

JULY 2022

Franciscan

a monthly publication of
St. Francis Episcopal Church



Dear Fellow Ambassadors for Christ,

On Friday, June 24, the Supreme Court of the United States decided that access to abortion was not a Constitutional right, and that it was in the power of the various states to define the legality of abortion within their borders. That reaction to that announcement revealed the deep divisions within the country over access to abortion.

[A Gallup poll conducted in May 2022 indicated that among the respondents, 35% believed that abortion under all circumstances, 18% believed abortion should be legal under most circumstances, 32% believed that abortion should be legal under few circumstances, and 13% believed that abortion should be illegal under all circumstances [<https://news.gallup.com/poll/1576/abortion.aspx>].

The Episcopal Church, through our General Convention, has spoken clearly and compassionately about the issue of abortion. A summary of those statements are found below (from The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations), and Resolution A054 from the 1994 General Convention is printed in its entirety. Nevertheless, there is a wide range of reactions among Episcopalians to the Supreme Court decision, and we as a Church risk becoming even more divided. We, who are called to be Ambassadors of Reconciliation, need to work on reconciliation among ourselves!

I will have a lot more to say (with fear and trembling) about the ministry of reconciliation and abortion in the days and months ahead. But for now, know this:

If you are pro-life, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

If you are pro-choice, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

If you believe abortion should be restricted in a few (or many) circumstances, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT SAINT FRANCIS, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Your fellow Ambassador for Christ,
David+

"A Publication of St. Francis Episcopal Church—'Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed.'"

Summary of General Convention Resolutions on Abortion and Women's Reproductive Health

Office of Government Relations

Clergy throughout The Episcopal Church counsel women and others who give birth, men, and families who must make decisions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, adoption, family planning, and who face infertility. Our ordained and lay leaders walk alongside Episcopalians and others who struggle with this intimate and challenging aspect of human life. Over the past several decades, the General Convention has addressed the topic of abortion from a position informed by this ministry and personal lived experience of clergy and laity within their own families. As a result, the General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes the moral, legal, personal, and societal complexity of the issue. The diversity of views within the Church represents our common struggle to understand and discern this issue.

The Episcopal Church teaches that “all human life is sacred. Hence, it is sacred from its inception until death. The Church takes seriously its obligation to help form the consciences of its members concerning this sacredness. Human life, therefore, should be initiated only advisedly and in full accord with this understanding of the power to conceive and give birth which is bestowed by God.” Our liturgical text *Enriching Our Worship* calls for great pastoral sensitivity to the needs of women, others who give birth, and all involved in decisions relating to “abortion, or mishaps of pregnancy and infertility.” This ministry is particularly important in situations that result in the loss of a pregnancy or inability to become pregnant and as a Church, we have experienced that all of these have “a tragic dimension.”

In a series of statements over the past decades, the Church has declared that “we emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience.” At the same time, since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them.”

The Church urges dioceses and congregations “to give necessary aid and support to all pregnant women.” General Convention “commends the work and mission of pregnancy care centers which stress unconditional love and acceptance, for women and their unborn children.” We have urged support of “local pregnancy care centers” that “develop an outreach of love to pregnant women and to mothers and their children.”

At the General Convention in 2018, The Episcopal Church called for “women’s reproductive health and reproductive health procedures to be treated as all other medical procedures.” The Convention declared “that equitable access to women’s health care, including women’s reproductive health care, is an integral part of a woman’s struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being.”

We continue to advocate that “legislating abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that the individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored as the position of this Church.”

The Church also sees education as an essential component of engaging with issues relating to family planning, child spacing, adoption, infertility and abortion. The global Anglican Communion, of which The Episcopal Church is a member, first supported the use of contraceptives in 1930, and as Christians we affirm responsible family planning. General Convention policy states “it is the responsibility of our congregations to assist their members in becoming informed concerning the spiritual, physiological and psychological aspects of sex and sexuality.” The Book of Common Prayer affirms that “the birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community” (p 440).

General Convention Resolutions

- [1976-D095](#) – Reaffirm the 1967 General Convention Statement on Abortion
- [1982-B009](#) – Reaffirm the Church’s Guidelines on the Termination of Pregnancy
- [1982-D016](#) – Reaffirm the Right to the Use of Artificial Conception Control
- [1982-A065](#) – Condemn Use of Abortion for Gender Selection and Non-serious Abnormalities
- [1988-D124](#) – Condemn Acts of Violence Against Abortion Facilities and Their Clients
- [1988-C047](#) – Adopt a Statement on Childbirth and Abortion
- [1988-A089](#) – Promote Use of Materials on Human Sexuality and Abortion for All Age Groups
- [1991-C037](#) – Oppose Legislation Requiring Parental Consent for Termination of Pregnancy
- [1991-A096](#) – Continue Discussion on the Use of Fetal Tissue for Research Use
- [1994-D105](#) – Commend the Work of Pregnancy Care Centers
- [1994-D091](#) – Deplore Practice of Forced Abortions and Sterilization in China
- [1994-A054](#) – Reaffirm General Convention Statement on Childbirth and Abortion
- [1994-D009](#) – Reaffirm Family Planning and Control of Global Population Growth
- [1997-D065](#) – Express Grave Concern Over Misuse of Partial Birth Abortion
- [2000-D104](#) – Affirm Adoption and Support Legislation on Adoption Counseling
- [2018-D032](#) – Equal Access to Health Care Regardless of Gender

Resolves of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church

- [Opposition to the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1981](#)

***TITLE: REAFFIRM GENERAL CONVENTION STATEMENT ON CHILDBIRTH
AND ABORTION***

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirms resolution C047 from the 69th General Convention, which states:

All human life is sacred from its inception until death. The Church takes seriously its obligation to help form the consciences of its members concerning this sacredness. Human life, therefore, should be initiated only advisedly and in full accord with this understanding of the power to conceive and give birth which is bestowed by God. It is the responsibility of our congregations to assist their members in becoming informed concerning the spiritual and physiological aspects of sex and sexuality.

The Book of Common Prayer affirms that "the birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community" (p. 440). As Christians we also affirm responsible family planning.

We regard all abortion as having a tragic dimension, calling for the concern and compassion of all the Christian community.

While we acknowledge that in this country it is the legal right of every woman to have a medically safe abortion, as Christians we believe strongly that if this right is exercised, it should be used only in extreme situations. We emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience.

In those cases where an abortion is being considered, members of this Church are urged to seek the dictates of their conscience in prayer, to seek the advice and counsel of members of the Christian community and where appropriate, the sacramental life of this Church.

Whenever members of this Church are consulted with regard to a problem pregnancy, they are to explore, with grave seriousness, with the person or persons seeking advice and counsel, as alternatives to abortion, other positive courses of action, including, but not limited to, the following possibilities: the parents raising the child; another family member raising the child; making the child available for adoption.

It is the responsibility of members of this Church, especially the clergy, to become aware of local agencies and resources which will assist those faced with problem pregnancies.

We believe that legislation concerning abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that the individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored as the position of this Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its unequivocal opposition to any legislative, executive or judicial action on the part of local, state or national governments that abridges the right of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of pregnancy or that would limit the access of a woman to safe means of acting on her decision.

JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	2
3 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	4 Jazzercise 4:45 pm Independence Day	5 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	6 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	7 Alanon 7:00 pm	8 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	9
10 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	11 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	12 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	13 Office Closed Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	14 Office Closed Alanon 7:00 pm	15 Office Closed Jazzercise 4:45 pm	16
17 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	18 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	19 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	20 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	21 Alanon 7:00 pm	22 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	23
24 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am	25 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	26 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm	27 Bible Study 10:30 am Jazzercise 4:45 pm	28 Alanon 7:00 pm	29 Jazzercise 4:45 pm	30
31 Sunday Salon Series 9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am						

July Anniversaries

Mike Kock on July 14

Anysia Catalan on July 14

Augusto Catalan on July 16

Virginia Culp on July 19

Kate Hamilton on July 21

Loretta Stockstill on July 24

David Culp on July 24

If your name does not appear on our birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.



Summer of Sharing Our Gifts

June 12, 2022, through September 4, 2022



Summer of Sharing Our Gifts. We need your help.
All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.

This summer, you are invited to share your gift during the 10:30 am Sunday worship service. Everyone, of all ages, can share their gift of music, singing, ensembles, dance, poetry, favorite inspiration, favorite book excerpt, etc. are invited to participate.

This is a great opportunity to add joy to our service as well as praise the Lord. There is a signup sheet in the narthex or see Diana Graham.

Please come and enjoy our weekly Sunday Salon Series with Fr. David. We meet at 9:00 am in the Library each Sunday morning.

No preparation is required, although it will be beneficial to bring your Bible to the Salon Series. Hope to see you there!



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



Outreach Ministry Program

Each month for Ingathering Sunday, there will be certain items that need to be collected. For **July to August** please collect any items for the **back to school supplies** and place them in the container in the Narthex.

Outreach Ministry Jars

Please look for jars around the church to throw your loose change in. They will be located on the table in the Foyer, near the coffee pots in the kitchen, and on the table during coffee hour. The donations for **July to August** will help to pay for **back to school supplies**.

“It’s our connection to God and each other that gives meaning to our lives.”



Diocesan Staff Re-organization

In the last several weeks, Bishop Wayne Smith and the Rev. John Johanssen, canon to the ordinary, have led a reorganization of the bishop’s staff designed to increase efficiency and clarity for leaders in the diocese who interact with staff members.

The impetus for the change, Canon Johanssen said, was the conclusion of an operational collaboration with Christ Church Cathedral that began in 2018. In May, Bishop Smith and Dean Owen Thompson [wrote to diocesan and cathedral leaders](#) to announce that they had decided to eliminate the joint position of operations executive, and that Carine de Lange, who had held the position since its inception, would join the cathedral staff as operations executive on June 1.

“While the partnership benefited both the cathedral and diocese in some ways, we ultimately determined that our daily operations often have different priorities and different goals,” Bishop Smith said. “The conclusion of the partnership gave us the opportunity to reconfigure the diocesan staff to support more fully and more efficiently the ministry of congregations. I am glad to make these changes in advance of the bishop search.”

The end of the cathedral partnership necessitated new leadership in financial oversight for the diocese. Bishop Smith has appointed Christine Perme, who was previously comptroller, as chief financial officer and the Rev. David Getreu as canon for finance and budget. Getreu, who is also rector of St. Paul’s, Chillicothe and St. Philip’s, Circleville, will serve as liaison to the diocese’s governance bodies. Susan Byrnside, an accountant on the bishop’s staff since 2013, has been promoted to senior accountant, and two new accounting and payroll staff members, Kelly Whitaker, who manages accounts payable and Lori Crenshaw, who handles payroll and benefits, have been hired.

Both Matt Hornsby, who oversees facilities, and Andrea Owens, administrative assistant, will continue to split their time between the diocese and the cathedral.

Becoming Beloved Community, the diocese’s reconciliation ministry, has also been given a more central place in the diocese’s formation ministry, Johanssen said. “Becoming Beloved Community needs to inform and infuse everything we do in the diocese,” he said. “This reorganization will make that more possible, and I am grateful to the BBC leaders whose work and witness are changing our culture to make it more just and more inclusive.”

Consultant Amy Howton, who leads the program along with a leadership team of lay and clergy leaders, will now work with the Rev. Jason Oden, canon for formation and new Episcopal communities. A new missioner for Black ministries is also being hired this summer. Oden will also work closely with the leaders of the diocese’s other formation initiatives.

The diocese’s communications efforts have also been reorganized. Julie Murray, who has served on the diocesan staff since 2003, has been named canon for communications and community engagement.

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She will work with Canticle Communications, a firm Bishop Smith engaged earlier this year to help lead diocesan communications, and will also coordinate diocesan convention, oversee information technology functions, and support congregations in their communications ministries.

One other key staff change is already in place. The Rev. Michael Spencer, who joined the diocese in March as canon for transitions and congregational ministry, is also overseeing human resources for the diocesan staff. Spencer, who was canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan for nine years before moving to Cincinnati earlier this year, has considerable human resource experience and will be able to handle both clergy and diocesan staff recruitment and benefits efficiently, Johanssen said.

Find a new diocesan staff organizational chart on the website at <https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/diocesan-organizational-chart/>



Learning's from the listening sessions: An update from the Standing Committee

Dear friends in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you know, the Standing Committee held listening sessions in late May and early June. The purpose of these sessions, held in person and online, was to help us understand whether we are ready as a diocese to move to the next stage of the bishop search process and to hear your concerns and hopes.

We are pleased to share the **report and recommendations from New Realm Consulting**. There were no surprises in the report, and this is good. Please do read the full report, and you may also want to review the **results from a diocesan-wide survey** we conducted in the spring.

In summary, there were five themes we heard from the listening sessions:

- Desire for improved transparency from diocesan leaders
- Desire to use “systems theory” to understand not only the issues around Bishop Breidenthal’s struggle with substance use, but also how we handle other problems and support our leaders
- Clear preference to “proceed now” with the next step of our search for the next diocesan bishop
- Lack of trust related to an identified Cincinnati/rural disconnect; a frustration with the collaboration between the Diocese of Southern Ohio and Christ Church Cathedral. (Note: this collaboration **has now been ended**.)
- Hope that our next bishop will be pastoral, with an appreciation of Bishop Wayne Smith’s work

As we have said all along, the Standing Committee’s primary goal has been to set up our next bishop for a ministry that can thrive. To that end, we wanted to make sure we understood critical issues in our diocese and could address some of them prior to the election and ordination of our next bishop. Other issues must be named and clarified now, and our next bishop will need to be aware of them and lead us through a response.

We believe that the worst scenario would have been to proceed too quickly, having failed to identify and address long-term, systemic issues. Fortunately, we believe – and the survey and listening sessions have affirmed – that the Diocese is now ready to proceed with the next steps in our search.

We have identified areas of health in our diocese. And we have identified challenges that fall into three categories:

- Some challenges should be addressed and resolved immediately, before the arrival of our next bishop.
- Some challenges should be identified and clarified so that those discerning a call to be our bishop will be aware of them as part of their discernment process.
- Some challenges should simply be named now, realizing that they cannot be “solved” in the short term.

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Here are some immediate challenges we have addressed:

- The Standing Committee has been endeavoring to lead with transparency and to encourage others to do the same.
- We called for the election of Bishop Wayne Smith as our bishop provisional and charged him to help us address issues related to the systemic health of our diocese.
- The collaboration between the Diocese and the Cathedral, a source of much concern, has been ended.
- We are working with the Trustees to address the next bishop's compensation. Already, when we called Bishop Smith, we lowered the compensation from its previous high of just over \$340,000 to just over \$200,000. We are working with the Trustees to develop a plan for "rationalizing" the next bishop's compensation to make it comparable with other dioceses of our size and complexity.

We also understand there are longer-term issues, including:

- Systemic racism in our diocese and its structures
- An ongoing lack of trust and transparency
- A desire for greater support of struggling congregations, both financially and pastorally

We are sharing these concerns and the work to address them with you so that you'll be aware of our ongoing concerns and focus. Now that we have a provisional bishop, the Standing Committee is no longer the ecclesiastical authority, and our task for many of these challenges is to offer counsel to our bishop. Our narrower focus has been to assure that we are on the optimal timeline for our search.

It is clear that we are ready to proceed with the next steps of the search for our next bishop.

Specifically, we are meeting all day today with our search consultant to map out a timeline and task list for the nomination, discernment, election, ordination, and transition of our next bishop. We will share this timeline as soon as we have a suitable draft. Over the summer, we will be preparing the position descriptions and process to name the search committee. We will continue to work with the Trustees on clarifying the compensation (and compensation policies) for our next bishop. We will work with the chancellor on any special rules of order or canonical changes that will need to be considered at our Diocesan Convention this fall.

Our expectation is that we will open nominations for the search committee later in the summer or in early autumn. We will look for a diverse group of people with the mix of skills we need from across the whole diocese. We'll share more details soon.

The date of the ordination will depend on the Presiding Bishop's schedule and on resolutions under consideration at this summer's General Convention that could affect the timeline. As we said, stay tuned for a more detailed timeline as soon as it's ready to share.

Some people have asked us what happens if we do not have our next bishop by August 2023, when Bishop Smith's letter of agreement with us ends. He has told us that he is willing to stay on a little longer if needed. If for some reason that becomes impossible, we are developing alternate plans to continue the vibrant ministry of our diocese without interruption.

We will communicate again soon with a timeline for the process leading to the ordination of our next diocesan bishop. Meanwhile, if you have questions or concerns, please email us at StandingCommittee@DioSOhio.org.

We ask you to pray for the Diocese of Southern Ohio and for us. Today is the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles. The appointed collect is fitting:

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdom: Grant that your Church, instructed by their teaching and example, and knit together in unity by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, which is Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Yours faithfully, Dr. James Allsop, vice-president; Dr. Elizabeth Barker; The Rev. Dr. Ellen Cook; Mr. Barry Feist; The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, president; The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, secretary; The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio

Saint Francis Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Springboro
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GATHERING TIMES

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM – SUNDAY SALON (DISCUSSION GROUP FOR ALL)

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER FOR JULY

**LORD OUR GOD, WITH ALL OUR HEARTS WE COME BEFORE YOUR
COUNTENANCE. OUR HEARTS SHALL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR PRESENCE,
ASKING, LONGING, & BELIEVING THAT YOU WILL GUIDE OUR AFFAIRS
ARIGHT. DRAW OUR HEARTS TOGETHER SO THAT WE MAY HAVE
COMMUNITY IN YOU, OUR FAITH & HOPE SET ON YOU ALONE. AMEN.**

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge - The Rev. Dr. David Bailey

fr.david@saintfran.org - (513) 310-0127

Senior Warden - Stephan Graham

Junior Warden - David Culp

Vestry Clerk - Virginia Culp

Financial Secretary - Sue Starner

Parish Secretary - Alisha Minamyers

Organist - Diana Graham

Sunday School Director - Jenny Catalan

Vestry Members - Stephan Graham, David Culp, Jenny Catalan,
Barb Roy, Chuck Oduah, Mary Harris, Kimmie Patti, Virginia Culp,
Tom Phillips, and Toni Patti.

