

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE # 8

January 27, 2004

EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SC - TO HOLD A FORUM 2/7/04 ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

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 has begun 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 Saturday, February 7, 2004, between 9:30 AM to 12 Noon, EFSC will moderate a Forum on Hilton Head Island. The meeting will be held at the Community Room at the Palmetto Electric Facility on 111 Mathew's Drive. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Meeting details are available through the EFSC website: www.episcopalforumofsc.org.

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.

Further information:
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YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
AN EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SC
ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND
FEBRUARY 7, 2004

Location: Community Room – Palmetto Electric: 111 Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC

Directions: Route us 278 east on Hilton Head Island to mid-island and turn right on Mathews Drive

RSVP: Not necessary, but if you can e-mail EFSC it will help with planning:
episcopalforum@bellsouth.net

9:15 Coffee

9:30 Welcome and Introduction

- **History EFSC**
- **Episcopal Forum of SC Program**
- **EFSC Goal – Tolerance, reconciliation, unity**
- **ECUSA**
 - **Who we are!**
 - **What we stand for!**
- **Unity plea at October Special Convention**
- **Clergy Support for Unity**
- **Forums –**
 - **Website, email**
 - **Diocesan Convention**
 - **Conference in February**
 - **Member or Observer**

10:00 Participants' Response

- **Town Hall Forum Moderated Discussion**
- **Why they are here**
- **What they need**
- **Reaction to EFSC availability**

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Network/AAC/Plano Conference

- **Anglican Institute Charleston Conference**

- **AAC documents describing the Network**
 - **What is the Network?**
 - **Summary Jan 2004 Plano Meeting**

11:15 Discussion – Q & A - Moderator

- **Wrap-up Forum Discussion**
- **Where EFSC should go from here? Myrtle Beach?**
- **Suggestions for EFSC actions**

12:00 Closing prayers