

**NOTE: I made a number error skipping from #1 to #3 for 2017 missives. Rather than further confuse things, I will just continue the sequence of numbers.**



- Visit to Julia Chester Emery gravesite
- Materials center moved to Navajoland
- Guests in Puerto Rico at Board meeting
- Resubmission of 2019-2021 Budget
- Tentative Schedule for Puerto Rico
- Report from United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)
- Triennial 2018
- Zoom Board meeting to approve grants on April 24, 7:30pm Eastern time

### **Julia Chester Emery Gravesite Visit and A Little History**

In a snow-covered grave yard at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale, New York, four members of the UTO team—Heather Melton, UTO Administrator; Kayla Massey, UTO Associate; Rachel McDaniel, UTO Intern; and Sandra Squires, UTO President; made a pilgrimage to find the gravesite of UTO’s long time secretary of the Woman’s Auxiliary and oft-referred to as the UTO founder. Julia Chester Emery lived from September 24, 1852 to January 9, 1922. Written on her grave stone in the photo above is “The Glory of the Lord is Risen upon Thee.”

She is buried next to two her sisters: Margaret Theresa Emery, August 3, 1849-July 20, 1925, “Peace I Leave unto You, My Peace I Give unto You” and Helen Winthrop Emery, September 30, 1862-January 18, 1924, “Those Will Keep Him in Perfect Peace Whose Mind is Stayed on Thee.” Margaret worked with Julia in carrying out the work of the Woman’s Auxiliary, including “box work”--preparing boxes sent annually to domestic and foreign missionaries. In talking with Elizabeth Campbell today, I learned that Mary Abbott Emery Twing, the first secretary of the Woman’s Auxiliary, died during a Triennial meeting and is buried in San Francisco. Ida Soule, Mrs. Richard H. Soule, who is credited in the ECW “Red Book” as the founder of UTO, is buried in Pittsburgh. I communicated with the priest at her church at least a year ago as I sought documents about her, but he told me he was fairly new and not aware of how to access her papers. This visit was a nice addition to my New York visit.

A marker in another part of the cemetery was noteworthy. On a larger stone, surrounded by smaller, rough stones was this plaque, “This and adjoining gravestones mark the final resting places of those unfortunate slaves who despite help given them and many others in Scarsdale did not survive in their flight to freedom in Canada prior to our Civil War.”

## **UTO Materials Distribution Move to Navajoland on May 1**

Due to on-going problems with deliveries and higher shipping costs, we have developed a proposal to move the UTO materials distribution site. After input from the DFMS legal department regarding our current contract, the new distribution center will be in Navajoland in the town of Farmington, New Mexico. The ordering process will be different, so some education will be necessary about the changes. Orders will be shipped once a week, and we expect a more reliable service and significant cost savings.

## **Puerto Rico Meeting**

Hopefully by now, everyone has made her reservations for travel to the meeting in Puerto Rico. We will have a few guests for at least part of our stay. Buck Blanchard, Diocese of Virginia works with companion relationships and companion dioceses for the Church Center. He will be spending time with us on Friday and will share information about these important relationships with time for questions and answers. Because we receive grant applications from aided dioceses and companion dioceses with our domestic dioceses, this could provide good insight into this component of The Episcopal Church's work.

In addition, while I was in New York for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting recently, I met a number of compelling women in our delegation. One of them is a seminarian, Damaris de Jesus, enrolled in the Province 9 collaborative seminary arrangement. I have invited her to be a part of our meeting, depending on her course schedule, and hope we will better understand the seminary structure that serves Province 9.

Puerto Rico has elected a new bishop, but he will not start his job until July. We are hoping to have at least one of the bishops join us for a meal to enhance our connection with this diocese.

## **2019-2021 Budget Proposal**

You may recall initial the work we did on the 2019-2021 budget at the meeting in North Dakota when we were asked to respond to a series of questions about what we would like to see in the next triennium. Kathy Mank, Heather and I worked on that and shared it with you in an email around January 17, 2017. We were asked to dream, and we did, calling it the dream budget.

I received an email asking for a new budget proposal and after getting clarification about whether we submitted it to the wrong people or were in error, we were asked to submit a different 2019-2021 Budget proposal, which we are calling—the budget minus the dream. That has been submitted to Canon Stephanie Spellers, now Heather's boss, and we will wait until she is off jury duty to learn our next steps.

I will send you the revision under a separate email after the Executive Committee's review on Friday, April 7.

## **Tentative and General Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, May 3

Arrive for 6 p.m. dinner with our first meeting starting at 7 p.m. that night.

Thursday, May 4

Visitation, debriefing, and meeting in the afternoon  
Committee meetings at night

Friday, May 5 Cinco de Mayo!

Business meetings, visit with Buck Blanchard re companion dioceses and companion relationships  
Eat out at a restaurant this night

Saturday, May 6

Wrap meeting in morning  
Check out  
Departure after noon

### **Report about United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)**

I served as a delegate to the UNCSW held in New York City from March 10-24 as did Rachel McDaniel, our intern. It is a two-week long meeting, which provides opportunities to meet some incredible women in The Episcopal Church. Because few of them knew much about United Thank Offering, except Coromoto from Venezuela who is on the Executive Council, we were able to remind them of UTO's work, and we gave them each a UTO 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary prayer book and a 2016 Grants Brochure.

Rachel's presence and her maturity relating to the high school age delegates impressed many in our group, and she was our greatest advocate for UTO. Kayla and Rachel compiled grant lists for those who were making visits with diplomats of various countries. These were called "mission" visits. Having the grant lists by country was a last minute thought, and we will plan to have those available to delegates in the future ahead of time so we are not scrambling. Our list of grants provides a great way to talk about what The Episcopal Church does in many countries throughout the world as well as in our various dioceses here.

Initially we met with other Christian faith-based groups: Anglicans, primarily from Canada, African countries, Australia, England, New Zealand, and Brazil; with Methodists; Presbyterians; a few Baptists; and there may have been other, primarily, mainline Protestant denominations. We had a chance to worship together, and different faith groups led worship each morning at the United Nations Church Center, a Methodist ministry, across First Avenue from the United Nations. It was here that I learned the phrase: "Worship is Advocacy" coined by The Rev. Dionne P. Boissiere, pastor for the United Nations Church Center.

My activities included attending plenary sessions held at the United Nations itself. The theme of the meeting was "Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work" so many but not all discussions were centered on girls, women and work. I was particularly impressed with the country reports during a plenary session. The country would report on its progress toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to girls, women, and work. This is an overview article that you might find

interesting. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals) These 17 SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) previously adopted by the United Nations.

From the plenary sessions, I learned of the ripple effect of UNCSW's meeting. By coming together to share information about the current status of girls, women and work throughout the world, and learning about universal issues, women can take the information to their UN diplomats and governmental leaders in each of their respective nations to effect change. For some countries the input from the UNCSW meeting leads to starting conversations, in others to passing legislation addressing issues like pay equity, working conditions, especially protection from violence in the work place; recognition and fair treatment for married women who are also mothers; meeting cost of living wages—set by each country; recognizing care-giving and domestic service as legitimate work that should be fairly recognized and compensated; looking at the needs of indigenous women; in some countries having a quota of representation of women standing for public elections and on and on.

I attended one session on accessibility for persons with disabilities, including in its definition accessibility for senior women. That inclusion was a new and interesting one. I learned that Berlin is an outstanding city in its accessibility. I chose to attend sessions on banking, finance, and agriculture to take me out of my comfort zone. I learned a new term, “gender-sensitive budgeting,” and I don't think I will ever look at a budget the same way again.

There were 20 Episcopal Delegates and a chaplain who comprised the Episcopal Delegation. Lynnaia Main, our Episcopal Church Center coordinator and delegate, drew us together, and helped us understand the way the conference is organized, and led us through a daily debriefing. In this way, we got a picture of what was going on throughout the conference. There were 8,600 women and a few men attending. I don't know how many nations were represented, but there are 193 member nations in the UN, and we know that some women were banned from coming because of President Trump's Executive Order on travel.

There were two types of smaller group sessions—side events; these took place primarily within the UN building itself and had a more official connection to the UNCSW meeting, as I understood it. There were parallel events—ones that took place off the UN site. I attended many more of those because I found the topics more to my interest.

We had the opportunity to attend Evensong at the Epiphany Episcopal Church and Birdie was able to join me. Those who met her were impressed, of course! And asked me the next day where she was and when was coming to UNCSW! Vernese was not able to come in to join me for sessions, but she was there in spirit. It is possible to attend UNCSW as a guest and not a part of the official delegation. Martha Gardner, our great champion on the previous Executive Council, came in many days from New Jersey as did Ginger Leaf editor of the ECW Communique. Another ECW woman attended, but I am sorry that I do not remember her name. Delores Alleyne, Province 1 ECW president and immediate past President of the National Girls' Friendly Society was also part of the official Episcopal Church delegation.

One day Presiding Bishop Curry preached about Esther and her experience of being pulled out of her comfort zone to do God's work, that God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, but that He had Esther's back. President of the House of Deputies, The Rev. Gay

Jennings was the celebrant at that service. The Presiding Bishop chose the perfect day to host us in his apartment on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor for a lovely reception. The next day, Gay treated us to lunch and did a review of the General Convention experience. She spoke to the issue of resolutions and that this is one way to get important issues in front of the House of Deputies.

I had the opportunity to meet with 3 seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary who are in the Anglican Certificate program—two from Africa and one from the Dominican Republic. We talked about UTO and increasing their knowledge level about UTO and I encouraged them to consider a Seminarian grant while here in the US.

Heather, Kayla, Rachel and I were invited to lunch with Bishop Carlos of Spain, his development officer, Spencer, Elizabeth Boes, Global Partnerships, and The Rev. Chuck Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop, our luncheon host. It was good to see Bishop Carlos again after his kind attention when we visited a UTO grant site in Spain last spring.

UNCSW was a great experience that my Province Council, Province VI ECW and my parish priest supported in addition to personal funds. I hope that if this is something that interests you, you will apply. Just forewarning raising the funds for the trip is a significant responsibility for each delegate. I was told that many women apply and that each selected brings something unique to the delegation. Another benefit was spending time Rachel and seeing Kayla and Heather as well. I walked a lot, and I felt that Jesus was leading me to be good witnesses to the impact of the Jesus Movement on others both inside and outside The Episcopal Church.

### **Triennial 2018**

It is time to start thinking about Triennial and there are some things you can do in preparation. Please think about what your greatest contribution can be: attending the Triennial meeting; working in the booth; recruiting help and organizing the distribution and collection of blue boxes from the various meetings; attending hearings; networking with Deputies, Bishops, and guests; making workshop presentations; preparing a display of materials; etc.

Triennial is listed as July 5-13, a 9 day event. That is a long time, and the Executive Committee is being asked to trim meeting expenses. If you have work for the entire time, we will provide housing for you. If, however, you only have the energy for a shorter stay I will work with you about that as well. If you do spend the entire 9 days, I will ask that you take a little time away from the meeting to stay fresh, but that you commit to working the rest of the time you are present. For many on the Board, the bulk of the work will be at the Board meeting, attending Triennial events, doing committee work; saying good-bye to retiring members, and orienting new Board members.

I am waiting on the schedule ECW can provide to see where we fit with our presentations.

Photos from United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



Episcopal Delegation



Rachel and Sofia



Alice Garrick works with street prostitutes in Pakistan



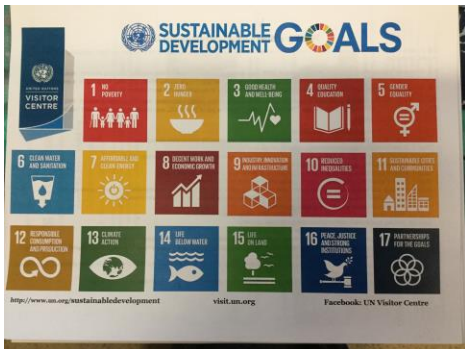
Lynnania Main with Sofia, Daughter of Karma, a delegate



Delegation from Virginia Theological Seminary



Our beloved Bishop Curry



Sustainable Dev. Goals



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka Undersecretary General and UN And Ex. Director of UN Women



Symbol of banned entry to US by President's Ex. Order

WORD FOR THE DAY

Can you see the holiness in those things you take for granted – a paved road or a washing machine? If you concentrate on finding what is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.

RABBI HAROLD KUSHNER