



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE GENERAL CONVENTION

BONNIE ANDERSON, D.D.
PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES



March 6, 2010

Greetings and Peace to the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina and the participants at the “Enthusiastically Episcopalian” event,

On November 3, 2007, the feast day of Richard Hooker, it was my pleasure to be with you at an event convened by the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina entitled: “Connecting with the Episcopal Church in 2007”. Frank Wade and Sally Johnson joined me at the event. Bishop Salmon appeared, a bit unexpectedly, but absolutely welcome, and was invited to join our panel.

Almost two and a half years have passed since that wonderful event. Many of you have been part of the ongoing conversation in the Diocese of South Carolina regarding its relationship with the larger Episcopal Church. You have shown perseverance, faithfulness and a willingness to engage others with whom you do not always agree. Clearly, you have a deep love for God’s Church and for the history and tradition upon which we were founded. You have continued to demonstrate your understanding of our polity through participation by all the baptized, while valuing and encouraging all voices to be heard.

The Episcopal Church is a community of the faithful. Our tradition encourages us to look for differences of opinion and embrace them, to watch for people who share our unconventional visions of what it means to believe in and struggle with God. We are drawn to each other and to community. God puts us into that context whether we like it or not. You know this well.

I write to you today to commend the Christian Community that you share together and that you continually strive to expand. I write to celebrate your love for Jesus Christ. I write to remind us all that we are beloved, marked as Christ’s own forever by our baptism.

In peace and thanksgiving for your ministry in this season of Lent,

Bonnie Anderson, D.D.
President, The House of Deputies