

# FOURTH WATCH

— Newsletter of The Province of Sewanee —

*Province IV of The Episcopal Church*

Vol. 17 No. 1

Spring 2017

## *Province IV a family!*

Getting ready for Synod 2017 — June 7-9

*'Our faith teaches that Jesus is Alpha and Omega. Lent is a return to the beginning — and a look to beyond the end. During this... time, we follow the Way of the Cross. The cross is that unique sign that connects God with the entire world for all time.'*

— Richard J. Aguilar, Vicar of St. John's-Bisbee and St. Stephen's, Douglas in the Diocese of Arizona

Dear Province IV Family,

I am so grateful for the Daily Lenten Meditations provided through Episcopal Relief and Development, and cannot resist sharing portions with you. Each day I am encouraged to focus my thoughts in a sometimes new and different direction, and am led to a place of peace and solace. In today's challenging world, where fear and discord seem to be the norm, we must remember - and especially must remind others - to dwell on the Good News and on Christ's commandment to love each other in the same way that He first loved us. How are we doing with that?

Evidently, we're doing very well, thank you! In this second year of Province IV's new grant process for funding ministry initiatives, eight applications were submitted for the 2017 grant of \$20,000. As of this writing, our executive committee has not made a decision regarding the proposals, but that information will be posted soon. Suffice it to say that all eight proposals are excellent blueprints for doing God's work in the world. Please read this edition of *Fourth Watch* carefully to learn more about how our brothers and sisters are acting as the body of Christ.

As we look forward to our Province IV Synod (June 7-9), I hope that you will come



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

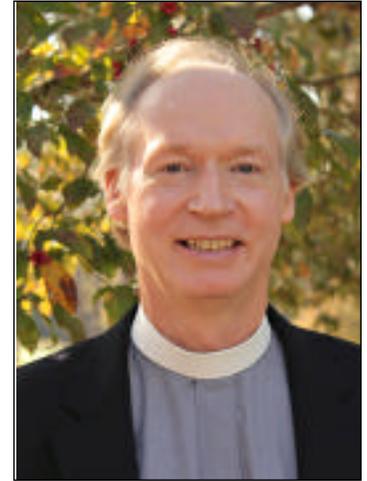
Synod 2015. The hope is that during your free time, you will be able to learn from the creativity of others, share your own ministry ideas, and take information home with you.

While our 2018 Synod will focus fully on specific preparations for General Convention, the upcoming 2017 gathering will give us opportunities to take a closer look at the current work of our provincial family, as well as carefully scheduled time to delve into topics that already are becoming priorities for GC2018. Some of you will remember that at Province IV Synods 2014 and 2015, we had standing room only in some of our workshops - which was a wonderful problem to have! This year, we plan to have duplicate sessions so that you will be able to attend all those for which you have the highest interest. Please be on the lookout for more details in the weeks to come, including registration information and a detailed agenda.

Of course, we're also going to have fun! That seems to be something that Province IV excels at with little effort because we feel

prepared to share ways that your own diocese is participating in the "Jesus Movement."

Concurrent with workshops that will be of interest to everyone, we plan to have space for dioceses to display and share information regarding new and successful ministries that they may have undertaken since



### **The Rev. Sam Rodman North Carolina elects bishop**

**T**he Rev. Samuel Rodman was elected the 12th Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of North Carolina March 4.

He was elected on the third ballot by the delegates gathered for a Special Electing Convention in Greensboro, N.C.

"The prospect of following and building upon the leadership and legacy of Bishop Michael Curry is both humbling and inspiring," Rodman said. I trust that the Holy Spirit, moving through the Diocese of North Carolina, will continue to light the way and guide our path together."

Rodman is the Special Projects Officer for the Diocese of Massachusetts, a role he took

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## President's Report

# *Preparing for Synod June 7-9 at Kanuga*

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like family!

Let me end with this thought from the Archdeacon of the Diocese of South Dakota, Paul Sneve+: "There may be discord and tensions in all families, but within God's family, we are called to make peace and to give love no matter how difficult. Together, as a family, we can work toward God's peace and love."

I look forward to seeing you in June to do God's work together.

Faithfully yours,



Angela Daniel  
President, Province IV

# N.C. elects new bishop

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on after spending five years as the diocesan project manager for campaign initiatives, where he engaged congregations, clergy and laity, in collaborative local and global mission through the Together Now campaign, helping to raise \$20 million to fund these initiatives. Before that, Rodman spent 16 years as the rector of St. Michael's in Milton, Mass., during which the parish established a seven-year plan that included a capital campaign for a major renovation of the church building.

The election is the culmination of a process that began when the Diocese of North Carolina's former bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, was elected Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church at the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June 2015. Since his installation in November 2015, the Diocese has been led by the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple; elected bishop suffragan in the Diocese of North Carolina in 2013, she has served as bishop diocesan pro tempore during the search.

Ordained in 1988, Rodman is a graduate of Bates College and Virginia Theological Seminary. He is married to Deborah Rodman, and they are the parents of two adult daughters. In his free time, Rodman enjoys basketball, golf, kayaking, walking his dog, crosswords and creative writing.

Pending canonical consents, Rodman will be ordained and consecrated as the 12th Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of North Carolina on July 15, at the Duke University Chapel in Durham, N.C.

# Campus Ministry all about relationships

Being the Provincial Coordinator for the Province continues to be a humbling and fulfilling experience. Witnessing the energy from our Young Adults and Students is energizing and leaves me with great hope for the future.

I continue to work closely with the Campus Ministers, Campus Missioners, and the Young Adult leaders. Throughout the Province these leaders have created a vibrant presence not just on campus or their meeting places. Rather, they are felt in their communities as well. This has led to more ecumenism across Province IV.

I will continue to visit several campuses during the year on their meeting nights. I have found that building closer relations with the leaders and their students helps to mitigate turnover of leaders. Campus and Young Adult Ministry is very different today. It is truly all about relationships both face to face and cyber & social media.

We continue to hold retreats each November at St. Ignatius House, Atlanta. Over the last two years we have partnered with The Ben Marion for Social Justice to assist in program design. Abby Drue and Irma Starr lead us through a curriculum that they have developed, both written and experiential. They supply what tools are needed. The leaders can then use these tools when they return home. Further, they have an open with Abby and Irma for any further needs. The subjects we have covered range from internalized racism to self care.



When asked how the leaders "feel" about their work the responses are almost always excited, pleased, encouraged. The work is never done and we gratefully appreciate the support given to us from Province IV.

— Michael Wood-Miles  
Province IV Coordinator for Campus Ministry

# Report on Province IV for 2016

**EDITOR'S NOTE — At the close of each calendar year the President of each Province submits a report to Executive Council on the activities and events of the previous year. Here is President Angela Daniel's report for 2016.**

**T**hrough collaborative efforts and enthusiastic leadership from all twenty of its dioceses, Province IV of The Episcopal Church continues to promote the "Jesus Movement." A provincial ministry leader said recently: "Province IV... a gathering of God's people to do God's Work in this world! Whenever we gather as Province IV, our lives and our ministries are enhanced! We learn. We listen. We are challenged to be more than we think we can be. We are encouraged to be quiet in the Presence of God and we listen to God's Still Small Voice that will lead us to new places.... **Province IV enhances and magnifies the ministries that are happening within our 20 dioceses and within our parishes.**"

Several highlights of 2016 are noted briefly:

- Province IV Executive Committee awarded **\$21,000 in grants (\$15,000 from provincial grant pool, \$6,000 from reserve fund) to encourage ministry initiatives that spotlighted evangelism and racial justice issues in the province:**

- **\$7,500** to the community-based **Healing Steps Labyrinth Initiative** in Huntsville, Ala., to help provide a hand-icapped accessible labyrinth for those suffering from trauma, physical or emotional abuse, addiction, life-threatening illness, and grief as well as those seeking a peaceful place for renewal; endorsed by the dioceses of Alabama and East Tennessee.

- **\$7,500** to create a **digital tool that would use Episcopal Relief & Development's asset map database to invite online seekers to learn how to live out their faith;** endorsed by the dioceses of West Tennessee and Georgia.

- **\$6,000** to provide scholarships for "**Lift Every Voice, 2016**," so that young people from Province IV could attend leadership training in racial history, conflict and reconciliation in Cape Town, South Africa, this past summer; endorsed by the dioceses of North Carolina and Alabama. "Lift Every Voice, 2016" focused on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation process, strengthening our "listening skills" of others' stories and discerning how to respond to these stories as disciples of change. **Those who participated had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and spend time with Bishop Desmond Tutu!**

- **Province IV Episcopal Church Women's Annual Retreat** at Kanuga Conference Center in June 2016 focused on "Building Bridges of Peace and Reconciliation: Year One: In Our Own Lives and in Our Families." The Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman, author of *Bible Women: All their Words and Why They Matter*, led the group in study, reflection, and worship as they focused on the Shalom and leadership of women in the Bible.

- **Province IV Altar Guild** met separately, but in conjunction with the Province IV ECW meeting at Kanuga. The theme this year was "Art in Worship."

- **Province IV Companion Diocese Relationships** continues to be a very active program in the area of mission. Of the 20 dioceses within Province IV, 18 are involved in a companion diocese relationship or some type of overseas mission with the following dioceses: Botswana, Central Ecuador, Central Tanganyika, Costa Rica, Cuba, Durgapur (India), Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Litoral (Ecuador), Panama, Peru, Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo.

- **Province IV Youth Ministries Leadership & Network** meeting was held at Lake Logan, Diocese of Western North Carolina, in December 2016. Each year all 20 dioceses within Province IV are invited and encouraged to gather at this valuable meeting where we learn from one another and where we seek to share our "best practices" and our biggest "challenges."

- **Joint Formation Network Leaders** meeting was held at Kanuga in early March 2016 and was attended by Province IV representatives from the Diocese of Georgia, the Diocese of Florida, the Diocese of Western North Carolina, the Diocese Atlanta, and the Diocese of East Carolina. Several members of the PIV Christian Formation Steering Committee attended the Forma Conference in Philadelphia in January 2016 and planned the **Province IV 2016 Christian Formation Conference** ("Take. Break. Bless. Give.") that was held June 13-17 at Kanuga.

- A five session study series "A Life of Grace for the Whole World," written collaboratively by the **Province IV coordinator of the Environmental Ministries Network** and the part-time environmental missionary for Province I, was made available for free download from the website: [graceforcreation.org](http://graceforcreation.org).

- Sadly, the **Province IV Network of AIDS Ministries** held its **25th** and final **HIV/AIDS Retreat** at Kanuga Conference Center in June 2016. Province IV is hoping that another similar effort will take its place.

- The Fourth Watch, newsletter for Province IV, can be accessed through [www.provinceiv.org](http://www.provinceiv.org).

The Province of Sewanee is looking forward to continuing our mission in 2017 and is committed to praying together, worshipping together, sharing and living the message of the Gospel together, with the help of Almighty God.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Angela M. Daniel**  
**President, Province IV**

# Youth Ministries

## Leadership, EYE, Lift Every Voice, ‘Humble Yourself’

**O**n a cold crisp evening in December 2016, 61 young people and adults who accompany our young people on their journeys of faith gathered at Lake Logan Conference Center in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. We came together to participate in the Province IV Youth Ministries Leadership and Network Meeting. This meeting is held each year so we can learn from one another; we can share our ideas; we can plan for the future; we can worship and we can grow in our faith and in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Tom Brackett, Missioner for New Initiatives, Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society, joined us to inspire each of our young leaders and the adults who accompany them to approach our ministries, outreach, relationships and the future from new perspectives and deeper understandings. It was a time filled with meaningful conversations, strengthening friendships, amazing worship opportunities and an outreach experience packing 10,000 meals for “Stop Hunger Now.”

As we departed from Lake Logan, our minds were opened, our hearts were filled and our desire to serve God within The Episcopal Church was deepened. The next Province IV Youth Ministries Leadership & Network Meeting will be held in the Diocese of Southwest Florida on Dec. 1-3. Planning will begin in SWFL at the end of March with Cookie Cantwell, Province IV Youth Ministries Coordinator, the Rev. John Palarine, Diocese of SWFL Youth Ministries Coordinator, and SWFL young people who have attended previous PIV Leadership & Network Meetings.

### Episcopal Youth Event

Every three years, in accordance with General Convention Resolution #1982-D079, the Episcopal Church convenes an international youth event so “the energy of the youth of the Episcopal Church can continue to be utilized in active ministry as members of the Body of Christ.” Since the first EYE in 1982, this popular event has welcomed thousands of young people from across the Episcopal Church for celebration, worship, learning, and leadership training. The 2017 Episcopal Youth Event (EYE17) will focus on the theme Path to Peace, based on Matthew 5:1-12. Hundreds of young people from throughout Province IV & the Episcopal Church will gather at The University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Okla., on July 10-14.

“Path to Peace represents both the inward and outward actions we are called to engage as members of the Jesus Movement,” explained Bronwyn Clark Skov, Presiding Bishop's

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**The Rev. Tom Brackett**



# Youth Ministry events fill up the summer

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Staff Officer for Youth Ministry. “Embracing this theme, the 2017 Episcopal Youth Event will focus on helping participants identify how they can engage peacemaking and reconciliation in their communities.”

Tyler Bending (Diocese of Florida), Devon Shank (Diocese of Southwest Florida), Arlette Benoit (Diocese of Atlanta) and Julia Domenick (Diocese of Georgia) are serving on serving on the EYE17 Mission Planning Team from Province IV Youth Ministries and several Province IV adults will be serving on the EYE17 Pastoral Care Team.

## ‘Lift Every Voice’

The week following EYE17, “Lift Every Voice, a ministry designed to revisit the historical truths of slavery and the Civil Rights movement in North Carolina and Apartheid in South Africa, will begin. The LEV Planning Team from Botswana, Cape Town South Africa & from across the United States will gather at St James Parish, Wilmington, N.C. July 16-21 to complete the preparations for this LEV Conference. The LEV Conference will be held on July 21-25 at The Summit at Haw River State Park in North Carolina.

As participants, high school youth, young adults and adults from Province IV and The Episcopal Church will practice non-violent communication skills, identify systems of oppression and begin developing tools and programs for continuing these practices back home within their dioceses and communities.

The “vision for ‘Lift Every Voice’ is to equip young people to identify unjust systems, reflect on their historical and cultural contexts, empathize with oppressed and oppressors, and take concrete action in response to unjust systems. We expect them to become leaders in their dioceses and to develop resources for the wider church in the areas of confronting racism and injustice and building more inclusive communities” said Beth Crow, The

Lift Every Voice Coordinator and Lead Youth Missioner in the Diocese of North Carolina.

## ‘Humble Yourself’

Immediately following “Lift Every Voice 2017” Province IV Youth Ministries will be offering “Humble Yourself” a three-day mission experience, in Lumberton, N.C. (July 25-28) . This 3-day service learning opportunity for middle school students and high school students will be helping the Hurricane Matthew Flood Victims who have not be able to return to their homes. During the day the participants will be serving the community by helping to restore homes.... and in the evenings they will process what they have experienced during the day. They will participate in worship and they will share their ideas, hopes and dreams for the future.

Transportation will be coordinated from “Lift Every Voice “ to “PYE: Humble Yourself” in Lumberton, N.C. Amy Campbell, Youth Missioner in the Diocese of North Carolina and Cookie Cantwell, Province IV Youth Coordinator, are coordinating this event.

In a changing world where our young people are surrounded by many choices and are making decisions that will impact their futures and the future of our world, Province IV Youth Ministries is continuing to offer our youth a strong Christian Community that is immersed in Scripture, focused on Service Learning Opportunities, saturated in Worship, invited to participate in Sabbath Practices, to listen to the Still Small Voice of God and to continue to grow as a Beloved Child of God. Province IV is truly an amazing place filled with committed people who are striving to be meaningful part of the Jesus Movement within our world.

— Cookie Cantwell  
Province IV Youth Coordinator



Katie Bradbury (NC), Cookie Cantwell (PIV), Christy Beesley (TN)





## *Building Bridges of Peace and Reconciliation*



**2017 PROVINCE IV WOMEN'S RETREAT (June 5-7)**  
**Camp McDowell, 105 DeLong Road, Nauvoo, AL 35578**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Only one person per form, please. Reproduce as needed.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name Tag** \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different; please print clearly)

**Diocese:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, state, zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RATES:**    \_\_\_ Double Occupancy    \$ 215.00                    \_\_\_ Single Occupancy    \$ 315.00

(included meals: Monday supper – Wednesday sack lunch)

+ \_\_\_ Optional Networking Day (Sunday)    \_\_\_ \$ 81.00 Double    \_\_\_ \$ 131.00 Single

(included meals: Sunday supper – Monday lunch)

**Registrations need to be received by May 15, 2017**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to ECW of Province IV.*

**Please mail Registration Form and check to:**

Alsie B. Churchman  
6360 Station Mill Drive  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092-1873

Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary or medical needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Housing needs: \_\_\_\_\_

(there are 16 handicap accessible rooms available)



The United Thank Offering Board

## UTO busy with grant applications

The United Thank Offering board has been very busy. We received four young adult grant applications and seven seminarian grant applications. I am very pleased to announce that we were able to fund all 11 of these applications. Cheryl McFaddin of the Diocese of East Carolina and Kathleen Walker of the Diocese of Southeast Florida were both awarded a seminarian grant of \$2,500 each.

The regular granting cycle began the first Friday of December and the due date for applications was the first Friday of March. During this time, the board held four webinars to assist people with their applications. I highly recommend these webinars. Anyone who is interested in writing a grant should attend at least one. This is your chance to ask board members questions and receive advice. Information regarding our webinars can be found on our website and blog site. You can call in using a phone or log on with a computer. If you use a computer, you will need to go to zoom.us and download the app.

The 2016 ingathering reports should be coming out soon and I will send out the diocesan reports as soon as I can. Our province is the highest contributor to UTO and I am very grateful for your generosity. The current Triennium is coming to a close and I am hopeful that we will achieve the goal of \$1,000,000 by the end of this year. It would be fantastic if we could announce over one million dollars from Province IV at the General Convention ingathering in Austin.

As your representative to the board, I am available any time you have a question or need advice. Please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is [jlanderscgc@gmail.com](mailto:jlanderscgc@gmail.com).

Blessings to you all.

— Joyce Landers  
Province IV UTO representative

## *ECW annual retreat set June 5-7*

The Episcopal Church Women Province IV Annual Retreat will be held June 5-7, at beautiful Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Ala.. We will be continuing our province-level theme of “Building Bridges of Peace and Reconciliation.” In Year Two, our focus is: “In Our Parishes and Communities, With a Focus on Racial Reconciliation.”

Our retreat leader will be The Rev. Mary Catherine Akamatsu, associate rector of St. Thomas, Huntsville, Ala., and co-founder and executive director of Metagem Institute: Spiritual and Integrative Practices for Our Risen Life in Christ.

The speaker received an M.Div. from The School of Theology at Sewanee, The University of the South, and a B.S. degree in Computer Science from the University of North Alabama.

Before attending seminary, she was a division executive director at Qinetiq North America working with large-scale software systems. She is a member of the Diocese of Alabama's Commission on Spirituality, and she is a Spiritual Director, trained in Jungian practices at the Haden Institute in North



Rev. M.C. Akamatsu

Carolina. She leads prayer retreats and workshops on integrative and spiritual practices.

The Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster and the Rev. Deacon Thomas Osborne, Co-Chairs of the Commission on Race Relations in the Diocese of Alabama, will join our speaker in leading the retreat.

In addition to our retreat speakers, we will be holding several workshops that will assist diocesan ECWs in the numerous activities and tasks that are an important part of this ministry, including a workshop on the Girls Friendly Society. And finally, we plan to embrace all that beautiful Camp McDowell has to offer.

— Patricia Brake Rutenberg  
President, Province IV

# Province IV Ministry Coordinators

## ALTAR GUILD

Ms. Sarah Hill  
1906 Carolina Ave., NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
Tel. 727-525-8340  
Email: sarahhill.fl@gmail.com

## ANTI-RACISM

Dr. Navita Cummings James  
*Province IV Representative to Executive Council  
Committee on Anti-Racism*  
Tel. 813-974-6098  
Email: njames2@usf.edu

## BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN

### To RETIRED & SURVIVING SPOUSES

The Rt. Rev. David B. Reed  
5226 Moccasin Trail  
Louisville, KY 40207  
Tel. 502-897-9282 (home); 502-235-8289 (cell)  
Email: david.reed@ecunet.org

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Mr. Michael Wood-Miles  
Episcopal Campus Minister  
Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
Tel. 912-507-4883  
Email: michaelwoodmiles@gmail.com

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Ms. Jenny Beaumont  
Christ Episcopal Church  
427 South Sharon Amity Road, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
Tel. 704-442-1718  
Email: jennyatswan@netscape.net

## COMPANION DIOCESES

Ms. Martha B. Alexander  
1096 Hollyheath Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
Tel. 704-558-4670  
Email: marthaebalexander@hotmail.com

## ECW

Dr. Patricia Rutenberg  
3663 Woodland Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
Tel. 865-604-5479  
Email: pbrutenberg@gmail.com

## Church Periodical Club, PIV Representative

Ms. Rebecca Markert  
802 Bishopgate Rd.  
Antioch, TN 37013  
Tel. 615-366-1887 or 615-430-0535  
Email: sewfun100@bellsouth.net

## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Vacant

## ERD/Episcopal Relief & Development

Mr. Eugene Johnston  
4 Elizabeth Place  
Mobile, AL 36606  
Tel. 251-478-5354  
Email: ejohnston14@comcast.net

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Cappel  
5719 Prince William St.  
Louisville, KY 40207  
Tel. 502-541-8278  
Email: jjcappel@hotmail.com

## UNITED THANK OFFERING

Ms. Joyce Landers  
618 Lawson Drive  
Troy, AL 36091  
Tel. 334-672-3061  
Email: jlanderscgc@gmail.com

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

Ms. Cookie Cantwell  
St. James Episcopal Church  
25 South Third St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
Tel: 910-763-1628  
Email: cookie@stjamesp.org

## *Bishops teaching series available*

# Members sought for PIV EM group

In July of 2016, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings appointed 12 members to the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation, as required by General Convention resolution A030. Part of the Advisory Council's task is to form within each Episcopal province a Regional Consultative Group (RCG) to support environmental ministries through technical expertise, networking, and sharing of resources.

The Province IV representatives on the Council are responsible for forming the RCG for this province. The three PIV Advisory Council members — the Rev. Jerry Cappel (Kentucky), Dr. Andrew R. H. Thompson (East Tennessee) and Ms. Perry Hodgkins Jones (Atlanta) — are seeking to put together a group of 8-12 individuals, lay and ordained, who can support the variety of ecological interests in the province. The group will be formed in April 2017.

Candidates for the RCG should be engaged in environmental ministry or professions and be willing to make connections and provide support within their local and regional context. If you have an interest in serving in this way or wish to nominate someone, please email The Rev. Cappel, Province IV Environmental Network Coordinator at [jjcappel@hotmail.com](mailto:jjcappel@hotmail.com).

### **A Life of Grace for the Whole World**

The five session teaching series on the Episcopal House of Bishops' pastoral teaching on the environment is now available from Church Publishing. With versions for both youth and



adults, the sessions are designed for Sunday school, small group or retreat settings. Using a participant's study guide, students are led through each section of the Bishops' teaching, prompted with questions to consider and invited to take action. A leader's guide is available to provide ideas and resources for conducting group sessions.

The five sessions of the series are:

- Session 1 - A Time for Repentance and Renewal
- Session 2 - A Time for Grace for the Whole Creation
- Session 3 - A Time for Justice and Sustainability
- Session 4 - A Time to Renew Ancient Practices
- Session 5 - A Time to Commit and Act

To order, visit: <https://www.churchpublishing.org/lifeof-graceforthewholeworldleader>.

— **The Rev. Jerry Cappel**  
**Province IV Environmental Network Coordinator**

## *Joint Message: 'Remember the Refugees & Migrants'*

The four leaders of the Anglican, Episcopal and Lutheran churches in Canada and the United States have called for the Season of Lent to be especially marked by “prayers and advocacy for refugees and migrants — on the run, in United Nations camps, in waiting, in our communities.”

In a joint message entitled “Remember the Refugees and Migrants” they called on Churches “to be continually mindful of the global refugee and migration crises, and the injustices and conflicts that have swelled the statistics to a number greater than ever in the history of the world.”

The statement was issued by Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Elizabeth Eaton, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz and National Bishop of the Canada ELC, Susan Johnson.

They said: “Given the current political climate in the United

States, it is important to say that while both our countries recognize the need for measures ensuring homeland security, we also stand up for the long-established policies that welcome migrants and refugees. That is not to say any of them are not beyond reform. But it is to say that fair and generous policies strengthen the economy of our nations and enriches the social and cultural fabric of our countries.

“Fair and generous action and deliberations” on refugees and migrants, the bishops say, “are from our perspective, deeply grounded in the Law of Moses, in the teaching of the Prophets and in the Gospel of Jesus.”

Ash Wednesday is a time, the bishops say, not just for personal repentance, “but indeed of the need of all humanity to repent of our indifference to the brokenness of our relationships, to the suffering of millions of people worldwide who are starving, oppressed, enslaved, or seeking sanctuary even if it be in a place far from their homeland.”

## Global Mission Network

# *Building relationships at all levels*

This past November I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 Partnership for World Mission Conference which was held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, England. The theme of the conference was “Going the Extra Mile: Mission in a Moving World.” Worship and Bible Study were a part of our daily routine. There were ten of us in attendance from The Episcopal Church.

Among the speakers were The Rev. Canon Malcolm Bradshaw, a Senior Anglican Chaplain in Athens who told of the response to the refugee crisis in his country and the needs of the thousands entering Greece. His comments about the ministries taking place, in a country which has its own economic problems, was inspiring and heartwarming. Other speakers raised the issues of the importance of relationships, welcoming the stranger through hospitality and the importance of preserving human dignity.

The workshops included these very timely topics: cross-cultural awareness presented by United Society Partners in the Gospel, who work predominantly with Anglicans, but, for over 300 years have worked with churches in their own communities. Their efforts are focused on the development of skills and working for change within the communities, not giving handouts. Other topics were how to engage effectively with refugees and asylum seekers, organizing international visits and using social media. One evening was a theater production which focused on asylum monologues.

My takeaways from this conference consisted of the importance of continuing to develop relationships within the areas of mission, including companion diocese links, whether on a diocesan or parish level. The influx of refugees is a major problem throughout the world. We need to be cognizant that people are leaving their own countries for a myriad of reasons, including economics or the political strife within their particular areas. We need to understand the way this affects our own communities and how we need to prepare to serve those who seek asylum.

We need to aid in preserving the dignity of each human being. In the Book of Genesis we read about the migration through the discussion of Abraham. And, the Holy Family fled to Egypt from Bethlehem due to Herod's order to kill little children; they were what we now describe as refugees. These are not new issues but remain very pressing, particularly in our world today.



Alexander

One of the books I read prior to attending the conference was *World-Shaped Mission* by Janice Price. I recommend this book to those of you who are involved or interested in mission. Even though the book is focused on the work of the Church of England's world mission, I think you will find it an excellent resource. I am excited that Janice Price is continuing to do research on companion diocese links and I am looking forward to reading her published study.

For those interested in learning more about mission I have included a link below to the Global Mission Episcopal Network Conference which will be held at Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, Ala., from May 24-26. You will have an opportunity to hear some exciting speakers, attend workshop and network with those interested in or involved in mission work:

<http://www.gemn.org/2017-gemn-global-mission-conference/>

Please let me know if I may be of any support to you:

— Martha Bedell Alexander  
Chair, Province IV Companion Dioceses

## **General Convention 2018 July 5-13, 2018**

General Convention 2018 will be held at The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas (Diocese of Texas).

The nine legislative dates for the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:  
Thursday, July 5 to Friday, July 13, 2018

## PIV Ministry Grant report

# Turning asset map into evangelism tool

**EDITOR'S NOTE — The Province IV Executive Committee awarded three ministry grants in 2016 in a new program to encourage innovative and collaborative ministries throughout the Province. One of those was a grant to the Dioceses of West Tennessee and Georgia to create a digital tool that would use Episcopal Relief & Development's asset map database to invite online seekers to learn how to live out their faith. Here is a report on how that program has progressed.**

On November 19, 2016, the website [www.transformwtn.org](http://www.transformwtn.org) was launched. This website was the result of 10 months of planning, iterating, and development and the majority of the site was funded by the grant from Province IV. The site aims to engage people based on their interests in ministry, a tool that can be just as intuitive to people who are exploring joining the Episcopal Church and people who have been involved for years. Upon visiting the site, users are prompted with three initial options: Transform Community, Transform Self, Find a Faith Community.

The “Transform Community” and “Transform Myself or a Family Member” then bring up new options to engage users.

Once a user has chosen an interest, they are given a list, map, and contact information of all available programs. For example, people can find the closest homeless shelter to support or volunteer or the closest music program to participate.

### How we are Using the Tool

1) Cards — When we launched the website, we also had 2000 4x6 cards printed with the web address and the image of the opening screen. We handed these cards out at Diocesan Convention to be put in churches and for church members to give to seekers as an entry point for conversation. We have yet to measure the effectiveness of this approach.

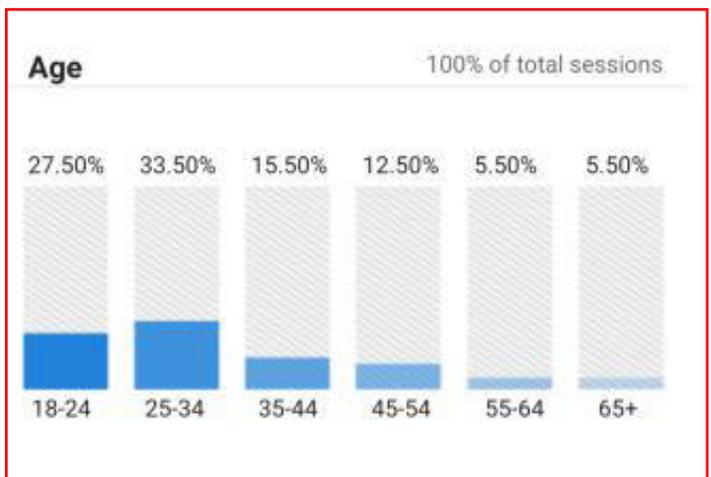
2) Facebook— We also created a special Facebook site for TransformWTN. That site can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/transformwtn/> and is unique to the website. The Diocese paid to have the site promoted using the advertising algorithms that Facebook provides. In our first promotion, we spent \$41.99 and the site reached 2,996 computer screens. We have also been posting weekly shots from the site as ways of inviting people to volunteer in the diocese. For example, a post might say “It is cold outside. Have you thought of volunteering at a local shelter? Here are some available locations.” Based on Aclicks, these posts average between 30 to 500 reaches. We are uncertain as well about how effective this approach has been. We currently have 107 likes which is about 20% of the Diocesan Facebook list. We think there is potential to improve this approach.

3) Diocesan Website — We have also used the data from each faith community to link to the church data on the diocesan website. Our diocesan website features a way to get connected and drives people to the site. 69.39% of the referral links come from our diocesan website.

### What the Data is Telling Us

1) We are averaging around 500 page views a month since the site was launched. The average time spent is 1:29 which means people are spending some time looking and engaging with the site.

2) The age demographics might be the most interesting. With a church that is struggling to reach young adults, 61% of users are between the ages of 18-34. The tool seems to be working as an engagement strategy for young adults.



### Final Costs

The total costs of creating the website was \$11,500 and will cost \$75 a month to host and maintain. The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee funding the additional \$4,000 in development costs as well as the ongoing hosting costs of maintaining the site.

### What's Next

The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia has yet to populate their database. It is our hope that work will take place in the first part of 2017. The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee is committed to continue to develop new ways of incorporating the database into outreach and evangelism strategies, testing hypothesis, and providing the findings to our churches and those who seek to understand how online digital marketing is working and if there are alternative ways to invite people into the ministries of our church.

Visit PIV's website: [www.provinceiv.org](http://www.provinceiv.org)

## Province IV Executive Committee 2015-2018

### President

Ms. Angela Daniel  
1 Rice Court  
Columbia, SC 29206  
Tel. 803-799-5041  
Email: amdaniel@sc.rr.com

### Treasurer

Cn. Kathryn W. McCormick  
1833 St. Ann Street  
Jackson, MS 39202  
Tel. 601-948-5954  
Email: kwmccormick@gmail.com

### UTO Representative

Ms. Joyce Landers  
618 Lawson Drive  
Troy, AL 36091  
Tel. 334-672-3061  
Email: jlanderscgc@gmail.com

### Vice President

The Rt. Rev. Don Johnson  
Bishop, Diocese of West Tennessee  
692 Poplar Ave,  
Memphis, TN 38105  
Tel. 901-526-0023  
Email: bishopjohnson@episwtn.org

### Executive Council Representative

Ms. Tess Judge  
4016 Ivy Lane  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949  
Tel. 252-261-8003  
Email: tsjudge@mindspring.com

### ECW President

Dr. Patricia Rutenberg  
3663 Woodland Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
Tel. 865-604-5479  
Email: pbrutenberg@gmail.com

### Secretary

Ms. Athena Hahn  
6424 Malibu Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Tel. 757-735-3263  
Email: athenahahn@hotmail.com

### Executive Council Representative

The Rev. Cn. Frank Logue  
Diocese of Georgia  
611 E. Bay St.  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Tel. 912-236-4279  
Email: flogue@gaepiscopal.org

### Administrator

H. Eugene (Gene) Willard  
P.O. Box 2878  
Morganton, NC 28680-2878  
Tel. 828-413-0040  
Email: p4admin@icloud.com

## Provincial Calendar

- June 4-7 — Province IV Altar Guild Conference, Kanuga Conference Center, N.C.
- June 5-7 — Province IV ECW Annual Retreat, Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, Ala.
- June 5-7 — Province IV House of Bishops, Kanuga Conference Center, N.C.
- June 7-9 — Province IV Synod, Kanuga Conference Center, N.C.
- July 10-14 — EYE17 (Episcopal Youth Event 2017), "Path to Peace," University of Central Oklahoma, Edmund, Okla.
- July 15 — Consecration of the Rev. Samuel Rodman as the 12th bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, Duke University Chapel, Durham, N.C.
- July 21-25 — Life Every Voice Conference, The Summit, Haw Creek State Park, N.C.
- July 25-28 — Provincial Youth Event, "Humble Yourself" mission experience, Lumberton, N.C.
- Dec. 1-3 — PIV Youth Ministries Leadership & Network Meeting, Diocese of Southwest Florida
- Dec. 6-7 — Provincial Leadership Council, Diocese of Newark, Newark, N.J.