

EUC ASSEMBLY EVENTS

Wednesday, February 25 – Saturday, February 28, 2015

Thursday, February 26

Morning

Keynote Address - Governor Dannel Malloy has been invited to be the Keynote Speaker on Thursday morning. We have had a favorable response from his scheduler, but not a formal acceptance. We have been told that usually comes about a week in advance of the event. The Governor spent extensive time in Newtown after the shootings in 2012, and was an important leader for gun-control legislation passed in Connecticut the following year.

Afternoon

SITE VISITS will include:

Educational Resources for Children, a Jubilee Center for Ministry of the Episcopal Church in Enfield, with a mission of providing after school programs to develop resilient children. There are many aspects to the work of ERfC, but of key interest are training in conflict resolution and anti-bullying. This creative agency had its origins twenty-one years ago in a small Episcopal Church in the Thompsonville section of Enfield. It has grown to be able to serve children in the elementary and junior high schools in this small urban town.

Or

Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford. At this site visit, we'll hear about post-denominational community organizing against violence in the city. There will be a panel of urban leaders from a variety of faith communities discussing the ways they have been working together in Hartford. The Rt. Rev. James Curry, retired Bishop Suffragan of The Episcopal Church in Connecticut will host and moderate this panel discussion. Panelists will include: the Rev. Henry Brown, founder of Mothers United Against Violence; The Rev. Stephen Camp, Senior Pastor of Faith Congregational Church, Hartford; Bishop John Selders, Pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ, Hartford, and Assistant Chaplain, Trinity College, Hartford; and the Rev. Harlan Dalton, Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford. The site visit will begin with a tour of the Cathedral.

At 6:00 PM, everyone will gather at The Commons, diocesan headquarters for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, for the **Assembly Eucharist**. Following the service there will be a tour of the collaborative workspace in a renovated factory building in Meriden.

Friday, February 27

9:00 - 10:00 AM - Morning Workshops

Congregational Witness for Peace and Conflict Prevention:

Workshop Leader: Canon David W. Porter, Archbishop of Canterbury's Director of Reconciliation, Lambeth Palace, London, UK

DESCRIPTION:

During many of the decades of conflict in Northern Ireland, Canon Porter was pastor of a Baptist congregation. He and his congregation worked tirelessly behind the scenes with both Roman Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods to prevent violence and build trust that led to the Good Friday Peace Accords. He will share what motivated this mission, despite many setbacks over the years that dashed hope, to be witnesses for peace and reconciliation in a culture of violence. He will share the learnings and strategies from those years and how they relate to his current ministry with the Archbishop of Canterbury to equip those surrounded by violence to transform their culture to one of peace.

Children and Violence - three Connecticut programs addressing mental health, children impacted by violence, and mentoring of juvenile offenders

NOTE: This is a two hour workshop

Workshop Leaders: Roland Harmon from the Governor's Prevention Partnership, Director of Program Planning and Development – Dr. Jason Lang from the Child Health Development Institute of CT - Dr. Darcy Lowell, founder and Executive Director of Child First

DESCRIPTION:

Presentations on: a statewide mentoring Program for Juvenile offenders, a program dealing with children who have experienced trauma/violence, and a program for young Connecticut children who are experiencing mental health problems

Do Not Stand Idly By - A National Strategy on Gun Violence Developed By Congregation-Based Organizations

Workshop Leaders: Matt McDermott, lead organizer, Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT) and CONNECT Clergy Leaders

DESCRIPTION:

The Do Not Stand Idly By campaign is an effort to organize the buying power of police departments and other public buyers of guns (40% of the market for gun manufacturers) as leverage to press gun manufacturers around their distribution practices and to invest in smart gun technologies. To date, CONNECT and our sister organizations in various cities around the US have gained the support of nearly 70 mayors, governors, county executives, police chiefs, and county sheriffs. Come learn more about this innovative strategy to impact the problem of gun violence and explore how you might be able to gain the support of your local public officials to join this growing movement.

10:30 - 11:30 AM – Morning Workshops continued

From Grief to Action: The B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

NOTE: This is a two hour workshop

Workshop Leaders: – The Rev. Tim Crellin, Vicar of St. Stephen's, Boston – Christine Duggan, Lead Organizer of the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign – Tania Ortiz, Youth Organizer of the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign – Michael Cordero, Youth Leader in the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign

DESCRIPTION:

This workshop will tell the story of a tragic event and the community organizing that followed. In September 2012, 19-year old Jorge Fuentes, a remarkable young leader of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Massachusetts, was shot and killed in front of his Dorchester home. Under the leadership of the late Bishop M. Thomas Shaw and continuing now, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has brought together congregations to address the underlying root causes of violence. Through lobbying for legislative changes, increasing available jobs for teens, developing youth leadership, and engaging in internal education and external witness, Episcopalians in Eastern Massachusetts have taken steps toward reducing gun violence and building up the Kingdom of God.

Organizing Episcopalians Against Gun Violence: Lessons from the House of Bishops

Workshop Leaders: The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas and the Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens

DESCRIPTION:

Bishops United Against Gun Violence is an ad hoc network of nearly 60 Episcopal bishops who have come together to explore means of reducing the appalling levels of gun violence in our society, and to advocate for policies and legislation that save lives. The network encourages and promotes direct action to overcome gun violence in the dioceses of the Episcopal Church through advocacy, community organizing, education, the creation of resources, and collaboration with other groups beyond The Episcopal Church. This workshop, facilitated by two co-founders of Bishops United Against Gun Violence, will outline the emergence of the network, describe some of its initiatives, and invite lay and ordained leaders in the Episcopal Church to imagine how they too might organize for effective action against gun violence.

Community Coping Strategies in Response to Tragedy in Newtown – “Victims Voices: Establishing Living Legacies”

Workshop Developer: The Rev. Kathleen Adams Shepherd, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church Newtown, CT

Workshop Leaders: Jeremy Richman, PhD, Founder & CEO, *The Avielle Foundation*

Nelba Marquez-Greene, Co-founder, *The Ana Grace Project*

David Wheeler, *Ben's Lighthouse*

Suzanne Roman, *Witness For Change*

DESCRIPTION:

How various community organizations and activities have developed since December 2012, to assist in dealing with the violence that occurred there.

1:30 - 2:30 PM - Afternoon Workshops

Alternatives to Violence Project: An Introduction

NOTE: This is a two hour workshop

Workshop Leaders: Valentine Doyle, Keith Barile

DESCRIPTION:

Founded in 1975, The Alternatives to Violence Project / USA is an association of both community and prison-based groups offering experiential workshops in conflict resolution, responses to violence, and personal growth. AVP targets prisons, schools and communities. AVP workshops typically extend over three days and use the shared experience of participants, interactive exercises, games and role-plays to examine how we respond to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. This workshop will introduce assembly participants to AVP and its many chapters and provide a taste of what AVP workshops are like.

Grassroots Strategies Against Gun Violence

Workshop Leaders: Tom Campbell Brady – Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; Kate Mayer – social media as strategy for activists; Po Murray – Newtown Action Alliance; and a representative of Connecticut Against Gun Violence

DESCRIPTION:

Panel Discussion will include how ordinary citizens can make a difference to end gun violence in our nation through grassroots organizing, holding elected representatives accountable and speaking truth about statements by the gun lobby.

Economic Justice – Wealth inequality and its relationship to violence:

Workshop Leader: The Rev. Bevan Stanley

DESCRIPTION:

The main question is: What can we do as Episcopalians to reverse the widening gap between rich and poor? This will be a conversation covering a number of different dimensions of the problem of wealth inequality—the history of the relationship of wealth inequality to violent revolutions and the demise of empires, the pursuit of living wages, ways to reduce excessive executive compensation, tax strategies, national investment in infrastructure and education, campaign reform, etc. Bevan will offer some ideas from his reading, and then participants will be encouraged to share their ideas and research.

3:00 - 4:00 PM – Afternoon Workshops continued

Pre- General Convention workshop:

Workshop Leaders: Diane Pollard – Nell Gibson – The Rev. Dr. Molly James – Byron Rushing

DESCRIPTION:

A presentation and discussion of resolutions for General Convention 2015 with particular regard to ways in which Episcopalians can respond to the Church's witness against gun violence. The workshop will also discuss other subjects that will be on the agenda for the upcoming General Convention.

Chaplaincy Ministry to First Responders after Incidents of Violence

Workshop Leader: The Rev. Edward Goetz, a Connecticut State Police Chaplain

DESCRIPTION:

Caring for the caregiver. Responding to caregivers under stress and pressure. The needs, the wants, and the necessary space to begin the healing process.

IMMIGRATION 2015 - an update on Grassroots Actions, Public Policy and Impact on Families and Communities

Workshop Leader: Dianne Aid, has worked in multi-cultural and economic justice work in the Episcopal Church since 1993. Currently serves as President of The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice. She has been an immigration reform advocate for 25 years

DESCRIPTION:

Focusing on the child refugees and asylum seekers from Central America, the expansion of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and of the new executive order allowing parents of US citizens work permits, known as DAPA. Also issues around privatized detention and how

congregations can respond to all of the above.

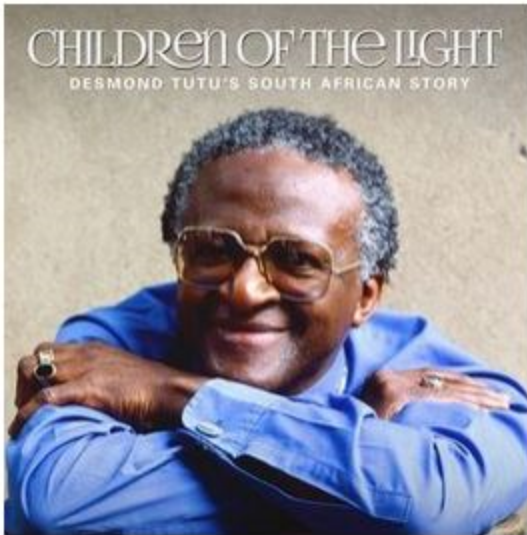
Evening Program after the Assembly Banquet

PeaceJam: Nobel Peace Laureates Mentoring Youth to Change the World

Presenter: Jennifer H. Huebner, PeaceJam New England, CT Coordinator

DESCRIPTION:

For 20 years PeaceJam's 13 Nobel Peace Laureates have been developing young leaders through education and inspiration while engaging them in service projects in their local communities. PeaceJam New England brings Nobel Peace Laureates to UCONN for annual Spring Conferences where youth from New England meet the laureate and present their service projects. For example, in 2013, Jr.NAA from Newtown found PeaceJam "better than Christmas", as they shared their mission and received inspiration and skills for their powerful work in violence prevention.



"Children of the Light" Receives Glowing Review

PeaceJam's newest documentary, ["Children of the Light"](#) featuring Nobel Peace Laureate Desmond Tutu, received 5 stars from the *London Film Review* this month.