

From the Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i



May 24, 2019

Aloha,

As the leaders of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i, I write to be sure you know about, will attend and will encourage as many from your congregation as possible to attend two important upcoming events.

First, **"Invite/Welcome/Connect"** (see [Invite/Welcome/Connect](#)) is coming to the Diocese on **Saturday September 7, 2019**. Led by Mary Palmer, Invite/Welcome/Connect "is a ministry of relational evangelism and congregational empowerment allowing churches to become places of genuine connection for inviting the faith journeys and stories of everyone, enabling deeper journeys of Christian discipleship and enabling the Spirit of Christ to be at the heart of each church's hospitable mission of spreading the Good News." The workshop will be taking place at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Davies Hall, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Cost is only \$15 and includes lunch. Airfare will be covered for neighbor island clergy and two others from each church. Register at ["Registration for Invite/Welcome/Connect"](#).

In addition, "Invite/Welcome/Connect" will be offered on Kaua'i. This opportunity is being provided by the generosity of All Saints's Church and the Sloggett Fund. More information will be forthcoming.

Please make "Invite/Welcome/Connect" a priority for your congregation!

Second, I am pleased to inform the Diocese that the Reverend **Jay Sidebotham** from **RenewalWorks** (see [Renewal/Works](#)) is now scheduled to be with us as the presenter at **Diocesan Education Day (Friday, October 25)** and as the chaplain to the Annual Meeting of Diocesan Convention (Saturday, October 26). Many experienced Jay's plenary presentation and workshop at "Renewal 2019." Remember, Education Day is open to anyone in the Diocese, but it is particularly important for Diocesan leaders (including Delegates, Wardens and Vestry/Bishop's Committee members) to take part. I hope that with this advanced notice, Diocesan leaders will try to hear Jay even if they are not delegates to Convention this year.

Please make Jay Sidebotham and RenewalWorks a priority for your congregation!

Why am I pushing "Invite/Welcome/Connect" and Jay ("RenewalWorks")? "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (see "An Outline of Faith" on BCP, page 855). "The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members" (see "An Outline of Faith" on BCP, page 855). The purpose of the Church (all of us collectively as the Body of Christ) is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:16-20). We are not a social service agency (though we do ministries of outreach and service to others). We are not a club (though we have fun and celebrate our common life together). We are the

Church, the Body of Christ. We each must own our faith in Jesus Christ and be eager to share it. We each – every baptized member – is an evangelist of Christ’s love. I think this is particularly important in 2019 and for us as Episcopalians. As the Presiding Bishop shared in his keynote address at our Renewal 2019 (watch at [Presiding Bishop's Keynote Address](#)), *"Love creates the aperture, the opening, to heal old hurts, heal old wounds, and create from a painful past, a new possibility for the future. You can't change the past, but you can redeem it."* The world needs the love we know in Christ through the Episcopal Church. We can't hoard the love of Christ – it is either shared or it fades from our lives. It is our joy and our responsibility to share that love by inviting, welcoming, encouraging others to know that love in our congregations and as a part of our lives. I hope these will be opportunities to encourage us to live into our mission in every congregation.

Yours faithfully,
+Bob

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HE LANAKILA MA KE KE'A: Victory through the Cross

"No ia mea, e nā hoahānau, e kūpa'a 'oukou, me ka nāueue 'ole, me ka ho'omau i kā 'oukou hana nui 'ana i ka hana a ka Haku, no ka mea, ua 'ike nō 'oukou, 'a'ole i make hewa kā 'oukou hana 'ana ma ka Haku." Korineto I 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58