



Easter 2009

To: The Bishops and Deputies of the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church
From: (The Rev'd Dr.) Gregory Straub, Executive Officer & Secretary

Greetings!

Here is your long-awaited reading in preparation for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which will convene in Anaheim, California, on 8 July 2009. The Blue Book of the General Convention contains the reports to the church of the Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (CCABs) of the General Convention. (The book is red this year, a color taken from the logo of this convention's theme, Ubuntu.)

For the past three years more than 500 of our fellow church members have volunteered their time and energy to address resolutions referred to them by the 75th General Convention and to investigate, as well, areas of concern named in their canonical or authorizing mandates. I urge you to read the Blue Book in its entirety in preparation for your work in Anaheim. (Diocesan deputations may wish to apportion sections of the Blue Book among their members and allow one deputy or alternate to be the resource person for a given area.)

Not only will you find the reports of the CCABs contained herein, but also their resolutions ("A" resolutions). With the Blue Book you will find a CD-ROM, which includes all the reports, supplemental materials that could not be included in the book and an indexed list of the "A" resolutions proposed by interim bodies. Those of you who take a laptop or notebook computer to Convention will find this a helpful tool and easier to carry than the printed version.

Also included with the Blue Book is Executive Council's draft budget, which will serve as the basis for the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance's work on its proposed budget, which it will present on the floor of a Joint Session of General Convention after hearings on Mission Priorities, Spending and Income. Enclosed, as well, you will find a DVD to help orient you to the life and work of the General Convention. This DVD is the result of consultation with deputations and is a cooperative venture of the General Convention Office (GCO) and the Department of Communication at the Episcopal Church Center.

The GCO has worked throughout this triennium to facilitate the work of CCABs, providing meeting services, budgetary support and staff liaison. I want to thank the GCO for all its work.

I hope you have begun to pray, study and prepare for your participation in the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. See you in Anaheim.

I am
Very truly yours,

(The Rev'd Dr.) Gregory Straub, Executive Officer & Secretary