

JAN. 16, 2008 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Episcopal convention to examine ‘care of Creation’

With the theme “Caretakers of Creation,” the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee, which will meet at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Jan. 25-26, will have as its focus the responsibility all people bear for the created world.



Several hundred delegates and clergy will represent the 45 congregations and five worshipping communities that form the diocese. The Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg is bishop of the diocese, which stretches from Bristol to Chattanooga and from Elizabethton to Crossville. Its faith communities serve nearly 16,000 active members.

“I look forward to this annual gathering of our enlarged church ‘family’ in East Tennessee,” Bishop vonRosenberg has said. “These yearly events provide opportunities for engaging in education, for accomplishing diocesan business and for enjoying the fellowship we share as Episcopalians in this wonderful part of God’s creation.”

Lay and clergy delegates will elect leaders to diocesan service and as deputies to the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which will meet in Anaheim, Calif. Diocesan convention delegates also will consider proposed resolutions; pass an annual budget; worship together; and share fellowship.

Attendees will hear presentations by the Rev. Mike Kinman, executive director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and by a representative of the Rt. Rev. Creighton Robertson of East Tennessee’s companion diocese, South Dakota. Delegates and guests will listen to the thoughts of East Tennessee’s own Bishop vonRosenberg, as he considers the past year and the year to come. And they will participate in workshops about the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, personal and world debt, Episcopal Migration Ministries and companion diocese relationships. Spouses of clergy have been invited to participate in a special service project with Annie vonRosenberg, the bishop’s spouse.

Convention-goers will enjoy a Friday evening banquet and entertainment native to the area provided by the East Tennessee State University Bluegrass Band. They will share a luncheon on Saturday and honor one of their own, Sandra Elledge, who recently retired from her longtime post as executive coordinator for Episcopal Appalachian Ministries.

St. Paul Episcopal Church and St. Christopher Episcopal Church, both in Kingsport, are the hosts for this year’s convention; John Bellamy and Jean Peace are the co-chairs.

More information is available on the diocesan Web site at etdiocese.net, or contact Sharon Rasmussen, diocesan communication director, at (865)966-2110 or editor@etdiocese.net.

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