

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE # 2

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EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FORUM ANNOUNCES CONFERENCES FOR 2004

The Episcopal Forum of South Carolina (EFSC) was organized in December, 2003 to provide an opportunity for loyal Episcopalians in South Carolina to openly discuss their mutual concerns about the controversies within the Diocese of South Carolina and the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA). The Forum is available to anyone, regardless of his or her position on various issues.

The founding members of EFSC have expressed discomfort with what seem to be extreme and sharply divisive positions taken by the Diocesan Special Convention in October, and with the overwhelming defeat of a resolution from All Saints Hilton Head which called for ongoing conversation, study and prayer within and among parishes of the Diocese, leading toward the resolution of our differences.

Members of EFSC generally take a moderate position, but wish to disassociate themselves from what they perceive to be exclusive and harshly judgmental words from the American Anglican Council and those affiliated with the Council. The group is within itself diverse. Some members are uncomfortable with the General Convention resolutions relating to increased inclusion of homosexuals in the life of the church; others are relieved that what they believe is overdue justice has been served. In spite of those and other differences, members of the group are committed to respect for each other's positions.

Members of the EFSC are unified in that they:

- Are bound in unconditional love expressed by Jesus' words and behavior as recorded in the Gospels;
- Uphold The Anglican Communion's historic reliance on scripture, tradition and reason;
- Follow the Anglican tradition of respect for others holding different opinions within the Church, believing, based on experience, that our understanding of truth evolves and does change significantly over time; Believe that the Holy Spirit is working in the deliberations of ECUSA and its conferences; Desire unity within the Episcopal Church.

EFSC is composed of mainstream Episcopalians who want to remain part of the ECUSA, who fear that effective schism has occurred or is imminent, regardless of whether a formal separation occurs between the Diocese and the ECUSA.

Although the concept of a forum emerged shortly after the Special Diocesan Convention in October, EFSC was formally organized in early December when several interested individuals met to discuss how they might proceed. They were encouraged by the formation of similar organizations in other

dioceses, as reported in the December 18 release from the Episcopal News Service (www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/). Since then, the Steering Committee has grown to 10, and more than 75 others have expressed interest in participating. An EFSC website (www.episcopalforumofsc.org) will provide information from differing points of view, including but not limited to those of the Diocese and of EFSC.

In mid-February EFSC will sponsor a public forum on the issues of concern to ECUSA and Forum members. Details will be announced in the near future, and will be available through the Episcopal Forum of SC website at episcopalforumofsc.org. Long range plans are that EFSC will continue to foster conversation study and prayer about issues on which participants may agree or disagree.

Members of the EFSC steering committee are: Gayle Fellers, Betsy Luke, Barbara Mann, Tom Myers, Jr., Dolores J. Miller, Dottie Pagliaro, Lynn Pagliaro, Jan Van Norte, Marcy Walsh and Steve Ward.

Reference:

[Letter & Motion for Unity defeated at the 10/2/04 Special Diocesan Convention of SC.](#)

Further information:

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