

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE # 9

February 4, 2004

EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA

“EPISCOPALIANS SEEKING UNITY IN DIVERSITY”

***A conference sponsored by The Episcopal Forum of South Carolina
Sat., Feb. 21, 2004 at Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, SC***

Prominent members of the Episcopal Church, representing diverse views on the current threat to unity within the denomination, will be in Charleston on Saturday, February 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Frances Marion Hotel to discuss these issues. The conference is sponsored by The Episcopal Forum of South Carolina (EFSC).

Conference speakers include The Rev. Dr. Donald Armentrout, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the School of Theology, the University of South Sewanee, Tennessee; The Rev. Canon Dr. Kendall Harmon is and Editor of the Anglican Digest; The Very Rev. William McKeachie, Dean of SC Cathedral of Saint Luke & Saint Paul in Charleston, SC; The Very Rev. Sam Candler, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip, in Atlanta and formerly Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, South Carolina.

Speakers will address the full range of differing perspectives regarding the actions of and reactions to last summer’s General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA), which has brought about dissension within the denomination. Taking into consideration the historic and current position, they will explore ways through which unity might be forged in the midst of serious conflict that threatens the denomination’s stability. During panel discussions conference participants also will have opportunities to speak and ask questions.

The matter of immediate concern is the General Convention’s divisive vote to ratify the election of an openly gay priest as Bishop of New Hampshire; this divisiveness has roots in earlier ECUSA General Convention decisions to ordain women, and even further back to adoption of a revised Book of Common Prayer in 1979.

Episcopalians have traditionally embraced perspectives that include a high tolerance for diversity of beliefs and spiritual expression. This “unity in diversity” has been challenged by “The Network”, a new Episcopal group within ECUSA, which represents approximately ten percent of the dioceses within The Episcopal Church.

“Participants should come away from this conference with an expanded understanding of the issues and alternatives under discussion by various groups within the Episcopal Church, says Dottie Pagliaro, EFSC Board member. Our intent is to open for conversation information that every Episcopalian should have to help discern his or her personal options as a church member, “she adds.

Participation in the conference is limited to 300, and advance registration is necessary. The fee, which includes lunch, is \$35. Registration information (and information about the EFSC) is available on its website, www.episcopalforumofsc.org, or a check can be sent to Episcopal Forum of South Carolina, P. O. Box 1772, Mt. Pleasant, SC, 29465.

The Episcopal Forum of SC is a rapidly expanding group of lay and clerical Episcopalians working to stem the tide of divisiveness within the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Its mission is to provide an opportunity for Episcopalians to openly discuss mutual concerns about the controversies within the Diocese of SC ECUSA.

“Episcopalians Seeking Unity in Diversity”

*A Conference Presented by
THE EPISCOPAL FORUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA*

Saturday, February 21, 2004
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston SC

- 9:00 Registration – Coffee**
- 9:30 Welcome – Opening Prayer – Introductions**
- 10:00 Session 1 – Episcopal/Anglican Church History**
The Rev. Dr. Donald Armentrout,
Professor of Ecclesiastical History, University of the South
- 10:45 Session 2 – The AAC, ACI and Network Perspectives**
The Rev. Canon Dr. Kendall Harmon,
Canon Theologian, Diocese of South Carolina
- 11:30 Break**
- 11:45 Panel Discussion Q & A – all speakers will respond**
Moderator: Ms. Susan Dunn,
Lay Minister, Circular Congregational Church (UCC), Charleston
- 12:30 Box Lunch**
- 1:30 Session 3 – Diocesan Considerations**
The Very Rev. William McKeachie,
Dean of Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, Charleston
- 2:15 Session 4 – Episcopal Church, USA Leadership Perspective**
The Very Rev. Sam Candler,
Dean of The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- 3:00 Break**
- 3:15 Panel Discussion Q & A – Continued - all speakers will respond**
- 4:30 Closing Remarks - Prayer**

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Speakers will address the full range of differing perspectives on the actions and reactions to Episcopal Church, USA General Convention 2003, which has intensified dissention within the Church. The Conference will explore, through conversation, how increased unity can be forged in the midst of serious conflict and disagreement without debating sexual morality issues. The conference is designed to inform church members, clergy, vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates.

Participation will be limited to 300 persons – Registration Fee \$35 (includes lunch)

For registration information go to www.episcopalforumofsc.org or call 843-768-7055

Send Check for \$35 to: Episcopal Forum of SC, P.O. Box 1772, Mt. Pleasant, SC. 29465