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| **ISSUES 2012**  **FRIDAY JULY 6**  **Center Aisle returns**  We welcome the appearance yesterday of *Center Aisle*, published by the Diocese of Virginia. They have been a companion voice for progressive action of General Convention and a friendly companion. Their first issue picked up a topic we had intended to address and we can now refer you to the Reflection by the Rev. John Ohmer: *Five Bucks a Day to be Doers of the Word.*As the Collect says, “Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest”or “Go and do likewise!” The Editors  **For your assistance in voting** If you don't know all the nominees for Church Pension Fund, The Consultation endorses: Cynthia L. Black  Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine Barbara Creed Gordon Fowler Delbert C. Glover Diane M. Jardine Bruce Diane B. Pollard Cecil Wray  **The Speaker's Corner,**,sponsored by The Consultation, on Friday will include at 1:00 pm – *Gene Robinson*—Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire and living his faith in action. Bishop Robinson has been active particularly in the area of wellness and full civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender people. Working at every level, he has spoken and lobbied for equal protection under the law and full civil marriage rights.  2:00 – *Jay Koyle –*President of The Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission. A presbyter in the Anglican Church of Canada, Jay presently serves as Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese of Algoma, after many years' experience as a parish pastor and a professor of liturgical studies.  Saturday July 7th 1:00 pm: Sarah Eagle Heart Program Officer for Native American/Indigenous Ministries.  2:00 pm - Mike Schut : Serves as the Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer of The Episcopal Church  **EPF Young Adult presence** writes at BLOG: http://epfyoungadultinitiative.posterous.com/  FACEBOOK PAGE: Episcopal Peace Fellowship Young Adult Initiative at General Convention  TWITTER: @EPFYoungAdults  **EPF honors Crew and Miller**  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)  Miller and Crew will receive awards named in honor of John Nevin Sayre who constantly advocated forpeace beginning in the early 1900s. A university professor and editor, Sayre based his life journey onChristian values he established while teaching at Princeton. He was most famous for the work that he didthrough the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Two years after his death in 1977, the Episcopal Peace Fellowshipestablished the John Nevin Sayre Award to honor activists for their commitment to justice and peace duringevery General Convention.  Donna Hicks, EPF  OPEN MEETING  of The Consultation  in Meeting Room 144 in the  Convention Center  **from 1:15 to 2:15 on Monday, July 9**  **The Water’s Fine: The Time for Study is Past; Now is the Time to Act**  When considering matters of great importance, there are times when the Church moves slowly, carefullyconsidering the implications of a possible course of action. Will this faithfully express the Gospel and reflectthe Reign of God? What does this say about Christian belonging and identity? Will this further or hinder theChurch’s ministry and mission? What will be the overall impact on the life of the Church? Such considereddeliberation and investigation is wise. However, it must never become an excuse for delaying action when thetime is right to act. When it comes to fully engaging the BCP’s robust baptismal ecclesiology, the time to act isnow!  Prior to the ’79 Prayer Book’s adoption, a great deal of time was spent in study and conversation. Baptism,says the BCP, is “full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church.” Baptism is thefoundational sacrament for Christian ministry. In adopting the ’79 Prayer Book, the Church acknowledgedthat there is no other prerequisite for full participation in the life of the church or as a necessary catalyst of theSpirit’s gifts for baptismal ministry.  Over the last eight years, with concentrated emphasis since General Convention 2009, renewed study on thisquestion was engaged to:   * clarify the place of baptism in relation to confirmation, reception and renewal of baptismal vows * produce effective standards and materials for education, formation and leadership training for thosewho would hold office in the Church, * distinguish Anglican identity from Christian identity and provide appropriate formational standards andopportunities for each * provide canonical resolutions that would express and allow for all of the above.   These objectives have been successfully realized. That is why the Consultation Platform endorses theadoption of Resolutions A041-044. The passage of these resolutions will allow and encourage the Church tofully engage the baptismal vision given voice in the BCP.  Jay Koyle, APLM  **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  **Immigrants and Immigration Laws**  On July 4th, President Obama celebrated Independence Day with a giant Bar-B-Que and naturalizationceremony for persons who had a dream about becoming American citizens and being able to provide a betterlife for their families. For several years the Peace and Justice Office of the Diocese of Arizona has heldImmigration Summits at which issues of immigration have been researched, discussed, lamented, speechesby legislators have been presented, resolutions developed, and prayers offered.  In 2009, I experienced an enormous “wake up call.” Several of us realized how badly Latinos neededrepresentation with a united voice on these and other justice issues This was the impetus behind theestablishment of CEL (Coalition of Episcopal Latinos).  Because the US Government has not been able to establish Comprehensive Immigration Reform severalstates have passed their own immigration laws (SB 1070 in Arizona, HB 87 in Georgia, HB 56 in Alabama),our second CEL gathering submitted and passed a resolution on comprehensive immigration reform; weasked the Government Relations Office of the Episcopal Church to work with the US government to developa Comprehensive Immigration Reform law that is committed to keeping families intact and “respects thedignity of every human being…” The CEL resolution was passed by the Diocesan Convention of Arizona andwas also passed by the 2012 meeting of Province VIII. It has been submitted to General Convention andcould well be incorporated with any other immigration resolutions. However, such resolutions are about morethan immigration laws. They don’t even begin to tell the full stories of the lives of people being affected andthe suffering of thousands of children living in these “immigrant families.”  For example, George’s family came to this country about 18 years ago when he was only 3 years old. Severalmonths ago he was stopped and arrested because he has no documentation for being in this country legally.He was deported to Mexico; he cannot speak Spanish; he does not know anyone in the town to which hewas sent. Within a few days he was robbed and stabbed and was near death. Many other people would tellsimilar stories.  When we remain silent about the justice issues of immigration in our country, we are not living up to ourbaptismal vows of respecting the dignity of *every* human being; where they were born or how old they are isbeside the point. The resolution from Province VIII merits your serious consideration and support.  Carmen Guerrero – CEL  **Historic Black Colleges**  The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) is supporting a block grant proposal for “Capacity Building Toward aSustainable Future” for the consortium of three Episcopal Colleges. The colleges are Saint Augustine’sCollege -SC, Saint Paul’s College -VA and Voorhees College -NC. The proposal is made possible with thesupport of The Association of Episcopal Colleges, The Episcopal Church Development Office, The EpiscopalChurch Office of Black Ministries and The Union of Black Episcopalians.  The focal point for the “Capacity Building Toward a Sustainable Future” is the three Episcopal Colleges: Re-focus, Re-Imagine, Re-Invigorate, Re-Connect, Re-Design, Re-Invest and Report its missions, goals andprogress.  This is currently being achieved through the Re-focus of the need and mission for the colleges; Re-Imaginingand production of a continued relevance of their mission to meet significant and growing needs in thecommunity and world; Re-Invigorating through signature programs; Re-Connecting at local, national andinternational levels; Re-Designing a model for capacity building; Re-investing toward sustainability andReporting semi-annually of the state of the colleges.  The UBE is in support of the Block Grant Proposal because Historically Black Colleges and Universities holda pre-eminent place in the history of educating African Americans in the United States. And in the annuals ofThe Episcopal Church, Saint Augustine’s, Saint Paul’s and Voorhees – our three Historically Black EpiscopalColleges – have, demonstrably and consistently, educated our students to become leaders in the Church,productive citizens of our country and our communities, and champions for justice, reconciliation andtransformation.  As Saint Augustine’s, Saint Paul’s and Voorhees Colleges strive to continue their ministries to ensure theirsustainability, they are grateful to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church for its longstandingsupport of their efforts and request continued support of their work.  Additional information regarding the Block Grant Proposal can be found at the UBE, Office of Black Ministriesand Voorhees College, Saint Paul’s and Saint Augustine’s booth in Exhibitor Hall.  Zena Liink, UBE  Susan Williams  **TransEpiscopal** has gotten off to a running start, between The Consultation’s Speaker’s Corner and IntegrityUSA’s double feature of *Out of the Box* and *Love Free or Die,* and numerous conversations in our booth (just behind Integrity’s, under The Consultation banner) and round about Convention. Our three major legislative priorities are:  **D002** “Affirming Access to the Discernment Process for Ministry” This resolution would add “gender identity and expression” to Canon 3.1.2, the church’s nondiscrimination canon for access to the ordination process. This addition would make explicit that ordained ministry is open to transgender people.  **D019** “Amend Canon I.17.5 - Extending the Rights of Laity” This resolution would add “gender identity and expression” to Canon 1.17.5, the church’s nondiscrimination canon for access of lay people to all levels of the life of the church.  **D022** “Churchwide Response to Bullying” This resolution calls for a church wide response to the epidemic of bullying, including those targeted because of their gender identity or gender.  By the time this goes to print, D002 and D019 will have received a hearing in the Ministry Committee, with numerous transgender Episcopalians and our allies present to testify. Solidarity is indeed powerful. As these resolutions proceed to the Houses of Bishops and Deputies, we would do well to remember that it is not only transgender people who are impacted by this legislation. So too are our family members and friends. This was brought home to me in a conversation I just had with a priest from a Midwestern diocese. She had watched the documentary *Out of the Box* last Saturday evening and was moved to make a connection in her sermon between the gospel passage last Sunday and the idea of living “out of the box.” She talked about the resolutions on transgender equality that would come before Convention. Afterward two separate parishioners thanked her for her words and shared that each of them were parents of transgender people. Never before had they felt able to share that part of their lives in their church home.  All of this reminds me of a tweet I saw yesterday from @UnvirtuousAbbey: “For people who help us change the stories we tell ourselves, we give thanks to the Lord.” Our passage of Resolutions D002 and D019 can help transform the stories we tell about ourselves as families, as friends, as a church.  Cameron Partridge-- TransEpiscopal  **Take care of yourself!!**  In all the flurry of excitement and activity it is important to remember that we are charged by God withresponsibly maintaining our health. Take some time to rest and relax—perhaps with friends you haven't seenfor a time;get some rest---sleep in a natural restorative, and drink lots and lots of water! Keep your healthwhen you can.  Ron Miller ISSUES Staff  We look forward to being with you again tomorrow but not Sunday  Matt and Ron |
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