



## Perspective

# Be Well, Do Good Work, Keep in Touch

By William S. Craddock  
Director of the CREDO project

*"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God."*

—Ephesians 4:11-13

St. Paul's words capture the essence of our Christian vocation and the mission of the Church: "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." The renewal and support of the ordained leadership of the Church is a significant and fundamental factor in our challenge to engage faithfully in the mission of the Church.

With this broad perspective in mind, in June 1994 a diverse group of lay and clergy leaders began to explore ways to contribute to the morale and well-being of the clergy of the Episcopal Church. Under the sponsorship of the Church Pension Group, this Wellness Initiatives Advisory Committee confirmed earlier studies that demonstrated a critical need for clergy assessment and development programs related to issues of health, financial planning, vocational discernment, and spiritual well-being. The committee proposed the development of a model that would address all of these areas. This model ultimately became the CREDO Project, an intensive, eight-day conference providing an opportunity for clergy to examine significant areas of their lives and discern, prayerfully, the future of their vocations.

The Church Pension Fund has funded five pilot conferences since 1997. A thorough evaluation of this

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## Five Days Down, Five To Go

OK, so you're tired. But don't overlook that inspiring atmosphere settling over Denver. It has nothing to do with temperature, humidity or even the ozone level. It's the sense of mission and unity that infuses this 73rd General Convention as it begins its final week of deliberations.

Having been called by our Presiding Bishop to "return home" in the spirit of Jubilee, we have found our core. We have rediscovered the tolerance, openness and good ol' generosity of spirit that characterize our Anglican Communion.

In the enthusiastic endorsement of Called to Common Mission, the patient listening to diverse opinions on human sexuality, the determination to double our baptized membership by 2020, and the fix-it-up approach to provinces, we have discovered anew that the center is not a metaphor for the status quo, not a simple division of extremes. The center is our core, full of passion and free of anger. The great gift of Anglicanism is its power to turn diversity into unity through a common sense of mission.

The next five days will test our commitment to unity and mission. We hope that our remaining time together will produce:

- A commitment to additional forms of worship that avoid the elaborate process of revising the Book of Common Prayer.
- An endorsement by the Deputies of the 20/20 plan for doubling our baptized membership, which already has been approved by the Bishops.
- A neutrally framed study on whether confirmation should be required for those who serve on Church boards and commissions. Such a resolution already has been approved by the Bishops.
- A resolution on human sexuality that promotes enriched discussion while offering welcome for gays and lesbians.
- An approach to Third World debt relief that ties the spirit of Jubilee to responsible guidelines for financial management.

But most of all, we hope we leave Denver on a "Rocky Mountain high" — full of fresh air, and ideas, for the exciting journey ahead.



*Banners adorn the Denver Convention where Deputies will vote for Executive Council tomorrow. See page 3 for our endorsements.*

Hearing schedule for Monday, July 10. Sites and subjects reflect information posted by the Secretariat of the General Convention as of 7:50 p.m. yesterday. For further information on meeting room assignments, call the General Convention staff office at 303/228-8520.

- **Canons**, Westin, Horace Tabor, 7:30 p.m.: Open hearing, B048, B051, D056, D071, D079
- **Church in Small Communities**, Holiday Inn, Royal, 7:30 a.m.: Total ministry discussion
- **Church Pension Fund**, Marriott, Salon C, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A071, D077, D078, D093, D102
- **Committee on the Church and Human Sexuality**, Marriott, Ballroom 3, 7:30 a.m.: Committee deliberation only
- **Communications**, Executive Tower, Assembly, 8 a.m.: Committee deliberation only, general conversation and closure
- **Ecumenical Relations**, Westin, Lawrence A, Mezzanine, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, B046, D053, D015
- **Education**, Westin, Lawrence B, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, D055, D057, D088, D099
- **Evangelism**, Executive Tower, Douglas, 8 a.m.: Open hearing, D045
- **Ministry**, Westin, Molly Brown, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, C041, C042, D012, D020, D023, D086, D094
- **National and International Concerns**, Marriott, Salon B, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A008, B016, B021, B033, B040, B047, B052, B053
- **Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music**, Executive Tower, Symphony Third Floor, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A063
- **Social and Urban Affairs**, Executive Tower, Brahms, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, C029, D009, D034, D068
- **Stewardship & Development**, Westin, Lake, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A111, D092
- **Structure**, Hyatt, Far East, 7:30 a.m.: Open hearing, A119, D060

## No Laughing Matter

Your article, "10 Exhibits You Shouldn't Miss" (July 6, Issue #2), is accompanied by a photograph of three of your correspondents in striped shirts and hats, captioned "In the brig." The article suggests to the reader, "try on your jailbird uniform" at the exhibit of the Office of the Bishop for the Armed Services, Healthcare and Prisons.

Episcopalians are called by liturgy to pray for prisoners and captives, not to mock and deride them. Could you explain further the nature of this exhibit, and your lighthearted treatment of it? To those of us relying on you for General Convention news, it appears that the office of this bishop has provided an opportunity for convention attendees to make sport of those who are incarcerated, and that your publication has elected to participate.

**Frank Mullen III**

St. George's, Fredericksburg, Va.

By e-mail

## Doing a Good Turn Daily

We are pleased that we made your list of places to visit. You made Fr. Neal's day as we have hopes our efforts try to brighten the day of all we meet.

Your daily newsletter is an excellent communication tool and your diocesan leadership is to be congratulated. I would like to note that your Hearing Schedule is the only one we have seen published at the Convention, which makes the Center Aisle a publication to look for each morning.

With Committee 25 activities directly affecting the Boy Scout program we are hopeful that publications such as Center Aisle will report events as accurately as possible in order for both sides of the question to be heard.

Thank you again for the compliment and feel free to have your staff members drop by again for Tootsie Rolls, luggage tags, and good humor at the Scouting Booth.

**J. L. (Lyn) Reavis, Jr.**

Association for Episcopal Scouters

By e-mail

## Center Aisle

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## The People Respond

Join us in the walk down the center aisle by writing us at Suite 322, Holtze Hotel, 818 Seventeenth St., Denver (just drop it by the front desk and they'll get it to us, or give it to any member of the Diocese of Virginia deputation). Or you can send your letter to [centeraisle@thediocese.net](mailto:centeraisle@thediocese.net). As space permits, we will publish your letters and commentary. Please try to limit your letters to 150 words. Your letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please be sure to sign your correspondence and let us know how we can contact you.



**Bishop Francis C. Gray, assistant bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, will sign copies of his book of poems, *Beloved*, at 1:30 p.m. at exhibit booth No. 36.**

# The Executive Council Election

The election of the Executive Council is scheduled to take place tomorrow in the House of Deputies. Center Aisle endorses the following candidates—a diverse slate committed to the unity of the Church. Two of our choices—Louie Crew and James Simons—dramatize that diversity. They often are perceived to be on opposite sides of the aisle. We focus below on their shared belief that there is room for many views in one Church.

## Executive Council

*Laity*  
(Deputies elect, Bishops confirm)  
Six to be elected for six-year terms  
Martha Bedell Alexander  
Louie Crew  
Theodore Mollegen Jr.  
Russell V. Palmore Jr.  
\* Sarah Harte  
D. Rebecca Snow

*\*nominated from the floor*

*Priests/Deacons*  
(Deputies elect, Bishops confirm)  
One to be elected for three-year, unexpired term:  
Philip M. Duncan II  
Two to be elected for six-year terms:  
William D. Nix Jr.  
James B. Simons

*Bishops*  
Two to be elected for six-year terms  
Robert M. Moody  
Catherine S. Roskam

## Louie Crew

*Diocese of Newark*

When you mention Louie Crew in the Church, most folks automatically put the word “Integrity” right behind his name. But that’s not how Crew wants to be known.



“I’m not ‘Louie Crew, Integrity,’” he said yesterday of the Episcopal gay, lesbian and bisexual ministry group. “I’m a servant of Christ, your brother Christian. I’m not there solely for [Integrity].”

“My gift is my love for our Church and my indefatigable attention to detail,” said Crew, who is well-known in the Church for his many list-serves, and his service on various commissions and committees. “I’ve got a sense of being blood kin to everyone here through the blood of Christ,” he said.

Crew, 64, who is retiring as a professor from Rutgers University next year, urged the Church to “move beyond divisions with grace. We have to do common mission together, not competitive mission. The world is starved for affection. We need to love unconditionally those who disagree with us. My love for them is not conditioned upon their being in agreement with me.

“There is nothing preventing us from going out into the world together,” he added, “to spread the Gospel.”

## The VP Three-Way

The election of vice president of the House of Deputies is scheduled to take place today. Center Aisle set out to ask the the candidates what unique strengths they bring to the office of vice president. Lee Davis Thames was not available, having returned to Louisiana for a trial.

**Diane Pollard:** I bring the experience of a lay person who has been in the House of Deputies for eight General Conventions. I have a great love for the bicameral function of General Convention. I believe in order to serve as vice president of the House of Deputies it is important to love and respect it.



**Vince Curry:** I have 25 years in the House of Deputies. I have a long-term collegial relationship with George Werner, elected president. I have a personal goal of the continued integrity of the House of Deputies.

## James B. Simons

*Diocese of Pittsburgh*

The Rev. James B. Simons, rector of St. Michael’s Church, Ligonier, Pa., believes the greatest challenge to the Episcopal Church is in the area of biblical authority. “What is the hermeneutic for understanding how God speaks to us?” Simons asked yesterday, because “the answer to that question directly affects everything from how we deal with each other pastorally to how we address issues of racism and sexuality to how we govern.”



Describing himself as a “bridge-builder” in the diocese of Pittsburgh, Simons is motivated to serve the wider Church out of his love of seeing the extraordinary take place in the midst of a variety of people and viewpoints. “God has gathered a unique group of unique people that have a set of talents, and the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” Simons said.

Simons believes that a major challenge facing the Church today is holding together differing viewpoints. The key to doing that, Simons said, is for Church leaders to “provide opportunities for people to express who they are, rather than saying ‘here’s the template, fit into it.’ Then God will do something extraordinary.”

## Finally, Common Mission

**H**allelujah and saints be praised! Deputies joined Bishops Saturday in overwhelmingly approving full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ending four decades of talks and five decades of separation.

With more than 90 percent voting yes in both houses, the Episcopal Church is sending a loud message to Lutherans and the world that we are committed to spreading the Gospel.

Now is the time for us to move from striving for unity—"that we all may be one," as Jesus prayed—into working together on mission and ministry, focusing on John's epilogue. Three times Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love me?" Three times Peter said yes. Three times Jesus instructed: "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep."

Now let us joyfully demonstrate our love of Jesus to the world.

### **Perspective** *continued from front*

program and its impact on the personal and professional lives of the clergy participants has been very positive, and participants report the CREDO experience has been significantly influential in enhancing their well-being.

Six conferences are scheduled in 2000, and 10 conferences are planned for 2001. By the end of 2005, our hope is that the CREDO Project will have become a normative resource and will be experienced by at least 10 percent of our active clergy each year.

The board of the Church Pension Group approved funding over the next five years to expand the CREDO program. This funding commitment is contingent upon the broad endorsement by the general Church. The Standing Commission on Ministry Development has presented a resolution (A071) to General Convention to affirm the CREDO initiative and to foster participation and collaboration throughout the Church on this vital program.

We must continue to envision and to develop fresh and meaningful resources to ensure the growth and vitality of our clergy leaders and to support their integral role in strengthening our congregations and other Christian communities. We believe that CREDO's long-term success will benefit greatly from a broad-based collaboration and partnership with the general Church and other major church entities.

The Latin word *credo* can be translated as "I believe," but it also has a much deeper meaning: "I give my heart." Participation in a CREDO conference is work of the mind, heart, and spirit. We hope that the Church, in its broadest sense, will give heart and support to this important life-giving ministry called CREDO so that we can equip our ordained leadership "for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Off  
Center \_\_\_\_\_ by Mike Kerr

## **The High Table**

### *A guide to area gastronomy*

There are so many restaurants in Denver that we might want to think about extending Convention for another week just to satisfy our gustatorial desires. The following three restaurants are not to be missed during your time in town.

**Barolo Grill**—3030 6th Ave.: Bright, beautiful Cal-Ital cuisine meets Italian country fare on a thoroughly original menu and in a lovely setting. Lamb chops arrive over a bed of glorious roasted vegetables; duckling is stewed in red wine and finished with oil-cured olives. Wash it all down with a selection from one of the best wine lists in Denver. \$\$\$

**Avenue Bar and Grill**—630 E. 17th Ave.: Often crowded, but the perfect spot for a late bite. In addition to the dependable grilled meats and fresh fish, the kitchen makes a mean spinach fettuccine with shrimp, garlic and basil and a commendable burger. *\*Also has the best martini in town with giant, bleu cheese-stuffed olives.* \$-\$\$\$

**Delhi Darbar**—1514 Blake St.: The northern Indian food is consistently good, though fans of spicier cooking may need to pour on the heat. Look for *channa masala* (spiced chickpeas), homemade flatbreads and exquisite tandoori items—quail, shrimp and lamb sausage. The buffet is an inexpensive way to sample the kitchen's scope. \$\$\$

*Excerpted by permission of Westword, Denver's free distribution arts & entertainment tabloid. For more information on local restaurants, pick up a fresh copy of Westword every Thursday, or visit their web site at [www.westword.com](http://www.westword.com).*