



broadcast

The Voice of the **Young Adult** Festival at General Convention 2009

Young adults from around the world gathered for the opening of the Young Adult Festival on Thursday, July 9 at the Doubletree Hotel.

Young Adult Festival Opens

by Nicole Seiferth

“Tonight you could see the excitement everyone has to get involved in the political process and make our presence felt,” said Sarah Tomlinson, an international festival participant from Scotland. “I don’t think we’re going to be quiet while we’re here.”

The Festival runs through Monday, July 13. Follow the festival via episcopalcommons.org/yaf and look for this newsletter outside the Convention Center every morning.

Meet Rosie Dickson

nursing student, international visitor
and YAF participant



I’m Rosie Dickson and I’ve traveled from Scotland to join everyone at the Young Adult Festival. I’m a student nurse at Robert Gordon’s University in Aberdeen and have just completed my second year of training. A good friend of mine suggested I join her at the Festival because I was involved in the International Anglican Youth Network’s

presence at last year’s Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. While at Lambeth, I met some wonderful Christians from across the world and hope to do the same this summer in Anaheim.

I love the diversity of the Episcopal Church and think it is wonderful to have such a big event specifically for young adults running alongside the General Convention. I look forward to the discussions that will be had, the friendships that will come to be and most of all the fellowship shared with those from across the USA and the world.

Find out more about YAF participants at episcopalcommons.org/yaf.



General Convention

by Carlton Allen

my Church and my church

As a young adult who hasn't yet found a church that fits, General Convention is both my church and my Church. I get the "So, where are you going to church these days?" question quite often. My usual response is that my pledge goes to the church I grew up in. As a young adult my time spent in church buildings has decreased while my spiritual life has blossomed.

While it might not be on Sunday mornings, the time spent gathered with fellow young adult Christians is the time I feel the closest to God. General Convention is one of these times for me. The time spent with friends—those known for years and those I just haven't met yet—brings me closer to our God. It is these times that stoke my fire for Young Adult Ministry and remind me why I get so geeked up about working within the church.

Carlton Allen is from the Diocese of Northern California.

B033 and Beyond

by Eileen O'Brien

On Thursday, the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music Committee held hearings on a slew of resolutions dealing with blessings of same sex civil unions/holy unions/marriage. This hearing was an opportunity for the committee to hear from clergy trying to provide compassionate pastoral care for their parishioners, young people urging the church to model openness and diversity for their communities, and GLBT advocates who called for the church to recognize the grace and blessing of all monogamous, loving relationships. While the majority of voices at the hearings articulated support for the development of rites for blessing, it was acknowledged that in the church as a whole, there is a lack of broad consensus around the thorny theological issues at the heart of this debate. The House of Deputies will meet in plenary to have a conversation about the same issues on Friday morning.

Friday afternoon, another important piece of legislation related to global reconciliation in response to the Windsor report will be examined through hearings in the World Mission committee. Resolution D020 calls for the provisional commitment to abide by the Cambridge-Ridley draft of an Anglican Covenant and the commendation of the covenant to dioceses for study and comment. While it is unlikely that this resolution will pass as written, it would be surprising if it were not commended to the dioceses for study and comment over the next three years. In effect, dioceses and congregations would be called into a study process which gets at the heart of our identity as a catholic (with a little "c") denomination. The Covenant recognizes our interdependence as a global communion and sets up some specific mechanisms for conflict resolution, but will it really serve as "an instrument of unity" or will it simply define more clearly who is in and who is out? It is naïve to think that such a document can mitigate the need for continued work at reconciliation and relationship across the communion, but will it provide a helpful springboard into the next phase of this process?

What do you think about the Anglican Covenant? Share your comments at episcopalcommons.org/yaf and track these resolutions throughout General Convention online at episcopalchurch.org/gchub.

Eileen O'Brien is from the Diocese of Texas.



Young Adults Visit the House of Deputies

Four young adults were the guests of Bonnie Anderson, the President of the House of Deputies, on Thursday afternoon.



Big Events

Committee of the Whole

Friday @ 9:30am, Hilton Pacific Ballroom
Open forum on B033.

Meet a Mentor

Friday @ 7pm, Lounge

Busy discerning your vocation but looking for some tools? PLSE mentors as well as folks from the new Forward Movement discernment curriculum team will be on hand to offer guidance and support.

The Abundant Table

Saturday @ 6:30pm, California Ballroom

A simple meal, during which the young adults will discuss issues of food sustainability and responsible, local and organic agriculture.



TOGETHER
YOUNG ADULT FESTIVAL
GENERAL CONVENTION 2009

The Young Adult Festival at General Convention provides a time and a space for Episcopalians between the ages of 18 and 30 to gather and together experience the workings and communal life of the church. We will be together July 9-14.

Check out more photos, stories and videos from the festival at
episcopalcommons.org/yaf

The Young Adult Festival is funded in part by Episcopal congregations and dioceses through The Office for Young Adult & Campus Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center