

**Letter from Fr. Rob**  
**General Convention Resolutions and Homosexuality**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

On Thursday, October 22, interested members of the parish will meet to continue our discussion on the *General Convention Resolutions and Homosexuality, The Episcopal Church and St. Aidan's*. These sessions are open to everyone in the parish. We will meet weekly for 1 hour at least four times on Thursday nights at 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm in Burtenshaw Hall.

Our conversations will cover biblical, historical and ecclesial topics. I will provide information via handouts and website materials. The first handout, The Episcopal Church's response to questions from the Windsor Report entitled "To Set Our Hope on Christ", contains a helpful appendix tracing some history of the Episcopal Church's understanding of Homosexuality; and, provides some of the theological and spiritual framework of the Church on this issue.

If you have something to share with the group, please give it to me and I will make it available on the website and/or get it copied for all. My aim is common material in an open forum. Please work with me on this centralized way of communication. It will enhance our level of trust.

We will take a listening stance: listening to God through scripture, prayer, each other. From the Anglican Communion's guide on listening to each other comes this advice:

*The polarized arguments over the issues surrounding human sexuality have made us all feel vulnerable. Some fear the ending of the faith as we know it. Others fear not being accepted. Some fear being split in two with conflicting loyalties. Some fear to ask questions and some fear to answer them. These fears can only be answered by trusting in God to care for our Church and for all who come to him. However, we need to admit our own vulnerability and accept the vulnerability of others. It is important to do this while reading [materials and discussing them]. We ask you not to seek arguments you can defeat but to allow God to inform you so you are strengthened in your walk with him. Again the Bible gives us the ultimate model. Jesus accepted the vulnerability of being human. His fears in Gethsemane were answered by his trust in God who rescued him from despair and death. We need to accept that all are vulnerable and trust God who can bring reconciliation in any context.*

Finally, I leave you with some wise words from Bishop Edward Little that I hope you will find helpful and guiding for us:

*Serving a broken and divided church is a hard calling, and I do not minimize the difficulty of the task or the inevitable disappointments that I will encounter on the journey. But the Lord, for his good purpose, has (I humbly believe) thrown into one church Christians of radically different and sometimes theologically incompatible perspectives. Is it possible that in the midst of this painful discontinuity, he may do a work that none of us can foresee? It is in that hope and in remembering that he is*

*Lord of the church and in charge of the big picture that I follow Jesus in the Episcopal Church.*

My hope is always that we at St. Aidan's can talk with one another, and despite our different views and beliefs on matters, we can gather around the altar and follow Jesus Christ as his servants and disciples. And I pray that our love for God, His love for us, and our bonds of affection will strengthen and unite us. Remember, with God, all things are possible!

God's Peace,  
Rob+

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