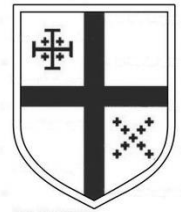


Glad Tidings



The Newsletter of the United Episcopal Church of North America

Lent 2023

BISHOP GEORGE CONNER

November 19, 1935 – November 7, 2022



From Presiding Bishop Peter D. Robinson:

I was very sorry, on both a personal and a professional level, to announce that the Rt. Rev. George Conner, Bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church, U.S. for many years passed away early on the morning of November 7th. He was living close to his niece in the Phoenix area at the time of his death.

Bishop Conner spent much of his working life in the Baltimore area and had been associated with the United Episcopal Church in North America for many years. At one time he was a member of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Timonium, MD, and assisted Bishop Knight in the administration of the Church by helping to run the jurisdiction's National Office back in the 1980s. Upon retirement, he moved to New Mexico 'so I would never have to cut grass or shovel snow again,' and served as Rector of St Bede's Anglican Church, Tucson, a ministry that involved very lengthy commute from his home in NM to Tucson each weekend. After retiring as rector, he remained bishop for the surviving handful of AEC(US) churches, which decided to affiliate to the UECNA in 2014 in response to Archbishop Robinson's open letter to the other Evangelical Anglicans to unite. Bishop Conner became a valued colleague, and friend. I shall miss him greatly.

I ask your prayers for his family, and your thanksgiving for his ministry.

+PDR

From St. Bede's Anglican Church, Tucson, AZ:

Bishop George Conner died on Monday, November 7, 2022, twelve days shy of his 87th birthday. We were notified of his death by his niece, Erin Conner Fischer, who went on to say:

His passing came suddenly, as we were all hoping to have more time with him here with us in Phoenix. My uncle was experiencing incredible pain, following his surgery to remove a malignancy in August of 2021 and subsequent radiation treatments... so even though we will miss him very much, I know he won't be suffering anymore, and that provides a sense of peace.

George was one-of-a-kind...he had a beautiful tenor voice and loved to sing, preferred travel by bus and train, loved authentic Mexican food, [and] told funny jokes with perfect timing. He was a devoted little brother to my Dad, a loving uncle to four nieces and a great uncle to many nieces and nephews who didn't get to see him often enough. He was a loyal friend to many of you, and a caring servant of God to us all. I know he is now with Jesus, and that makes me so very happy...I hope that makes y'all happy as well.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local animal shelter/humane society or to St Bede's Anglican Church in Tucson, his beloved home parish.

May God Bless you all,
Erin Conner Fischer

A Memorial service for Bp. George was held at St Bede's Anglican Church in Tucson, AZ on Sunday, December 11, 2022 with a potluck luncheon following after. St. Bede's gives thanks to God for the witness, service, and life of Bp. George. Rest eternal grant unto him O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

CLERGY NEWS

The Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks:

- The Rev. Lawrence Jones, presbyter, and Mrs. Nancy Jones, deaconess, were received in the diocese from the Reformed Episcopal Church on August 8, 2022.
- The Rt. Rev. D. Presley Hutchens, retired bishop, retired Bishop of New Orleans, was received by Letters Dimissory from the Anglican Catholic Church on September 3rd 2022. He has been licensed as an assisting bishop in MDSO.

Letters Dimissory

The Most Rev. Peter D. Robinson issued a Letter Dimissory to the Rev. Paul A. F. Castellano (Missionary District of the West) to the Reformed Anglican Church, Sept. 15th 2022.

Licensing

The Rev. John T. Brantley to be Pastor of Boger Reformed Church, NC, effective January 1st 2023.

Ordinations

The Rev. Christian Dove (Grace, Wildwood, FL) and the Rev. Sergio Gonzalez (Hospice Chaplaincy, Tampa, FL) were ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Peter D. Robinson, Missionary Bishop of the East, at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Waynesboro, VA, on August 19th 2022.

The Rev. Richard K. Ball (St Bede's, Tucson) was ordained to the diaconate at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Waynesboro, November 5th 2022 by the Most Rev. Peter D. Robinson, Missionary Bishop of the East, on Letters Dimissory from the Rt. Rev. George Conner.

The 2022 House of Bishops meeting was conducted largely online due to weather and travel considerations. Among the items discussed were the future of the Missionary District of the West, the Marriage Canons, Constitutional Amendments, and Disciplinary procedures in the Church.

It was decided that, as the Missionary District of the West was no longer able to support a standing committee and an ecclesiastical court, it would be reorganized as an Archdeaconry and folded into the Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks effective January 1st 2023. Bishop Murrell will be transferred from the MDW to MDSO and will continue as Assistant Bishop, whilst oversight of the Western parishes will pass from the Presiding Bishop to Bishop Sparks.

The bishops also decided to form a commission to look at Canons 19 and 20 with a view to updating them, tightening the definition of marriage, and clarifying the church's position on annulments. The increasing disparity between the legal and theological definitions of marriage was behind this decision, and it is hoped that proposals for updating the Marriage Canons will be ready in time for the 2023 General Convention in October.

Discussion also took place about a number of minor constitutional amendments such as permanently moving the General Convention to October (the present official date is May and clashes with Mother's Day) and removing some of the redundancies from the Constitution regarding the election of bishops, and the division of dioceses. Consideration was also given to simplifying the procedures to be used in the ecclesiastical courts, and to a possible alternative name for the UECNA that would avoid the use of the word 'Episcopal' which has acquired severe negative connotations in some parts of the country.

2023 GENERAL CONVENTION will be held in October in Waynesboro, Virginia.