

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH

November 18, 2015  
The Commemoration of Hilda, Abbess of Whitby

Dear Colleagues,

We write to share with you some of our thoughts and hopes for the first gathering of the House March 11-15, 2016, at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX.

This time of transition in the leadership of the House offers us an opportunity to be intentional about our common life as bishops, particularly as we gather for meetings of the House. Rather than moving forward on autopilot we thought it might be good for us as a community to use our Spring meeting as a time of prayerful retreat and spiritual planning for our shared life as bishops for the next few years.

Our hope for an outcome from this meeting is to corporately determine how we can best:

- *Support each other in our own discipleship, as followers of the way of Jesus, and as apostles sent forth;*
- *Equip ourselves to help our diocesan communities live more deeply and authentically as the Jesus Movement in our time, particularly in the task of forming and nurturing each other as baptized disciples, the work of evangelism, and the urgent work of reconciliation in the world, with particular focus on healing our racial divisions.*

Toward that end we see our March meeting having two parts. The first part would be a 3-day retreat providing an opportunity for Sabbath, reflection, conversation and silence framed around our discipleship and apostolic ministry in the Jesus Movement today.

The second part would be a time for us to prayerfully dream as a community and engage in some practical planning for how we might live our life together over the next few years in the context of embodying the way of Jesus, particularly through evangelism and reconciliation.

Our desire is that we will articulate some shared hopes for our House, identify ways to engage those hopes, and give direction for the shape and content of our meetings in the next few years.

We see this as us a way to work together in the Spirit to identify a shared agenda and move forward as a community of hope and reconciliation. Your input during the Spring meeting will then be used as the basis for the work of the Planning Committee and other committees of the House going forward.

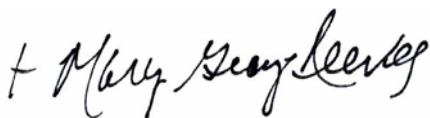
Peace,



The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate



The Rt. Rev. Dean Wolfe  
Vice-President, House of Bishops



The Right Reverend Mary Gray-Reeves  
Vice President, House of Bishops



The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley  
Chair, HOB Planning Committee

The Most Reverend Michael Curry  
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE

