



Trinity Topics

August 2022

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“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”—Romans 15:5-6

General Convention, which meets every three years, is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. General Convention alone can speak on behalf of our denomination and dictate our policies like the rites that we use in worship or how our budget is formed. I traveled to the 80th General Convention in Baltimore in July as one of our diocese’s elected clerical representatives. Despite taking place a year late and being cut in half due to the pandemic, the convention did pass some major resolutions.

Prayerbook Revision: Revision of the *Book of Common Prayer* 1979 has been a contentious issue over the last few conventions, with repeated efforts to revise it to be compatible with modern ideas about gender and sexuality. After several failed attempts at revision, General Convention has agreed to a compromise that memorializes the ’79 prayerbook as it is, while establishing a mechanism for approving new liturgies, such as gender-neutral marriage rites or liturgies in foreign languages. These new rites will have the same authority as rites in the Book of Common Prayer itself. This new system (which needs to in pass two General Conventions to become Church law), will be similar to what is done in the Church of England, where the Book of Common Prayer 1662 remains the official prayerbook while new liturgies are added to a collection of rites called Common Worship.

Racial and Indigenous Reconciliation: General Convention addressed the Episcopal Church’s often problematic involvement in slavery, segregation, and the destruction of Native American society. Ten percent of endowment funds were earmarked for racial reconciliation projects, around two million dollars a year. This plan also calls for an investigation to the Church’s involvement in the slave trade. The resolution left it open how those funds will be spent. As a resolution (rather than a constitutional amendment), it will be up to future General Conventions to actually carry out this ambitious plan in ways that are compatible with healthy stewardship of the denominational endowment. Convention also passed a resolution establishing an investigation of the Episcopal schools and orphanages set up to care for and educate Native American children in the early 20th century, a response to the discovery of abuse of Native children at similar schools on Canada.

Diocesan Reunion: There are currently several dioceses considering reunion, though under the old canons this process was complicated and required the authority of a bishop. Some of these dioceses would have needed to undertake the long and expensive process of finding and ordaining a new bishop for no other reason than to merge the diocese and step down. Under newly passed canons, these dioceses will have a streamlined process for merging.

Other Legislation: An effort to remove the requirement to be baptized before receiving Holy Communion was defeated in committee. The Church elected a new President of the House of Deputies, a Ms. Julia Ayala Harris of the Diocese of Oklahoma, the first Latina to lead the House of Deputies. This role is rather like the Speaker of the House in Congress. She replaces Gay Jennings, who has led the House of Deputies for the last 9 years.

Conclusions: This was an interesting look into how our denomination is led and how it operates. I admire how we operate in a democratic way. I was disappointed that General Convention did not address the extremely urgent issue of denominational decline. The next meeting of General Convention is in Louisville, Kentucky in 2024. Let me know if you would like to run for delegate to General Convention at the next diocesan synod!

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXXXI

In 1640, 14 years into King Charles I's tense reign, a lot began to happen all at once. When his attempt to impose a Book of Common Prayer on Scotland exploded into the Bishops' Wars, he had no choice but to finally, after 11 years, call Parliament to raise funds for the fight (Known today as the Long Parliament). His apprehension at calling Parliament was soon confirmed when Parliament saw funding for the war as an opportunity to wring extravagant concessions from the King, from trimming his authority to levy taxes to removing his authority over the Church. This concluded with the Grand Remonstrance of 1641, in which Parliament manufactured a long list of Charles' misdeeds and declared it had control over the Church, over the military, and over all taxation. It was clear that the English Parliament would give Charles military victory over Presbyterians in Scotland only at the price of complete political victory for Puritanism in England. Charles had no choice but to levy new taxes on Ireland for funds, which pushed Catholics into rebellion. Charles was now fighting on three fronts: military conflicts against Presbyterians in Scotland and Catholics in Ireland, and a political conflict with Puritans in England that was clearly spiraling toward civil war. In early 1642, Puritans violently ejected the bishops from Parliament. Charles ordered Puritan ringleaders in Parliament arrested for treason and attempted to force the close of Parliament, which carried on passing anti-royal laws anyway (known today as the Rump Parliament). King Charles fled London to Oxford—a fateful decision which left the capital of the nation, its vast stores of weapons, and its well-trained militias in the hands of his enemies. These militias were assembled into a Parliamentary military called the New Model Army, led by Oliver Cromwell.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Founders' Day

One hundred ninety years ago, on August 11, 1832, Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, was organized, making it the oldest parish in Illinois.

Be sure to look closely at the window above the east entrance as you enter the sanctuary. In the *Stained Glass Window* book, it is described in detail as *The Coming of the Church to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1832*. The center lancet has a representation of our church building. In the left lancet you will see the cornerstone of our church.

Stained Glass Window Reminder

Fundraising Appeal: The next phase of our stained-glass window preservation project has begun. Emil Frei and Associates, the same studio that designed and installed all our windows, has cleaned and restored windows along the south and west sides of the church. Several of them have been taken down and shipped back to the studio in St. Louis for repair. A second, protective layer of glass will be installed on the outside. I am putting out an appeal for donations to this important work. Thankfully, we have had several generous donations for the preservation of our windows and need to raise only \$20,152 for the completion of the project. This would be a wonderful way of remembering someone in our life who has died or offering thanksgiving to God for work in your life. Our windows are truly a treasure of Jacksonville, and it falls to you to make sure they are preserved for future generations!

News & Announcements

Help Needed!

After Labor Day regular church school will resume. We are blessed at Trinity Church to have dedicated teachers lead our children in worship and study. It takes many hands to conduct weekly lessons. There is a wide range of ages of our children. Our teachers want to be able to meet the needs of them all.

How can you help? Volunteer to be a teacher or teacher's aide. Volunteer to stay in the nurse's office with our youngest ones while the teachers conduct lessons. All extra hands are welcome. Although weekly help is needed, you can also offer help one or two Sundays a month. Let the Parish Office know how you can help.

These children are the hope that this church will continue to be filled for years to come.

Choir

Choir Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 1, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join! Contact Mary Wilson. Sunday, September 11 will be their first Sunday to sing at the 10 o'clock service.

Outreach

Our Doorbell Dinners coordinator K-Lou Ashmore would like to thank the following who delivered dinners during the week of July 25 to 29: Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, Keith & Maryjane Bradbury, Fr. Zach Brooks, Donna Chenoweth, Chuck Crim, Paula Herget, Jo Ann Nelson, Hilda Radcliffe, Joyce Surbeck, Dana Ryan, and Don & Alice Tracey.

Trinity Church has been a part of this ministry, along with other area churches, for decades. The recipients of the meals are thankful for the food and the personal contact that volunteers provide.

Our next week of duty is in October, and K-Lou will again be booking volunteers. Please consider getting involved in this ministry, if you are able.



****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Lectors

August 7: Cathy Nelson
August 14: Paula Woods
August 21: Alice Tracey
August 28: Nancy Taylor Porter

Acolytes / Eucharistic Ministers

August 7: Bruce Evans, Levi Haley
August 14: Clayton Robb, Forrest Keaton
August 21: Bruce Evans, Levi Haley
August 28: Clayton Robb, Forrest Keaton

Ushers

August 7: Chuck Crim
August 14: John Clancy
August 21: Chuck Crim
August 28: Bob Hardwick

Join us
on **August 14**,
as we celebrate our **Founders' Day**.



Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, August 16
7:00 pm

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2022

SUNDAYS:

August 7:

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 14:

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 21:

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 28:

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS AT 10:00 am:

Wednesday, August 3

Saturday, August 6:

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday, August 10

Monday, August 15:

St. Mary the Virgin

Wednesday, August 17

Wednesday, August 24:

St. Bartholomew

Wednesday, August 31

MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:

On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays