



# PROVINCE III OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Spring 2024 Newsletter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SYNOD 2024 FEATURES HOD PRESIDENT, JULIA AYALA HARRIS, AND SCREENING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

Province III Synod will take place May 5-6, 2024 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV, beginning Sunday evening with a screening of The Philadelphia Eleven.

**JOIN US FOR A  
FILM SCREENING**

@PhilElevenDoc



**The  
Philadelphia Eleven**

Sunday, May 5 | 7:30 PM EST  
**Holiday Inn  
Martinsburg, WV**

*Exclusive Screening for GC deputies; Hosted by Province III*

Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies, will be keynoting our gathering.

If you are a deputy to General Convention, please plan to attend!

More information and Registration links can be found on our [website](#).

## PROVINCE III OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT SYNOD

### Five Provincial Officers at Provincial Synod

The slate of nominees (bios in the hyperlinks):

- President: [Kevin Brown](#), DEL
- Vice-President: [Nathan Brown](#), EDOW
- Treasurer: [Jason Kamrath](#), MD
- Secretary: Steven Jones, DEL
- Clergy representative to Executive Council: [Nina Salmon](#), SWVA

(Note: our Ordinances do not permit nominations from the floor. However, if the proposed amendments recommended by our Provincial Council in November 2023

are adopted next May, this will change in future years.)

## GENERAL CONVENTION NEWS

### HOUSE OF DEPUTIES BLUE BOOK PODCAST AVAILABLE

Join HOD President Julia Ayala Harris and guests, the second and last Wednesday in April for conversations with deputies across standing committees, task forces, and interim bodies, covering pressing issues and resolutions.

[Subscribe now.](#)

### THE BISHOPS UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE ARE HOLDING AN EVENT FOR YOUTH AT GENERAL CONVENTION.

From June 24-27, Episcopal youth are invited to General Convention to learn from and work with experienced community organizers in gun violence prevention. [Learn more here.](#)

Lodging will be available for no cost at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 8110 St. Andrew's Church Rd (can take 30-40 people), with showers available at several nearby locations.

Youth groups are being arranged by dioceses. If you have students interested in participating, please be in touch with your diocesan office to register. Registration is due May 8.



### ATTENDING GENERAL CONVENTION? YOU ARE INVITED TO A PROVINCE III LUNCHEON!

Province III is hosting a buffet luncheon on Saturday, June 22, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at the Galt House Hotel's Waterford Room on the 25th floor. The room has gorgeous views of the city. If you are attending General Convention, put the date on your calendar to join us.



## PROVINCE III NEWS

### 2 PROVINCE III BISHOPS CHOSEN TO STAND FOR PRESIDING BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania, and The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, are among

four bishops chosen to stand for election to be the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Read the biography of all the nominees [here](#).



## PROVINCE III RETREAT/FORMA CONFERENCE



The hybrid Province III Retreat and FORMA conference was deemed a great success by attendees (in spite of some heating issues at Claggett). The Rev. Dr. Robert Phillips of the Diocese of Washington led our retreat time in the mornings, with afternoons spent in webinars and zoom sessions with FORMA. Evenings were spent in fellowship, talking, putting together puzzles, playing games, and attending "A Case for Love."

A main theme for what attendees liked best was connecting with other formation leaders, especially those nearby: "The best parts were the live parts: meeting other folks from P3, conversations both in the program and at meals and social time, and the spiritual program with Robert and chance to pray together." Many indicated a desire for "more opportunities like this- I am committing to once a year for myself at least - to gather around Jesus with fellow disciples away from it all to reflect on where God is in our ministry and where God might be leading us next." Many liked the geographic proximity of a regional gathering over a national meeting, and the time and cost savings that come with that. Other comments included: "I felt very cared for," and "I think this model is worth repeating."

So, keep your eyes out for possibly holding another regional retreat/conference in future years!

## ONE BISHOP'S REPORT ON THE SPRING HOUSE OF BISHOPS MEETING

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan sent the following report on the HOB meeting to her diocese, which gives good information about how the HOB works for the wider province as well:

I am writing this as I make my way back to you from the "spring" meeting of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church. I've been with my sibling bishops at Camp Allen, a camp, retreat, and conference center in the "Piney Woods" of Navasota, Texas. Camp Allen is an outstanding facility with plenty of acreage to enjoy God's creation: hiking trails, walking paths, woods and lakefront property all satisfy the need to stretch one's legs during breaks between meetings.

Members of our 110 dioceses in The Episcopal Church gathered for a week of study, prayer, fellowship and business. There were about 125 bishops present as well as members of the Presiding Bishop's staff, language interpreters for our bishops who speak Spanish and Mandarin, two chaplains, and a musician. We are a Body that is growing in its diversity; we are blessed by a number of bishops who are people of color, and the gender balance has increased, now, to include 36% women. We also seem to be skewing younger as a House (but that may just be my perspective as one of the "elders.") Now in the 9th year of my episcopate, I am no longer a "new bishop" and it is exciting work to learn the names of and meet all the new bishops who have been consecrated since our last meeting. Since I was consecrated in 2015, (my number in the succession of TEC bishops is 1089,) there have been 76 new bishops elected and consecrated in our church.

The House of Bishops gathers twice a year. Covid altered our meeting pattern, of course, in the last few years, and our fall meeting this past September was held on Zoom. The last time that we were together in person was last March at Camp McDowell in Alabama.

At this meeting we carried on our business as usual, but with the notable absence of our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. Bishop Curry's health has kept him from participating in our gatherings this year and we all missed his charismatic preaching, his generous spirit, sense of humor, deep wisdom and faithfulness.

The pattern at our meetings is to gather in a plenary session of 2.5 hours in the morning and again for 2.5 hours in the afternoon, to worship together in the morning and evening, to share meals and recreation together, and to meet formally in regional (provincial) groupings as well as informal, self-selected groups. In our time this week I attended a meeting of the Province III (Mid-Atlantic) bishops where we discussed opportunities for collaboration among our dioceses and some of the issues that we expect to come before us at General Convention in June. I went to meetings of Bishops United Against Gun Violence where we talked about a program for youth at General Convention to train our young people in advocacy and community organizing, and I also attended a meeting of the "Green Bishops" where we discussed some of the resolutions coming to General Convention encouraging Creation Care advocacy and the "Anglican Communion Forest," an initiative where bishops distribute saplings to confirmands as a way to mark that sacramental rite. I met with the committee to which I have been assigned for General Convention- a legislative committee to address changes to our disciplinary canons known as "Title IV" and I worked with the small group that is designing an April meeting in Charlotte for discernment of the House of Bishops regarding the candidates for the election of the next Presiding Bishop.

One of the most meaningful meetings that I attended was during a session called "Open Space" where we were encouraged to spend the afternoon discussing topics of interest generated by the group. I joined the group that was organized to discuss part-time ministry in our church, lay leader training and "how we are getting church done" in an era of a priest shortage and a decreased capacity to pay full time clergy. I was proud to talk about the good work that we are doing in our Stevenson School for Ministry and the Commission on Ministry forming pathways for licensed lay ministers. I learned that the challenge of staffing parishes in our church extends to places in our rural dioceses, to those ministering to indigenous populations, and even in urban settings. In this conversation we talked about the need for quality lay formation for leadership and how to encourage small congregations in their life and ministry.

Because of the number of new bishops, there was a focus on building relationships in our collegium and learning about each other's ministry contexts. We talked openly about the challenges of maintaining ministry with fewer resources and smaller congregations but this was by no means a meeting where we wrung our hands and were in despair; in fact, this meeting filled me with hope for our future, with gratitude for the strength of lay and ordained ministers in our church, and with energy to keep on working in Jesus' Way of Love, spreading God's Good News to the world.

We spent significant amounts of time in prayer- we prayed together as a Body, we prayed the psalms, we sat in contemplative silence being fed by the presence of our Lord, and we prayed around the Table, nurtured by the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. We prayed for peace, for the healing of the world, for prisoners and refugees, for an end to conflict and for the intercession of the Prince of Peace. And we prayed for all of you, grateful for the ministry of our dioceses.

I was honored to accept the invitation of the Presiding Bishop to be one of the preachers at our meeting. In addition to the chaplain staff and leadership, three of us were given the opportunity to offer a sermon to our colleagues. It was both exciting and a little daunting. I think I did ok. I spent my "sabbath day" (Saturday) on an extended solo hike on the back trails of the Camp and turned it into a "contemplative hike" where I paused for silent prayer in several spots along the way. I saw lots of squirrels, one deer, a turtle, a few wood ducks and an opossum (!) in my travels. I also joined some friends for horseback riding in the afternoon; my

horse "Flash" did not live up to his name- I spent significant time tugging on his reins to keep him from eating the foliage along the trail. I also sang with the House of Bishops choir in our worship services; in my years in the House this has become a favorite activity for me.

I am grateful to our diocese for this time away with my colleagues, and I am anxious to get home and continue our good work together. There's a meeting of our Task Force to Support Small Churches tomorrow afternoon, a zoom gathering to discuss Creation Care tomorrow night, a Council of Trustees meeting on Thursday, and a zoom meeting of our retired clergy on Friday. This weekend I will enjoy a visitation at St. Andrew's, Harrisburg and then make my way to St Luke's, Lebanon to celebrate the good work of our collaborative mission with the Diocese of Bethlehem to raise funds to reduce medical debt. It is a full and wonderful life in Christ that we are living together.

In the Way of Love,

+Audrey



THE REV. GLENNA HUBER ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
REPARATIONS



The Rev. Glenna Huber, rector at Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C., and at-large member of Province III's Executive Committee, has written an article in BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY, the newsletter of The Episcopal Racial Reconciliation, Healing & Justice ministry on Environmental Reparations. You can read the entire article [here](#).

CLAGGETT CENTER SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW  
OPEN



There's something for everyone at Claggett this summer. Find the session that is right for you and your family, and register today!

**Sassafras Seniors Week:** June 16-21 (grades completed: 8-12)

**Mulberry Middle Week:** June 23-28 (grades completed: 5-8)

**Family Camp:** June 30- July 3 (For families of all ages, shapes, and sizes!)

**Juneberry Juniors Week:** July 7-12 (grades completed: 2-6)

**Adventure Camp:** July 14-19 (Grades completed: 4-8, special focus on outdoor skills and activities)

**Special Challenge Camp:** July 21-25 (adults 21+ with developmental disabilities)

**Camp Spirit Song:** July 28-Aug 2 (For youth grades 4-8 impacted by a family member's opioid substance abuse)

[Register today!](#)

Scholarships are available for all programs. Contact [Rosie Alger](#) for more information.

## UPCOMING OFFERINGS FROM LIFELONG LEARNING, A MINISTRY OF VTS

"Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary provides continuous opportunities for theological education in the service of faithful leadership. It is for the committed and the curious, lay and clergy eager to claim and explore their Christian vocations in today's world. Lifelong Learning at VTS is a multi-faceted program grounded in theology and research-based practices to provide transformational learning for courageous leadership in a changing church" (From the [VTS webpage on Lifelong Learning](#)).

Offerings include Worship for All Ages, Faith-Filled Families, and they also offer Christian Formation & Discipleship Office Hours for you to bring your specific questions, concerns, and ideas to discuss.

Check out their winter offerings [here](#).

## AROUND THE CHURCH

### UTO NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS, INCLUDING GENERAL CONVENTION EVENTS AND GRANT APPLICATION TRAINING

#### UTO At General Convention

This General Convention is different than ones in the past, so UTO has a different look to our offerings. We are offering two general workshops for those in Kentucky:

##### *Grant Writing 101*

Thursday, June 27 from 10a-11a

Hyatt Conference Room (UTO Office – inside the front door, first room to the right)

Researching and writing grant applications is a daunting task, but once you learn some simple tips and tricks, you can easily navigate the world of non-profit grant writing. Join us from 10a-11a at the Hyatt to talk about ways to find funding for your ministry ideas (including but not limited to funding from The Episcopal Church), and how to best present those ideas to funding agencies. As a bonus, we'll also send you home with the 2025 UTO Grant Application.

##### *What's New With UTO?*

Thursday, June 27 from 11:15a-12:15p

Hyatt Conference Room (UTO Office – inside the front door, first room to the right)

Bring your lunch and come hear about all of the new things happening with UTO, from free formation resources to upcoming events the Board is planning for the 2024-2027 triennium. We also hope you'll come with questions and ideas of ways we can better support your congregation in practicing gratitude. We'll have some fun giveaways for those that join us.

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3rd Annual UTO Virtual Training Day: May 18, 2024 10-2p Eastern.

Register here and find out more about the event here.

Register by Wednesday, May 8th at 9a Eastern time to ensure your swag bag arrives in time for the training. For those that register after May 8th, it will be sent after the event.

#### Workshop #1: 2025 UTO Grant Application Supporter Training

Many folks help with UTO grant applications along the way from the initial idea to completed and submitted packet. This year, instead of just walking you through the grant application, we are going to train you on what to look for when helping an applicant, when to ask for help, and how the new dual deadline process works. The goal is to not have applicants get conflicting information locally by ensuring that our leaders have the best information accessible to them. If you complete the workshop



and a quick online ten question quiz, you'll get a certificate saying that you've gone through the training, and we'll list you on our website (if you would like) as someone trained locally to help with applications. You will also receive as much support as you request from UTO Staff and Board members during the application process to help your local applicant. It is our hope that this helps our leaders feel more confident in supporting applicants and helps our staff have more support in reviewing drafts.

#### Workshop #2: 2024-2025 UTO Formation Updates

We've been foreshadowing a lot of changes that are coming to our UTO formation materials, and now will be the moment to learn all about the new ways we are resourcing congregations to grow in gratitude for the 2024-2025 program year. We'll debut the new material ordering form and process, talk about the materials we offer, and how best to share them if you are a parish UTO Leader or a diocesan UTO Leader. This is a great chance to hear about what is coming so you can share it with your stewardship, formation, and other church leadership who might like access to free resources for congregational life.

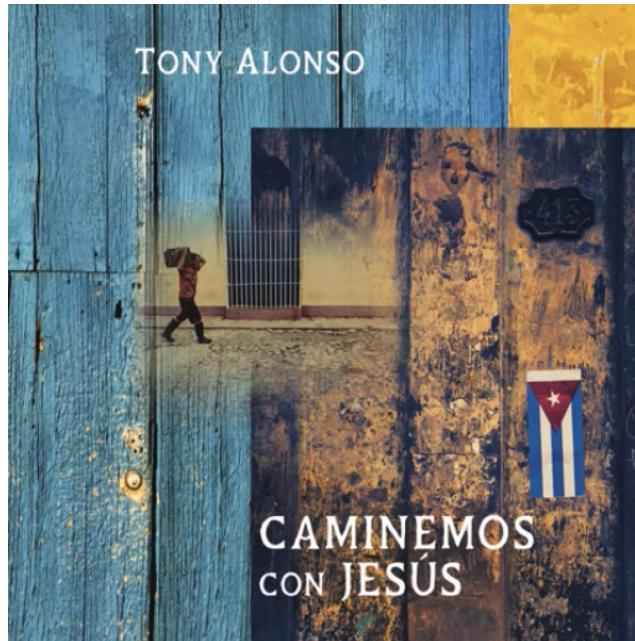
#### Workshop #3: 2024-2027 New for UTO Leaders

Each triennium, the UTO Board reviews our leadership handbooks, and this year brings about some changes now that we are living into a new normal after the pandemic. During this workshop, we'll share the new handbook for UTO leaders, go over some of the different and new ways we're seeing that folks are leading UTO in parishes and dioceses, and help answer any questions or talk through things that are unclear or hard for you when it comes to leading UTO. This new approach is to really name that there's no right way to lead, but if it isn't bringing joy to lead UTO, then we want to support you in getting help so it is joyful.

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNOUNCES 2025 TRI-HISTORY CONFERENCE

Every three years (excepting Covid), three organizations--The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Women's History Project, and National Episcopal Historians and Archivists--sponsor a cooperative, triennial conference on the history of The Episcopal Church.

The next conference will take place June 2025 in Washington, D.C. The topic is **Caminemos con Jesús: History of Latino Ministry in the Episcopal Church.**



A call for papers will be published in May 2024. You can find it on the webpages of any of the three sponsoring organizations.

