



The Office of the Presiding Bishop



## May 4, 2020 | Bishops Coordination Call

*Bishops coordination calls occur weekly and are not recorded. [Notes, resources and links](#) will be shared at the end of each week's session. Translation is available, and must be requested on Thursdays each week.*

### Notes

#### **The Episcopal Church** (Canon Mark Stevenson)

- Bishop ordination and consecration liturgy update - The Presiding Bishop has appointed chief consecrators for the dioceses of Georgia (Scott Benhase, Vice President of Province IV), Minnesota (Brian Prior, President of Province V), and Oklahoma (Larry Benfield, President of Province VII). Chief consecrators for Missouri and Alabama will be announced soon.
- There will be a Bishops-only confidential “fireside chat” on Wednesday, May 27, beginning at 1pm EDT. Registration links will be sent on the HoB listserv this week.
- Bishop Ousley, Canon Stevenson, and Katie Mears continue to convene focus groups of Bishops and Canons, having met last week with the folks from the Florida dioceses. More meetings are being scheduled in the coming days.

#### **Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers** (Patty Olson Lindsey)

- ECCC has created [this website](#) to provide information about decisions related to summer programming and supporting camps.
- ECCC and Episcopal Relief are working to support camps and conference/retreat centers to help with food distribution. These centers have access to food chains that provide bulk food options and may have staff that can support repackaging for distribution. If your camp/conference center is interested in joining this effort Contact [Patty Olson Lindsey](#).

#### **Church Pension Group** (Clayton Crawley)

- You can find links to the CPG resources discussed in today's meeting [here](#).
  - As you reopen, please follow guidelines for best practices in preparing safe spaces to gather.
  - The Employee Assistance Program is a great resource available to all employees. This includes increase support in telemedicine. You can find out more in the linked folder.



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- Church Insurance will partner with any insured church organization that faces legal action regarding COVID-19 response. In all cases, such organizations should strive to follow best practices and advice from public health experts.

### **COVID 19 and the Anglican Communion**

Every Diocese and Province around the Anglican Communion is currently facing a different reality in how COVID-19 is affecting their respective communities.

#### **From Episcopal Relief & Development (Abigail Nelson)**

- You can access the [Powerpoint](#) from Abigail Nelson, Senior VP for Programs, Episcopal Relief & Development.
- Episcopal Relief & Development and the Global Ministries Office are in regular contact with Anglican Partners to support each other in responding to the COVID-19 crisis.
- There are four primary areas of support and focus of program partners:
  - Food security
  - Clean water, sanitation and hygiene
  - Timely and accurate information sharing
  - safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly, women and children

#### **From the Office of Global Partnerships - (Canon Chuck Robertson)**

- Liberia has only 6 working ventilators and one of those is in the American Embassy, the country has just imposed a shut-down until at least July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Congo is now recording new cases of Ebola on top of a growing number of Corona19 cases.
- The continent of Africa as a whole has limited supplies of medical oxygen with many countries unable to produce their own supply.
- In India/Pakistan and Bangladesh social isolation and the closing of business mean that there will be many dying of poverty before Coronavirus.
- As we are all told that we should wash our hands regularly, there are many around the world who have limited access to running water and soap.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Episcopal Relief & Development (Katie Mears)**

- To clarify the point about masking and 6-10' distance from last week - it would really be good if folks do both distancing and masking, but if that's not possible, be especially



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careful about worship leaders singing in close proximity to one another. Here is an [article](#) and a [podcast](#) that might help in your decision making process.

- Hearing a lot of fear about returning to worship from clergy who are themselves at risk
- Disasters often turn up the volume that already exists in systems (mental health, relationships, substance use, etc.)
- Displaced conflict (conflicts popping up at church that are really rooted elsewhere)
  - One place that conflict can bubble from is folks being in different places of the [life cycle](#) -- someone thinks it's still the lowest of the low, and someone else thinks that they've moved into recovery. Here is an [image of the emotional life cycle of a disaster](#)
- Importance of being able to change out leadership to give people a break -- a relay race marathon, not an individual sport
  - [Here is a resource](#) for organizing your leadership team

**Next meeting: Monday, May 11, 2020**