**ISSUES
2012**

**SATURDAY JULY 7**

You may wonder how the Consultation selects the candidates they endorse for election at GeneralConvention in ISSUES. The criteria we use are:

1. **Qualifications**
2. **Commitment to justice**
3. **Diversity**

In this light we offer the following endorsements

**For Executive Council**
*Laity*
Anita P. George John B. Johnson, IV
Pamela R.W. Kandt Frederica Harris Thompsett
*Clergy*
Carol Cole Flanagan

**Disciplinary Board for Bishops**
*Laity*
A. Joseph Alarid
*Clergy*
Angela F. Shepherd

**GTS Trustees**
*Laity*
Anne Clarke Brown
*Clergy*
Yamily Bass-Choate
*Bishop*
Stephen T. Lane

**Church Pension Fund***Bishop*

Diane M. Jardine Bruce

*Clergy*Cynthia L. Black
*Laity*
Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine
Barbara Creed
Gordon Fowler
Delbert C. Glover
Diane B. Pollard
Cecil Wray

OPEN MEETING

of The Consultation

in Meeting Room 144 in the

Convention Center

from 1:15 to 2:00
on Monday, July 9

**FOR SALE!**The Consultation's member organizations exhibit together and furnish the collaborative space in part with IKEA chairs, tables, shelves and other items. All these will be for sale when the exhibit is dismantled next Tuesday, July 10. Please come by and see us under The Consultation banner and check out what we have to offer before Monday noon. Each organization will be handling its sales and removal arrangements for the furnishings in its space.
Mary Miller, The Consultation

**Why Not “Maybe”?**

Many deputies are wearing “Yes to Communion/No to Covenant” buttons. Meanwhile, the legislative subcommittee dealing with the Anglican Covenant, chaired by the Rev. Mark Harris, is considering advancing two resolutions, one expressing the church’s commitment to the Anglican Communion and the other saying neither “yes” nor “no” to the Covenant. The first resolution is likely to pass easily; no one is calling for The Episcopal Church to withdraw from the Anglican Communion. A resolution that somehow says “maybe” (or “not now” or “not this one”), however, is not only a bad idea, but a resolution that will invite spirited and possibly divisive debate.

Why is saying “maybe” to the Covenant not a good option? Quite simply, Episcopalians have never wanted a covenant and have no desire to surrender their church’s autonomy to centralized Anglican bodies that include representatives of churches whose theological, ecclesiastical, and moral proclivities differ radically from theirs. Historical ties—often very tenuous ones—do not justify such a surrender to a future Anglican magisterium, which would be the ultimate effect of Covenant adoption.

Episcopalians are understandably queasy about what they should do about the Covenant. They realize that its origin is in the reactionary response to non-“traditional” actions by our church, and they are loath to be seen as defensive or disrespectful of churches in former colonial nations. In short, we don’t like to say “no,” so we accepted the Windsor Report with some grace and passed 2006-B033, though with reluctance and without enthusiasm.

If no church had yet rejected the Covenant, we might do well to defer, as we would indeed seem reactive. But England has rejected the Covenant, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding; Scotland trounced a resolution to adopt the Covenant; New Zealand will likely vote it down; and Australia will almost assuredly be unable to adopt it. It is time for The Episcopal Church to say that the Covenant is a bad idea—indeed, an un-Anglican idea—badly implemented, and one that must be discarded quickly if the Communion is to move forward as an effective instrument of mission and not simply a venue for endless and divisive disputes.

We should say “no” to the Anglican Covenant; not only for our own sake, but for the sake of the Communion. “Maybe” is not good enough.

Lionel Deimel, No Anglican Covenant Coalition

Susan Williams

**Immigration Reform**The pain and anxiety caused by unfair immigration law, were on full display at the committee hearings on Resolution D011, “Reform Unequal Immigration Laws” on Wednesday morning.

The Rev. Dr. Caro Hall, president of Integrity, told a bit of her story, and emphasized the privileges that she brought with her to the citizenship process: she is native speaker of English (with that lovely English accent), a professional with saleable high-level skills, and equipped with resources to obtain an expert immigration attorney. With these, she was free to obtain citizenship on her own. Her same-gender marriage is legal where she lives, but a legal nullity in the eyes of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

Others gave testimony of friends and parishioners who have had to pursue high-stakes, expensive and complex routes to legal status via asylum and other visa types.

Laura Russell, a deputy from the Diocese of Newark who is an attorney with expertise in domestic violence and immigration, talked about the limitations of the Violence against Women Act. This federal legislation, which is in fact in the reauthorization process itself, applies only to legal spouses of abusers. Since the Defense of Marriage Act overrides state recognition of same-gender marriages, non-citizen LGBT people who have been abused by their partners cannot obtain status in the same way that those in opposite-gender marriages might.

Please pray for victims and survivors of domestic violence, of every gender and legal status—this abuse is often hidden, and there is incredible shame and fear attached to it. Pray, too, for the conversion of heart and mind of abusers, and for justice in the legal system.

Films for the heart and mind

Integrity screened Voices of Witness: Out of the Box as part of a double feature with Love Free or Die, the Sundance-featured portrait of Bishop Gene Robinson, on Wednesday night. About 150 people sighed, cheered, and laughed through these marvelous films.

If you missed this event, please stop by Trans-Episcopal’s booth for your own copy of Voices of Witness: Out of the Box. If you want to arrange a screening of Love Free or Die, you can arrange it via the http://www.lovefreeordiemovie.com/ website.

Mary O'Shaughnessy, Integrity

**Do you have your ticket?**

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) welcomes all to help us honor veteran peacemakers Louie Crew andMary Miller on Sunday evening July 8 at 7:00PM at The Pub Indianapolis, 30 East Georgia Street, a shortwalk from the convention center.

Visit EPF’s exhibit at The Consultation and reserve a ticket ($25, $15 for students) or purchase them throughthe EPF website ([http://epfnational.org](http://epfnational.org/))

**Who Should Read This??**

I am attending General Convention for the first time. I am simply an observer – I have no official role. Inresponse to an inquiry, I committed my first impressions to paper. The standard caveats apply – these are *my*first impressions, my *first* impressions, my first*impressions*.

I have the same sense I so often have at coffee hour in an unfamiliar parish. There are a lot of really nice,fascinating, hard-working people intent upon talking to the folks they like about the things which interest themand the projects to which they are devoted. If one is an alien or sojourner, however, it's rather lonely anddifficult to navigate space, process, and community unless one is prepared to take a good deal of initiative.

There seems to be an implicit sensibility that if one isn't officially credentialed or one's ministry doesn't have agrand title or a specific line item in the budget, one can't do the work, whatever that work might be. One mightexpect this in venues devoted to the those ends, in which formal discussions about budget, structure, and themost effective ways of incarnating and invigorating the five Marks of Mission take place. But even on theelevators, in the lounge areas, down the halls, and along the streets, conversations appear to revolve aroundacquiring institutional mandate rather than inspirational motivation. *My first impression* is that we struggle tobelieve that proceeding alongside might be an effective alternative to reaching down and pulling up as wework to preach the Good News in word and action.

There is a prevailing corporate concession that creation arises from chaos and birthing involves pain. There isan almost palpable concomitant fear: of the unknown, of losing control, of vulnerability, of marginalization.

There is a yearning to be church in a way of boundless grace, constructive service, and practical stewardship,confounded by an intractable habit of parochialism.

There are hundreds of passionate, compassionate people striving to love God and neighbor to the best oftheir ability, discern their particular calling, and live into their baptismal ministry. Ultimately, it is a delight, a joy,and a privilege to be in the midst of them.

Martha Gillette

*Someone has suggested that Structure Questions are the Anglican Covenant in anotherform.*

**Can this ever be fixed?**

Several members of the Union of Black Episcopalians including the current president, John E. Harris, Jr.attended the Social and Urban Committee Hearings on July 5th to express concern and show support forResolutions A125 and A127. The resolutions are located on pages 588 through 594 in the 77th GeneralConvention Blue Book.

Resolution A125 proposes that the Episcopal Church recommit to the work of Anti-racism. Resolution A127proposes that the Episcopal Church include a time commitment of being Anti-racist for the Next ThreeTriennia (Until 2018).

According to Harris supporting Resolutions A125 and A127 keeps with the 44 year tradition of UBE toeliminate racism in the church and society. Harris also reminds us that although racism looks differently than itdid 40 years ago it still exists in society today and needs to be addressed. Explanation for Resolution A127states, “Given the changes occasioned by the 2009 budget cuts, this resolution is offered to affirm theChurch’s commitment to Anti-racism work, and to recognize that this work will have to be accomplished indifferent ways.” UBE and other Episcopal Church organizations will be recommending alternative ways torecommit to and continually address Anti-racism work.

Harris recommends the Social and Urban Committee review excerpts from the book, *The New Jim Crow:Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander for talking points regarding the needfor continued Anti-racism work in the church and society.
Zena Liink, UBE

**Episcopal Women’s Caucus Breakfast**

Sunday, July 8, 7:30 am in Wabash Room, Convention Hall 1st Floor
Tickets still being sold at EWC Booth, #1025
$25 pre-sale, $30 at the door

SPEAKER: Bonnie Anderson

**Immigration: Should we still fight?**

This General Convention we will be asked to vote on several immigration issues. The rights of the LGBTunder our current laws, the enactment of Secure Communities, the racial profiling involved in immigrationenforcement, and the states’ decision to take immigration into their own hands. We can all say that the federalgovernment is not “fixing” the immigration problem quickly, and what they are doing is not working, but shouldwe continue to raise our voices against the current system?

Absolutely! General Convention has the opportunity to continue telling the federal government that what littlethey are enacting is going in the wrong direction. Secure Communities, ideally meant to keep “high leveloffenders” off the streets of the United States has done nothing more but deport not only people who havenever even be convicted of a crime but it actually deported a US citizen.

Some states have enacted their own version of immigration laws. Though done completely out of frustration,they do little to assist immigrant populations. Actually, the one part of the law that did survive US SupremeCourt scrutiny is the idea that you can be stopped on the street and have to prove you are in this country withstatus. Anyone who does not look like an “American” will be asked to present proof of their ability to be in thiscountry with status. Racial profiling?

And, even though the Obama administration no longer defends DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), theimmigration courts do. Only opposite sex married partners can take advantage of spousal petitioning underimmigration law. A lawfully married same sex US citizen partner will not be able to assist their spouse inbecoming a US citizen. We need to tell the government this practice should stop.

Laura Russell, ENEJ

**Restructuring and Mission**

**Question:**
If the Consultation is committed to progressive change, why does it seem reticent to endorse proposedchanges to the Episcopal Church’s structure and budget that are offered to augment the church’scommitment to mission?

**Answer:**
Progressive change is characterized in the first place by ensuring that governance structures are inclusive,transparent, and protect minorities. It is only in that framework that progressive values can inform theadoption of progressive policies. Because The Consultation continues to advocate for inclusive andtransparent governance, it is engaged in challenging proposals that would significantly diminish thoseessential elements of progressive governance. The inclusivity and transparency of our governance, where allthe baptized participate in decision-making, has led The Episcopal Church for decades to be on the frontlinesof ministry with the poor and outcast, to advocate for the Millennium Development goals, to stand againstapartheid, to enrich ordained ministry by inclusion of women and gay and lesbian people in all orders, tomodel liturgical reforms in the Book of Common Prayer and the expansive language rites, to cooperate withGod’s mission in partnership with Anglican Provinces in all regions, and many others. Because thegovernance structures were inclusive of all the baptized, and functioned transparently with minority voicesprotected and included (vote-by-orders and bicameralism), these structures were the resource for discerningGod’s Mission and creating the progressive cooperation with it.

The budget development and adoption until now has also been characterized by an inclusive and transparentprocess. When it comes to budget and finance, those values need to guide that area. An active Episcopalian,who was Chief of Staff to the House Banking Committee during the savings and loan scandal, said that allthose officers involved claimed to their boards and stockholders that they were “going to remove obstacles tobeing quick to act by streamlining the budget and speeding up the process.” Her advice, “When you hear anyof those arguments, hold on to your wallet! When it comes to money, you want lots of ‘obstacles’,transparency, inclusivity, and a slow process.” Those norms guide The Consultation’s concern over recentnovel budget actions.

Robert Brooks,APL