

## PASTORAL ADDRESS FOR CONVENTION 2016

Sisters and brothers of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, glory to God, whose power working in us can do far more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

Good morning SAINTS!

We ALL are one in mission,

We all are ONE in mission,

We all are one in MISSION,

in God's mission of reconciliation, restoration and renewal. As we gather for the 118<sup>th</sup> Convention, I want to express my gratitude to all those who have given of their time, energy and gifts over the past 18 months for your service on the Search Committee, Transition Committee, Standing Committee and as shepherds. I want to thank Jon Adamson, our former Diocesan Administrator, for his service to all those involved in the process of searching for, electing and transitioning to a new bishop. I want to thank Canon SuzeAnne Silla for her many years of service to our diocese and especially for her care and attention as I began ministry among you in mid-May. Lastly, I want to give thanks to God for the gracious, gentle and pastoral care that Bishop Ed has extended to me since being elected in February. I have grown to call him a friend, colleague in Episcopal ministry and a brother in Christ. During his 16 years as bishop, he called you to grow more deeply into four core values: to have a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to have a heart for the lost, to have a willingness to do whatever it takes and to deepen your commitment to one another. In 2013, he also called you to focus on five imperatives also known as the hallmarks of ministry. to focus on Jesus, think biblically, proclaim the Good News, feed the hungry and mentor the young.

One of my goals as I began ministry among you was to meet with the vestries of each of our 36 Faith Communities as soon as possible. As of today, I have met with 24 vestries. They are:

Trinity Fort Wayne  
St. John's Elkhart  
Gethsemane Marion  
St. David's Elkhart

St. John's Bristol  
St. Alban's Fort Wayne  
All Saints' Syracuse  
St. Christopher's Crown Point  
St. James' Goshen  
Christ the King Huntington  
Holy Trinity South Bend  
St. Andrew's Kokomo  
St. Paul's LaPorte  
St. Elizabeth's Culver  
Grace Fort Wayne  
St. Francis' Chesterton  
St. Paul's Mishawaka  
Cathedral of St. James South Bend  
St. Andrew's by the Lake Michigan City  
Trinity Michigan City  
Holy Family Angola  
St. Paul's Munster  
St. Mark's Howe  
St. Anne's Warsaw

Meeting with our clergy and elected lay leadership, it has been my desire to **deeply listen** to your hopes and concerns and to engage in a Missional conversation. As I have listened, it is clear to me that the Four Core Values and Five Imperatives have taken root among us and are manifest in a variety of ways. This is a sign of God's abiding grace manifest in lives transformed and changed through the example of Bishop Ed's leadership and ministry. I look forward to building upon the firm foundation laid by my predecessors in Episcopal ministry, most recently, Bishop Ed Little and also Bishop Frank Gray, who has been a source of support and collegiality as well. Would you join me in giving thanks for their good work? **APPLAUSE**

The Five Marks of Mission were introduced to me while serving as the Dean of Wellington in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia in 2003. In 2006, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopted the Five Marks of Mission as a framework for us to engage God's mission throughout the world. I invite us to adopt them as our framework for engaging God's mission as the Episcopal Church in Northern Indiana. We are called:

1. **To Proclaim** the Good News of the Kingdom,
2. **To Teach, baptize, and nurture** new believers,

3. **To Respond** to human need **by loving service**,
4. **To Seek to transform** unjust structures of society, **to challenge** violence of every kind and **to pursue** peace and reconciliation;
5. **To Strive to safeguard** the integrity of creation and **sustain and renew** the life of the earth.

It is my hope that they will become as rooted in us as the Baptismal Covenant which is the Episcopal Church's gift to the rest of the Anglican Communion. You can see the Five Marks illustrated on the banner as you registered and gathered for worship this morning. For those of you who like a short hand version of the Five Marks, they can be summarized in five words:

TELL  
TEACH  
TEND  
TRANSFORM  
TREASURE

I encourage each of our Faith Communities to begin to reflect on the various aspects of your mission and ministry in light of the Five Marks of Mission. As a Faith Community, how are you proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom? What particular programs or processes are you using to teach, baptize and nurture new believers? What outreach ministries are you engaged in or considering as you respond to human need by loving service? In your particular context, what unjust structures need to be transformed? How are you challenging the violence around you while pursuing peace and reconciliation? As faithful stewards, how are you striving to safeguard the integrity of God's creation? What initiatives are you participating in to sustain and renew the life of this fragile earth, our island home?

During our time together today, in the midst of the business of Convention, I encourage you to share with your table mates the expressions of the Five Marks of Mission visible in your Faith Community.

Just over a year ago, on Sunday, 1 November 2015, on All Saints Day, the Most Rev. Michael Curry was installed as the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. By God's grace, Bishop Curry is calling us to embrace our unique place as **the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement**. Our life in the Risen Christ begins

at the font, at Baptism. During the Eucharist this morning, we will renew our Baptismal Vows, relying as always, on God's gracious help. Nourished by Word and Christ's Body and Blood, we will be sent out to do the work God has given us to do. We are sent out as Disciples of the Risen Christ who have found our place as Episcopalians in Northern Indiana, part of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement. Let's claim our unique place humbly yet happily. Let us lay aside the anxieties that tempt to overwhelm us and recommit ourselves to our place in the Jesus Movement!

The General Convention in 2015 adopted three areas of focus for our common life from 2016 through 2018: Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation and Justice and Environmental Stewardship. Today, during the Eucharist, we remember the life and witness of William Temple, who served as the Archbishop of Canterbury during the years of the Second World War. He is known for his commitment to the poor, a deep desire for Christian Unity and for encouraging Anglicans in the practical work of evangelism. I was introduced to his definition of evangelism many years ago and would like to share it with you: **Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in such ways that others will come to know him as Savior and follow him as Lord within the fellowship of the church.** This is clearly Mark 1 work for us and it remains the primary work for all of us. Many of you, through your participation in DCDI, have learned to tell your Faith Story. It is the simplest and most convincing way to proclaim the Good News. Will you make a commitment to intentionally share your Faith Story with others during the coming year?

We need, as well, to commit ourselves to the necessary yet difficult work of racial reconciliation and justice. In my Pastoral Letter in July, in the aftermath of the violent deaths in Louisiana, Minnesota and Texas, I wrote: In order for us to work for peace through justice, many of us must recognize our privilege and repent of our complicity in the sin of racism. In order for us to work for peace through justice, we must stand with others who call for action on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. We must take a risk to be associated with those who have no voice or power in the face of violence. In order for us to work for peace through justice, we must seek out and serve Christ in all persons, loving our Muslim neighbors, our indigenous neighbors, our LGBTQ neighbors...all our neighbors as we love ourselves. In order for us to work for peace through justice, our striving needs to include intentional conversations with our neighbors about gun violence, abuse of power, fear of those who differ from us, privilege and racism. This is clearly Mark 4 work for us. Will you join me in exploring ways in which we may work for racial reconciliation and justice in the coming year?

The third area of focus is Environmental Stewardship...the missional work of Mark 5. We live in communities' dependent upon the land around us for our food. During the coming year, will you look for ways to care for this fragile earth, our island home?

One of our Episcopal saints, the late Phyllis Tickle, in her book THE EMERGENT CHURCH, suggests that historically, every 500 years the church has a huge rummage sale which provides an opportunity to clean out the clutter that inevitably accumulates so that we can once again, focus on the heart of what matters, living our lives as Disciples of Jesus, the Risen Christ focused on the Five Marks of Mission.

As I have listened, I have heard stories of grief over what once was. From Full Sunday School Classrooms to thriving Building Campaigns, from holding a place of dominance and privilege as the Episcopal Church to feeling perhaps embarrassed to lay claim to our unique place in the Jesus Movement. The times have certainly changed for all of us. Our future is not to retreat to the past. We are at a Missional Moment. We are called to become more and more, a Missional Church and find ways to connect to various Missional Communities. We live at a time when five generations of disciples of Jesus are attempting to articulate their hopes, concerns and expectations for our faith communities and the wider church. I am convinced there is no turning back for any of us. Together, we must make a commitment to living into a grace-filled present and God's hoped for future, remembering, We ALL are one in Mission, partners in God's Mission!

There will be other opportunities to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a Missional Church and a Missional Community. I have been inspired by the work of Leslie Newbigin, a Missionary to India in the early 1950's. Let me conclude with a quote from his work entitled THE GOSPEL IN A PLURALIST SOCIETY published in 1989.

“Once again it has to be said that there can be no going back to the “Constantinian” Era. It will only be by movements that begin with the local congregation {Faith Community} in which the reality of the new creation is present, known and experienced and from which men and women will go into every sector of public life to claim it for Christ, to unmask the illusions which have remained hidden and to expose all areas of public life to the illumination of the gospel. But that will only happen as and when local congregations {Faith Communities} renounce an introverted concern for their own life and recognize that they exist for the sake of those who are not members, as sign, instrument and foretaste of God's redeeming grace for the whole life of society.”

Trusting in God's abiding grace, let's claim our place as the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement! Will you join me in singing the first verse of our concluding hymn?

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission compels us from above  
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.