Consultation area in the exhibition hall. Or ask a friend.

### **Music to my ears**

The music around us has a great effect on us. Whether it is Michael Jackson, with whose life and death we have been so immersed in these last days, or hip-hop, jazz or classical forms, we are often formed or influenced by what we hear. Witness the great concern about the effect of gangsta rap on the teens of the last decade, or of Elvis or the Beatles on their generations.

We see this in the church as well, of course. Recently we were facing a Sunday off for our parish musician, so we set an a capella plan by asking for favorite hymns to sing that day. Some one suggested 'Morning has broken', to which another responded 'Uggg, I hate Cat Stevens!!' And then there is the rise of folk masses, the end of organ music in some churches, and the U2charist.

There are those who love U2charist, and proclaim the value of that sound as spiritual and uplifting. Not at all like the most violent hip-hop, with which

it is associated by others. So much depends upon not only the music, but the life style and practice of the creators of music to make them acceptable or not in our ears.

So Bono and U2 are welcome in my book as much for their tuneful expertise as for their way of being in the world. More and more Bono speaks, as he did last week in an op ed in the NY Times, with clarity, insight and deep understanding of Africa and mission and change and hope.

Mike Shirley, ISSUES staff

### ***What A-142 & A-143 can do for the Church***

I have been attending General Convention for a number of years and I have observed that when we get anxious about “new or hard things”, we have a tendency to scapegoat or “to throw someone or somebody under the bus”. We have made many hard decisions during the past few General Conventions. Never the less, we, The Episcopal Church as part of the Body of Christ when guided by our Baptismal vows, have stepped out on faith and made them. The two resolutions on Restorative Justice A142 and A143 are again other opportunities for us to do the hard work that God has called us to. They are the resolutions asking us to continue the work from A123 of General Convention 2006, (actually originally from 2003)... work that many of us have never started.

I can clearly recall 2003 when we celebrated the concurrence with the House of Bishops on the consecration of the now Right Reverend Gene Robinson. At the same time, we decided it would be divisive for us as a church to address the study of the sins of slavery and its current impact on our church and nation. I along with many others was deeply troubled at this decision, in light of the theme for that Convention focused us on “Reconciliation.” It was thought by most that just a conversation or resolution would divide us as a communion. I am not sure what it will take for us to understand that without justice, there can never be peace. And it doesn’t matter what words are used, we must commit to do the hard work on this issue.

Many of us left that Convention feeling as if we had been “used and abused”. It is good that some of those present made a commitment that this was work the church must do. During the hearings at this convention we heard from some of those who pursued the hard work of this matter in their dioceses during the past triennium, they shared just how difficult this work has been. However,

they also shared the good fruit that has been born out of their work and getting on a road of processes with the hope of eventually being healed. They encouraged the rest of us to join them in these dialogues around reconciliation so that we can begin the healing process as a church and nation. An unhealed church or nation cannot begin to heal others, and we should be clear that we are an unhealed church and nation. One only has to look at our (almost apartheid) systems and policies around education, health, jails and prisons, wages, housing discrimination, etc. to understand this reality, as we have continued to let the structures of oppression stand in our own country. It is true, this is hard work, but I have learned in life is what God bring us to, God will lead us through.

We only need to look to our baptismal covenant to know that we are called to strive for justice and peace, with God’s help to know what our work is on this matter. It is hard work and yes we must do it. I commend those Dioceses who have started this work and I encourage the rest of us to do the same.

Patricia Abrams, UBE

### ***Because we’re the Good Guys!***

I was blessed to have witnessed a historic moment in The Episcopal Church’s history yesterday with the passing of D025. Before that, a group of young singers had come into the House of Bishops to sing a song. It was this that prompted me to text my Bishop and write that they get a lot of speakers and singers. To this he responded with “cause we’re the good guys!” Then D025 came up. Well, let’s see what the good guys have to say and do here.

After some (pretty good) debate, including a moving comparison of the exclusion of the LGBT community to that of the Caste System in India, the final vote was 99-45-2. I am very happy to be there for the moment and I look forward to the House of Deputies passing the amended resolution. I do want to point out the number “2”. 2 abstained. 2 Bishops decided not to vote. Go ahead and look it up in your Robert’s Rules of Order, to abstain is to refrain from voting. I’m surprised that somebody would choose not to vote on such an important and historic resolution. They ayes have their reason for voting yes and the nays have their reason for voting no. But, 2 Bishops chose not to vote.

Brad McDonald EPF-YAP