



St. Andrew's Church, Omaha

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ECW/UTO Joint Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, the officers of the Episcopal Church Women's National Board and the UTO Executive Committee met via Zoom to discuss the ECW/UTO percentage distribution of the Wright Grant for the 2019-2021 triennium. We also talked about our shared Triennial planning, and our decision to try to be more specific in "paying our way" for what services we use at Triennial.

We had a good discussion, and agreed to meet again in the fall. We will discuss this meeting and more about Triennial assignments at our Board meeting in Puerto Rico.

Grants, Grants, and Special Invitation

March 3 is the big day for the deadline for submission of our 2017 regular grants. The Grants Committee will start its work immediately to review and prepare the grants that meet the focus and criteria for full Board review.

Get that sheet, **Focus and Criteria**, and keep it by your side as you review grants. The rubric that was approved at our recent Board meeting should also be helpful during your review. Because we do not conduct a blind review as a Board, it is important that you rate the grants regarding their meeting our criteria, not on your personal preference. This is the only way grant applicants can be assured their efforts will be reviewed fairly. **Also, remember during the grant review process, the content of the grants and names of applicants are CONFIDENTIAL.** This is really sensitive material, and we expect the Board to keep this confidential until June when the winners are announced. I know this is hard, but absolutely necessary to insure a fair process.

Invitation: The Grants Committee has made the decision to make the Zoom meeting with the Global Partnerships available to everyone on the Board. During this meeting, March 22, 1-4 p.m. Eastern time, representatives from Global Partnerships will meet with the Grants Committee to give additional insight into foreign grant applicants. Heather plans to record it for those unable to attend. I have found this meeting immensely helpful in my grant review.

Clear your calendar of everything you can so when you are called up to review grants you have freed up the time to do it properly. Personally, it has taken me many hours to complete the review. I also take notes and like to make sure I am

giving everyone's grant a fair shot at funding. In past years, it has taken me as many as 20+ hours to complete the review portion of this process. Budget your time accordingly.

The Executive Council approved our Young Adult and Seminarian grant awards at its February meeting. Please congratulate them and encourage new applicants for the next YA/S round in the fall.

Marketplace Provider Change

We are in the final negotiations to change our storage and distribution center for UTO materials. Following those negotiations, the Legal Department will review to cross the t's and dot the i's on a new contract. We will announce the new service provider after that Legal Department review and approval.

This change has been prompted by inadequate completion and shipping of orders from our current provider. Recently, Heather and an ERD person went to Newark to meet with their Annual Convention and had ordered enough materials to meet the needs of all clergy in the diocese. Unfortunately, only a fraction of the order was shipped for both UTO and ERD. So Heather and the ERD staff member had to arrange for an Uber driver to bring materials and a staff person to Newark from New York to deliver materials that were in the office. A problem was averted, but this is not the first time we have had problems with our Marketplace provider. Some of you may remember a similar problem while we were in Salt Lake City when they did not print and ship our orders as requested.

This change should save money in shipping, handling and printing. This is the reason we have asked you to order all the materials you could possibly use to reduce the inventory.

There will be a small number of blue boxes (1500) with the new logo printed will be available for distribution from the current Marketplace. During this transition time, please share what materials you have with diocesan and local coordinators and clergy. I have LOTS of stuff in my garage, so please feel free to send UTO friends coming through Omaha to help themselves to what they need.

May Meeting

Patrick Haizel, our Church Center meeting arrangements coordinator, has sent you an email invitation regarding the May 3-6 meeting in Puerto Rico. You must complete that form before he can issue a call for you to book your travel. **The email will come from GCO Extranet, and each invitation is sent only to you. Please complete that form asap.** Include your menu needs on that form and whether you plan to add time before or after the meeting including whether you will have someone join you.

Travel arrangements to Puerto Rico may not be easy on your favorite carrier, so be flexible on which airlines to get you in and out in a timely manner. We will have our Executive Committee meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, and everyone should be there for a 6 p.m. meal, and 7 p.m. meeting. We will close on Sunday at noon. This is an active airport, so please try to schedule something that leaves after 2 p.m. If you must leave earlier to get home, let me know.

I am sure you may know this, but PR does not require a US passport. It is a territory of the United States.

I have started my reading about PR and would suggest it might be interesting to read about the Spanish American War of 1898, Ponce de Leon, and I have a reading list of novels by Rosario Ferre—The Youngest Doll, Eccentric Neighborhoods, and the rather famous—The House on the Lagoon. I have read a book called When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir by Esmeralda Santiago. There are other suggestions I have found and a few films—most pretty gritty, but will share more resources in the next missive.

I have asked Patrick to find us a nice restaurant for Friday evening within our daily per diem. Just a reminder, if we have ordered food for the group at the hotel restaurant, and you choose to go out, we will not reimburse you for that meal. If you plan to do that, please advise us as soon as possible.

We hope to meet with the Bishop of PR, during our meeting. They are in transition with a new Bishop being ordained and installed in July. Heather is working on a site visit, but they are not abundant.

On-going Committee Work

I know that we have some on-going committee work which I have asked committee chairs to slow down during our grant review season to respect the amount of time you spend on UTO.

2018 General Convention

The General Convention theme may sound familiar:

The Jesus Movement: Loving, Liberating and Life-giving

The scheduled dates are July 5-18, in Austin, Texas. The Executive Council has said it will move the GC if the Texas government approves a bill similar to North Carolina's famous Bathroom Bill for transgendered folks.

We will be doing as much Triennial and General Convention (T/GC) planning as we can in Puerto Rico, drawing on the wisdom of those who have experienced the working side of the T/GC before and creating a vision of what image and work we hope to accomplish at there.

What I can tell you at this time is that the convention center is considerably smaller than Salt Lake City. We will almost certainly have the Triennial meeting in a hotel rather than the convention center. We are looking for nice restaurants and coffee shops in the convention area. If you know some in that area, please let me know and we will start a list.

One of the things I hope we will be able to do is to support your interests and passions for the tasks assigned to you during the convention. For example, at least these tasks, and probably others have already surfaced:

Serving at the booth for meeting which entails meeting Bishops, Deputies, and guests, distributing materials (Heather and Kayla, our previous intern, plus YA recipients spent most of their time there last T/GC)

Preparing UTO memorabilia for display;

Distribution and collection of blue boxes on a daily basis;

Attending Triennial and at what times;

Making presentations;
Telling the UTO story at hearings;
Attending various dinners and receptions;
Meeting/meals with new Board members;
Gathering for out-going Board members; and the famous
OTHER.

July 5-18 is a very long time, 14 days, and I ask you to prayerfully think about your ability to spend quality time working for UTO in Austin. If you can only be there for half of those days and will fulfill your UTO duties, I will respect that.

We will set the events everyone should attend and those where UTO needs to be represented but does not need full Board attendance. That will provide some relief from the fatigue of over booking yourself.

I hope to develop some sort of schedule for each Board member so you will know where you are expected to be, and also to give you some Sabbath time—may only be a half-day or day every 5 or 6 days, but it will be yours to choose to do what you want. There will be much to talk about, but I want you to be thinking about your ability to be “on” for such a long meeting.

What’s Happening

EMM Miami office—The Miami Office of Episcopal Migration Ministries office will close in July mostly due to changes in policies regarding Cuban migration. That article is here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/episcopal-migration-ministries-close-miami-office>.

Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency course is being offered June 18-27 at Seminary of the Southwest. It is an intensive course for church leaders exploring Latino ministry. There is a pretty big price tag--\$1600-2200 for the nine-day session. The deadline is May 5. That link is here <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/02/07/registration-open-for-episcopal-latino-ministry-competency-course/>.

A **report** that might be useful to parishes trying to reach out to Latinos called The “Episcopal Church’s Strategic Vision for Reaching Latinos/Hispanics” is here: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/strategic_vision_7-09.pdf.

There are **2017-2018 scholarships** available primarily for theological study. That article with a link to application is here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-scholarship-applications-2017-2018-now-accepted>

The Episcopal Divinity School (Cambridge, Massachusetts) is planning to merge with Union Theological Seminary in New York. That article is here: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2017/02/24/episcopal-divinity-school-trustees-vote-to-pursue-affiliation-with-union-theological-seminary-in-new-york/>.



Carhenge, Alliance, Nebraska
Quirky Outdoor Sculptures
made from old cars



Word for the Day

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.

JOHANNES A. GAERTNER