

A Conversation with Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry

Friday, November 20, 2020 at 3 pm

To be streamed live on the Diocese of South Carolina YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DioceseofSC>

All are welcome and invited to join the co-chairs of our new Diocesan Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation (Gail DeCosta and the Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker) as they talk with the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, on **Friday, November 20 at 3 pm** about the issues facing our diocese and our nation. Is love the way? Tune in to hear what Presiding Bishop Curry has to say, and learn more about the purpose and goals of the Commission. The event will be the first to kick off our 230th Diocesan Convention.

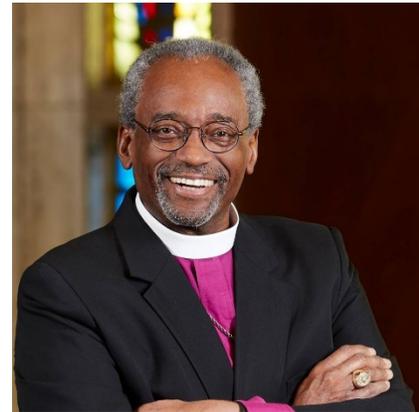
Registered delegates and visitors for our 230th Diocesan Convention have been provided a link to join through Zoom. All are welcome to watch as it streams live on our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/DioceseofSC>. A link will be shared on our Facebook page as well.

Presiding Bishop Curry will also preach during the Eucharist on Friday evening. That service will begin at the end of the first business session of Convention, likely around 6 pm. The service will also be streamed live on the Diocesan YouTube page at the link above.

Read more about the panelists in their bios beginning on the next page.

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry is Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church. He is the Chief Pastor and serves as President and Chief Executive Officer, and as Chair of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.



The descendant of enslaved Africans brought to North America by way of the trans-Atlantic slave routes, Presiding Bishop Curry was born in Chicago, IL, on March 13, 1953. Presiding Bishop Curry's father was an Episcopal priest and his mother was a devout Episcopalian. She died at a young age, and Presiding Bishop Curry, along with his sister, was raised by his father and his grandmother. His father, mother and grandmother grounded him in Christian beliefs and practices through their example and their teachings.

Presiding Bishop Curry was ordained to the diaconate in June 1978, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY, by the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson, and to the priesthood in December 1978, at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, NC, by the Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess. He began his ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, in 1978 and was rector from 1979-1982. He next accepted a call as rector at St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights, OH, serving from 1982-1988. In 1988 he was called to become rector of St. James', Baltimore, MD, where he served until his election as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in February 2000.

Presiding Bishop Curry was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church on November 1, 2015. He was elected to a nine-year term and confirmed at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, UT, on June 27, 2015.

Throughout his ministry, Presiding Bishop Curry has been active in issues of social justice, reconciliation, speaking out on immigration policy and marriage equality. He is married to the former Sharon Clement, and they have two adult daughters. Learn more about Bishop Curry on the website for The Episcopal Church [at this link](#).



The Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker

The Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker is Rector of St. Stephen's in downtown Charleston. Originally from New York City, Reverend Shoemaker was formed for ministry and ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts and previously served as Rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Burlington, North Carolina. He also served as a Young Adult Service Corps missionary to a small Anglican mission on the western

outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and sits on the Bilateral Commission between the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal/Anglican Church of Brazil. He is the Dean of the Charleston Peninsula Deanery and a member of Diocesan Council. His recent doctoral thesis at Duke included an oral history about the racial integration of St. Stephen's in the late 1980's. Reverend Shoemaker and his congregation are active members of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, a local interfaith network of congregations organized to advocate for social justice in the Charleston area. He is married to the Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker and the two have three young children.

Gail S. DeCosta

Gail was born and raised in Charleston, SC, and was baptized and confirmed at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She left Charleston in the 10th grade to attend a Friends boarding school in Pennsylvania. Gail graduated from Brown University with a degree in Psychology and earned a Masters in Education from Georgia State University. She initially worked as a social worker and rehabilitation counselor, but most of her work career has been in the IT field. Currently Gail works part-time for a consulting company as a Business Analyst, Facilitator and Trainer.



For most of her adult life, Gail lived in Atlanta, GA, where she attended St. Timothy's and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal churches. Her second husband was an Episcopal priest on the staff at St. Bartholomew's and while there they began and led an anti-racism group for the parish. In 1994, they moved to South Africa where they lived for seven years. While there they worshipped and served at St. Paul's Anglican church in Durban. Gail has served in many lay positions, including lay reader, chalice bearer, vestry person, wardens, and others.

Six years ago, after the death of her husband, Gail returned to Charleston with her granddaughter. For the past four and a half years, Kanyisile and Gail have been communicants at Grace Church Cathedral. At Grace, Gail is a member and group leader of the AME-Episcopal book study which was initiated in response to the killings at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston and it has been an educational and growing experience. Gail also was one of the representatives from the Diocese of South Carolina at the Province IV Conversation on Racial Healing & Reconciliation at the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta two years ago. She recently was named the co-chair of the newly established Diocesan Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation.