



## Report on the 49<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting of

### The Episcopal Church Women

Austin, Texas

#### **Thursday, July 5, 2018**

President Towle introduced the keynote speakers, Bishop Steven Charelston and Canon Stephanie Spellers.

Steven Charleston is the retired Bishop of Alaska. He was the national director for Native American ministries, a tenured professor in systematic theology, and the president and dean of a seminary. Today he is a nationally recognized author. He has written several novels. He is the recipient of three honorary doctorates. He is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma where he currently lives with his wife, Susan, a professional artist who designs all of the covers for his books.

The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, who is helping Episcopalians share the good news and cross boundaries as part of the Jesus Movement. Previously she was the Canon for Mission Vitality for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island and a member of the chaplain team for the House of Bishops. She served as the co-chair of the Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (2009-2012). A native of Kentucky, she now lives in New York City.

#### **Friday, July 6, 2018**

Bebon Parks, Member at Large -Social Justice on the National ECW Board explained how the delegates should assemble the Summer Survival Kits to benefit the Trinity Center Shower Ministry and introduced guests from the agencies supported by ECW this year.

Patricia Bullock, Director of St. Mark's, Austin, ECW Shower Ministry spoke about the Trinity Center Shower Ministry housed at St. David's Episcopal Church in downtown Austin. It was designated the recipient of the Community Connection Gift for Triennial Meeting 2018 and those in attendance assembled summer survival kits to the homeless citizens served by the shower program. The ministry began from volunteers from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Austin hearing the women they were assisting talk about personal belongings being stolen when they were taking showers at other facilities in town. It was then that the idea for a private and secure shower program for homeless women was born.

Donna Emery, Development Director for Community First! Community First! Village, a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes in Austin, Texas, was selected the recipient of the Unified Gift. Donna offered the story of the 27-acre village in central Texas for the chronically homeless, many of whom are disabled. This place offers affordable housing of varying styles, including many tiny homes; a huge community garden; a recreation center and community store; worship spaces and prayer labyrinth; a medical facility; even an arts center where unique pieces are handcrafted by village residents.

#### **Saturday, July 7, 2018**

The Rev. Jennifer Kenna reviewed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions. There were fourteen amendments that were presented. Following lengthy discussion on many of the amendments, four amendments were either not approved or referred back to the Bylaws committee. Ten were adopted.

Saturday evening, we attended a Revival with a Texas Barbeque that followed. Presiding Bishop Curry's message was truly inspiring.

### **Sunday, July 8, 2018**

Everyone attended a worship service at a church of their choice within Austin.

The Distinguished Women luncheon was held. Shirley Wagner received the Distinguished Woman Award for the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania. The speaker was Yewande Austin, social impact leader, cultural leader and activist who empowers vulnerable youth through her humanitarian organization

### **Monday, July 9, 2018**

Today started with discussing resolutions. The first resolution presented was to form a task force that would look at the relationship of ECW and UTO. There was lengthy discussion about this resolution and the resolution was tabled to a later time.

The second resolution involved raising funds for creating a Women's Reading Room at the Archives of the Episcopal Church that would be related to women's ministries. Following discussion, the resolution passed.

### **Tuesday, July 10, 2018**

An announcement that Resolution D016 passed the House of Delegates creating a task force for Women, Truth, and Reconciliation. The ECW was not mentioned in the resolution. In the House of Bishops that will be adding that one of the lay member of the task force be an ECW member and that the results be presented to a joint assembly of the ECW and both Houses at General Convention in 2021.

The total collected for Community First is \$5498.00. The total of donations collected for the Shower Ministry totals \$4568. The grand total of all monetary donations is \$10,066.00. In addition, the National Board had previously voted to donate \$10,000 to each organization.

For 2018-2021 Board Members are as follows:

President, Karen Patterson, First Vice President, Patricia Wellnitz, Secretary, Samar Fay, Member at Large, Multimedia, Laura Orcutt and Member at Large, Social Justice, The Rev. Deacon Ema Rosero-Nordalm.

A joint resolution about ECW/UTO Ministry was revisited. The original resolution was amended and passed.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting closed.

