

THE DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Indiana

October 12, 2011

To: The Clergy and People who are the Diocese of Indianapolis

From: Bishop Cate

My Dear Friends,

As you know, our diocese has the privilege and honor of hosting the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July of 2012. The Episcopal Church includes not only dioceses in the United States, but also the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, Haiti, Virgin Islands, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (Central and Litoral), Honduras, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Taiwan. Deputies from all of these provinces a (four clergy and four laity – and often a few alternates) along with their bishops, constitute the decision making body of our Church.

In addition to the deputations from each diocese, the triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women and many other religious societies and groups gather to conduct business and to share in the worship and fellowship that only a gathering of this magnitude can offer.

Hosting the General Convention is an unparalleled way to enter into the inner life of our Church. The General Convention is the body which makes policy decisions, amends our Constitution and Canons, sets the budget and agenda for the mission of our Church, provides for programmatic support of a wide variety of ministries, and offers the opportunity for us to gather in great numbers for worship, mutual support, and the discernment of God's call to us for the future.

A gathering of this magnitude requires careful and meticulous planning, and we have a group of very dedicated and talented people working with the Standing Committee on the General Convention to make next July's event as successful as possible. But we need your help as well. What can you do?

- ***Include prayers for the General Convention in your weekly prayers of the people.*** It is always honest to ask for God's blessing on our planning, our deliberations, and our willingness to carry out God's call to us in mission.
- ***Consider volunteering! A General Convention needs close to 1000 volunteers to run smoothly.*** Volunteers can serve for a day, or for the entire Convention, in a variety of roles. To signal your desire to be of help, go to 2012gcec.registrationsystem.com to sign up. You will be contacted about a specific assignment in March of 2012.
- ***Attend Convention as a visitor.*** You can visit the House of Deputies, the House of Bishops, Legislative Committee meetings and hearings, and, of course, any of our many times of worship. Visitors can browse in the Exhibit Hall,** which provides information from hundreds of Episcopal Church organizations and resources, and provides many lovely items for sale.

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- *Consider opening your home to provide hospitality to volunteers from outside Indianapolis.*
- *Worship with us on Sunday, July 8, 2012, and share in the festival Eucharist! Our liturgy is beautiful in each of our parishes – it is spectacular when shared with thousands of others! **Afterward, go next door to Victory Park** for a special event hosted by the Diocese of Indianapolis.*
- *Consider singing in the choir* – or playing your flute or oboe, or your tambourine! Communications have already gone out to parish musicians asking for volunteers. Dr. Marilyn Keiser has graciously consented to coordinate and direct our musical efforts – you could not be in better hands!
- *Prayerfully consider making a personal or congregational financial contribution* to the cost of the General Convention. Estimated costs for specific items are included with this letter.

As you can imagine, hosting the General convention requires both meticulous planning and funding. Your Executive Council has set aside \$100,000.00, but our expenses will double this amount. I am inviting you to consider making a generous gift to help us welcome The Episcopal Church to our diocese. In 1994, when we last hosted the convention, each parish was invited to contribute \$1,000.00 toward the expenses. I realize that might be a real stretch for some of you, and understand if you need to send less than that. What we do hope for is 100% participation, no matter the amount.

Contributions should be sent to our diocesan office at 1100 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208. Checks should be clearly marked for General Convention, and personal contributions are tax deductible.

Gifts of any amount will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated, and as always, the greatest gift will be your own presence! We look forward to having you join us in supporting, preparing for, and participating in this historic event!

Faithfully in Christ,



+Catherine M. Waynick

****Entry to the Exhibit Hall requires the purchase of a daily or week-long pass. Attendance at weekday and Sunday Eucharist does not require a pass.**

Specific funding needs for General Convention 2012

Children's Program

\$27,000.00

Mandated by General Convention to provide program and child care for children whose parents are participating in the Convention in some way. Plans include field trips, including a day at Waycross. \$130.00 would completely fund one child for a day!

Anglican Communion Partners Visit

\$77,000.00

Includes the cost of travel and housing for 6 visitors each from Brasilia and Bor for a period of two weeks – allowing the chance for visits around the diocese prior to and after the Convention.

Special Event to highlight Diocese of Indianapolis

\$132,000.00

To be held at Victory Field immediately following the Sunday Eucharist. The three hour event will feature our unique three-Way Global partnership other diocesan ministries, and lots of fun! Lunch will be available for purchase – all profits to go to Brasilia and Bor.

Liturgical Arts display

\$10,000.00

Liturgical art from around The Episcopal Church; icons, vestments, altar hangings, sacred vessels, and much more. Applications to display are available on our web site. Costs are for display, insurance, proper lighting, etc.

Volunteer support

\$10,000.00

Our hope is to provide as much help with the costs associated With volunteering at Convention – parking, etc. and to provide an easily recognizable item of clothing for volunteers to wear.

Administrative and miscellaneous costs

\$2,000.00