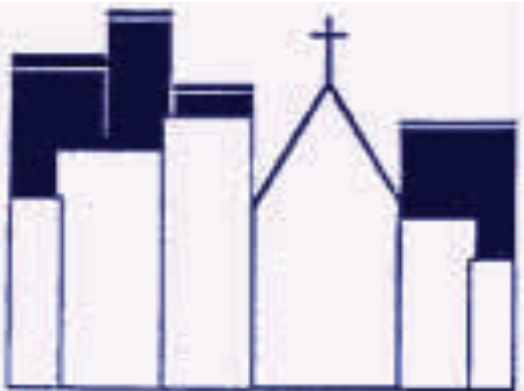




THE URBAN NETWORKER

APRIL 2010

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

MINISTRIES OF
RECONCILIATION,
SOCIAL JUSTICE & PEACE
Founded 1980

- **Check our web-site at:**
- episcopalurbancaucus.org

Inside this issue:

THE FOUNDING OF THE EUC

Presiding Bishop sends congratulations

Message from Pres of the House of Deputies

2010 EUC Resolutions and 2010 SAINTS

Excerpts—1980 Keynote Address - Mattie Hopkins

Cease Fire—Donna Hicks

Update on “815” Union Cleaning Workers—Relyea

EUC CELEBRATES THIRTY YEARS

THE FOUNDING OF THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

Toward an Episcopal Urban Caucus, February 1980

The organizing group chose to be called a Caucus because they recognized that a caucus is a group within the Church. The right inside pocket of the folder from the first organizing meeting read;

“Seek the welfare of the city where I sent you in exile; and praise the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

In an article entitled Episcopal Urban Caucus Planned, the Episcopal Press and News, December 28, 1979 reported: **INDIANAPOLIS** – The organizing assembly for an Episcopal Urban Caucus will meet here February 13-16, 1980 to

organize for action in “response to the challenges of urban mission. The new group—sponsored by the Urban Bishops Coalition and the Church and City Conference—will include bishops, priests and laity of the Episcopal Church who will join together in establishing a national agenda, in developing a theological reflection process, and in setting up a structure to carry out its action plans.

The leaders of the Coalition and the Conference – Bishop John T. Walker of Washington and the Rev. Michael Kendall of Waterbury, Conn. – have said of the proposed group: “We envision an Episcopal Urban Caucus, including bishops, priests, and laity which can throughout the decade ahead provide material and spiritual support for those already engaged in urban mission, continue to confront the whole church with the urgency of this mission, and create a base within the Episcopal Church from which we can join hands

with other religious and community agencies to address the plight of our cities and their people.”

Walker and Kendall have indicated that *priority issues for the agenda are “survival of urban*



Diane Pollard shares information on the Founding of the EUC at Banquet

parishes, more effective use of diocesan and national resources to support urban mission, increased advocacy and political action on social policy concerns....”

Some of the policy concerns (See p. 2 “Founding of EUC)

2010 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2010 – 1

TITLE: Funding for Youth and Young Adult Members of the Caucus Board
Submitted by: Ronald H. Miller
Diocese of Maryland

RESOLVED, That this 30th Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus reaffirms its commit-

ment to the participation and presence of Youth and Young Adults at the Caucus Assembly, and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Board be asked to factor money for travel and registration costs of Youth and Young Adult members of the Board into the individual cost of the Assembly, and be it further

RESOLVED, That members both of the Caucus and the Board be encouraged to make additional contributions toward the cost.

RESOLUTION 2010 – 2

TITLE: Support of the Episcopal Service Corps (see p.3, col.1)

FOUNDING OF THE EUC (continued from page 1)



Anne Braxton reads information on Founding at 30th Anniversary Banquet

which they suggest are “the death penalty, nuclear disarmament, capital flow from urban areas, racism, sexism, housing for low-income people and the displacement of low-income people, suburban/urban cooperation, jobs, energy, inflation, and hunger.”

On February 13-16, 1980 the organizers of The Episcopal Urban Caucus met in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Presiding Officers were the Rt. Rev. John T. Walker, Chairman of the Urban Bishops Coalition and

the Rev. Michael S. Kendall, Chairman of the Church and City Conference. Five Strategy Leadership Teams emerged from that first meeting. They were:

1. Ending the Arms Race

An action of the Caucus was to pass overwhelmingly a condemnation of the international arms race. A resolution called for an end to the building of the MX missile and for shifting the \$50 billion saved into programs for rehabilitating the cities. Convener: The Rev.

George F. Regas, Resource Person: Admiral Gene LaRocque, Theologian: Dr. William L. Weiler, Process Person: Elizabeth Yon, Staff: The Rt. Rev. Brooke Mosley.

2. The Church's Response to the Energy Crisis

The Caucus encouraged the formation of diocesan energy task forces, which would carry out audits of energy use, search out capital for energy-related rehabilitation work and establish (see insert—Founding, p.1)

30th ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM THE PB

“I give thanks that the Urban Caucus has nourished and sustained the Episcopal Church's commitment to social justice...”

**Presiding Bishop
Katharine Jefferts
Schori**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I rejoice as you celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. I give thanks that the Urban Caucus has nourished and sustained The Episcopal Church's commitment to social justice in our cities, suburbs, and beyond. May God bless you in this vital and transformative ministry.

I pray that the Episcopal Urban Caucus will continue to offer leadership toward God's vision of shalom, a word that encapsulates the flourishing of humanity proclaimed by the prophets. I note that many of these prophets had a great deal to say about cities and Jesus' most powerful words and works took place as he made his way through Jerusalem. What good news will the Urban Caucus bring to The Epis-

copal Church and world in the next thirty years?

We must work together toward that dream of shalom. May the Episcopal Urban Caucus continue to foster leaders for that healed world. I remain

Your servant in Christ,
Katharine Jefferts Schori

2010 SAINTS OF THE EUC

Each year we remember our members and others who were examples to us of urban ministry. They have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, leaving us to follow their example. This year we remember:

The Rt. Rev. John Burt, retired Bishop of Ohio and an active member of the Urban Bishops Coalition (a founding organization of the Episcopal Urban Caucus). Bishop Burt dedicated himself to social

reform, racial and gender justice and ways in which the world's churches could work together to effect positive social and political change. His career spanned five decades. He was a graduate of Amherst College and after a year of study at Columbia University became a social worker on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. His graduate degree was from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. Bishop Burt served on the staff

of Christ Church Cathedral, in St. Louis and as rector of All Saints Church in Pasadena, transforming that church into one of the largest and most active voices for social change in the country. In 1978 when the collapse of the steel industry devastated Youngstown, Ohio, he founded the Ecumenical Coalition of the Mohoning Valley which fought to keep Youngstown Sheet and Tube from (see insert page 2 — SAINTS)

2010 RESOLUTIONS (cont'd from page 1)

Submitted by: Earl Kooperkamp, Diocese of New York

RESOLVED, recognizing the importance of providing young adults opportunities to deepen their faith through engagement of critical social justice issues, periods of reflection and service, this 30th Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus commends the work of the Episcopal Service Corps and its constituent member programs. The Episcopal Service Corps challenges young adults not with the question of "what do

you want to do?" but with the deeper question of "who do you want to be?" and how is God calling you to be that person? Through their year of service in economically disadvantaged areas, serving the homeless and hungry, children and youth at risk and other marginalized people, the participants in the Episcopal Service Corps begin a life long journey in their faith and in their calling. The Episcopal Urban Caucus gives thanks to God for the programs that have served to

encourage and inspire young adults, and gives further thanks for the growth and development of this network. Part of our calling as Christians is to "Equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ," and we commend the Episcopal Service Corps for undertaking this work with young adults.

RESOLUTION 2010 – 3

TITLE: Support the Passage of the Equal (cont'd in insert p.1)



EUC President, Bishop John Rabb, speaking at the 30th Anniversary Assembly in Chicago

CONGRATULATIONS from DR. ANDERSON

Greetings and joy to those gathered for the 2010 Assembly of the Episcopal Urban Caucus! Congratulations on 30 years of advocacy and prophetic vision.

Although much has been accomplished in the work of securing human rights, God continues to ask more of us. God continues to remind us that until our neighbor is free and safe and at peace, none of us will be free and safe and at

peace.

In 2012, Indianapolis will be the site of the 77th General Convention. It was in that same city in 1980 that the organizing Assembly of The Episcopal Urban Caucus was held. In a time of necessity for visionary leadership you answered the call.

I pray that you will continue in the strong tradition of your past and encourage our Church

to embrace the kind of courageous leadership that has been the hallmark of the Episcopal Urban Caucus for 30 years. I stand ready to assist you in any way that you might find helpful.

Thank you for your faithful leadership in the name of the One who saves us all. I am honored and blessed to be doing God's work with you.

In peace,
Bonnie Anderson, D.D.

***"In 1980,... in a
time of
necessity for
visionary
leadership you
answered the
call"***

CEASE FIRE! - Donna Hicks, Episcopal Peace Fellowship

When I saw that the theme for the 2010 EUC assembly was going to be "Antiviolence: Keeping our Kids Alive," my first thought was "Maybe one of the site visits will be Cease-Fire!"

Durham, North Carolina's Religious Coalition for a Non-violent Durham has organized vigils at the sites of homicides for many years -- a ministry of presence to honor the lives of those lost to violence and to

resanctify the site of a violent death. The monthly Coalition meetings highlight a violence-reduction program, such as a recovery and reentry program for those released from prison or recovery circles for those traumatized by the cycle of violence.

I've wondered what a Cease-Fire program would look like in Durham and in the West Bank majority-Palestinian city of Al Khaliil/Hebron, part of which

is still under Israeli military occupation, where I've served with Christian Peacemaker Teams. CPT asks, what would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peace-making that armies devote to war? We talk about violence reduction work and teams.

I felt an affinity with Cease-Fire's violence interrupters who "use their connections to (see insert page 3, column 1)

***Dr. Bonnie
Anderson,
President of the
House of
Deputies***

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

MINISTRIES OF
RECONCILIATION, SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND PEACE

P.O. Box 21182
Park West Station
New York, NY
10025

Phone: (212) 699-2998

Fax: (212) 699-2998

E-mail:

coordinator@episcopalurbancau-
cus.org

WEBSITE:

www.episcopalurbancaucus.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

The Rt. Rev. John Rabb, President

Barbara K. Larsen, Vice President

Velva Wright, Secretary

Diane Pollard, Treasurer

The Rt. Rev. A.C. "Chip" Marble

The Rt. Rev. Bavi Edna Rivera

The Rev. Can. Robert J. Brooks

The Rev. Michael Hopkins

The Rev. Philip Jacobs

The Rev. Charles Lane

The Rev. Ronald Miller

The Rev. Glenna Reed

The Rev. Carol Borne Spencer

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

RPM Bowden

Rosemary Braxton

Bruce Ingram

Samantha LeBlanc

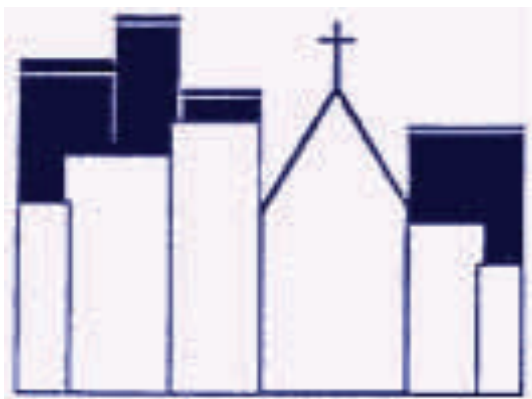
Pamela Moffat

Sheila Sims

Nell Braxton Gibson (Ex Officio)

**The 2011 Assembly: February
23-26—Pittsburgh, PA**

THE EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS—Founded 1980



Metropolitan Apostolic Church

The Rev. Dr. Leon D. Finney, Jr., one of the nation's most sought after community organizers, serves as pastor of the Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church on S. King Drive in Chicago, IL. In response to the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, Dr. Finney's church pledge to collect 100 crutches and walkers per week to send to people in the devastated Caribbean country where Dr. Kelly Mann, a New York City based volunteer pediatrician in Port-au-Prince said, **"We're looking at a generation of amputees."** (April 2010 issue of

EBONY magazine).

To those who know Dr. Finney it comes as no surprise that Metropolitan Church has responded so generously since Dr. Finney, a former staff mem-



Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church's response to Haiti: To collect 100 crutches and walkers per week to send

ber and student of Saul

Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation has a distinguished career in organizing for the empowerment of marginalized

people. Based on his international commitment, the Ford Foundation awarded him a Fellowship to study urban community development in Germany, France and Great Britain. One of his international successes came during his service as Chairman of the Chicago Finance Committee, which raised \$165,000 to help elect Nelson Mandela President of South Africa. Dr. Finney took time out of his busy schedule to meet with members of The Episcopal Urban Caucus and talk about his and his church's commitment to social justice.

Inspired by Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church, EUC member Deloris Jones, initiated a similar program at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Manhattan. Readers in the New York Metropolitan area who have used walkers and crutches in good working order may take them to: St. Andrew's at 2067 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10035.

