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EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Further information:

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**The Episcopal Forum of SC Speaks Out For Unity in The Episcopal Church USA:
Meeting in Beaufort, February 8th**

A rapidly expanding group of lay and clerical Episcopalians is working to stem the tide of divisiveness within the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Organized as the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina (EFSC), its mission is to provide an opportunity for loyal Episcopalians to openly discuss mutual concerns about the controversies within the Diocese and the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA).

In January the Forum began to hold meetings in all areas of the Diocese of South Carolina. The goal of these meetings is to provide individual Episcopalians with knowledge and discussion about the issues and choices they face within the Episcopal Church.

On Sunday, February 8th, 2004, at 4:00 p.m., EFSC will moderate a Forum in Beaufort at the home of Scott and Lee Shaffer; all interested persons are invited to attend. Meeting details are available through the EFSC website: www.episcopalforumofsc.org and at phone number 843-525-0114.

Members of EFSC generally take a moderate position, but they are concerned about what they perceive to be the exclusive and harshly judgmental attitudes of those who would seek to “realign Anglicanism on North American soil.” Part of a national informal network of similar organizations often referred to as “Via-Media” groups, the EFSC contends that the work of the ECUSA continues to be both faithful and consistent with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and that the church is strengthened by the diversity of its members

The EFSC seeks to provide conversation among all “sorts and conditions” of Episcopalians in South Carolina toward the goal of maintaining both unity and breadth, to include all who choose the traditional Anglican “via media,” the middle way.

The EFSC was organized late last year following a special convention of the Diocese of South Carolina that was called to discuss the actions of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in September, when the election of an openly gay priest to be Bishop of New Hampshire was ratified. Founding members of the EFSC were distressed by the sharply divisive positions reflected in resolutions passed by the special convention, and with the overwhelming defeat of a resolution that called for ongoing conversation, study and prayer within and among parishes of the Diocese, leading toward the resolution of differences, of which the General Convention issue is only the most current example.

In mid-February EFSC will sponsor a public conference in Charleston on issues of concern to ECUSA and Forum members. Long range plans for the group are to continue to encourage conversation, study and prayer about issues on which participants may agree or disagree.

EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SC
TO MODERATE A FORUM
IN BEAUFORT, SC
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- All interested persons are welcome. COME AND BRING A FRIEND
- For location and driving directions please RSVP to episcopalforum@bellsouth.net or call 843-525-0114.
- Program will include orientation to EFSC mission, website, programs
- General discussion of ECUSA/Diocese of SC issues
- **Program Outline:**
 - Welcome & Opening prayer
 - History & Introduction to EFSC
 - Who are we?
 - What do we Stand For?
 - EFSC Goal – Unity
 - What is the new “Network of Anglican Dioceses & Parishes”?
 - Town Hall Forum – questions – comments
 - Future plans of EFSC
 - Wrap-up and Closing Prayer
- Please join us for a spirited conversation to seek unity in love of Christ with tolerance and diversity in His Church
- Check out the Episcopal Forum of SC Website at: www.episcopalforumofsc.org
- EFSC is also planning Forums in Charleston, Hilton Head, Pawleys Island, Myrtle Beach, Florence and Orangeburg