

Around One Table

New report explores church's identity, mission

At a time when some are discussing division within the Episcopal Church, a first-of-its-kind report by a team of independent academic researchers highlights the many attributes and feelings that are common to Episcopalians.

"*Around One Table* is a multi-layered initiative designed to engage people in constructive conversations about the identity and mission of the Episcopal Church and how that relates to their lives and ministries," the report says.

The report cites among the top findings:

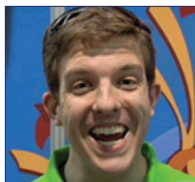
- Episcopalians passionately want their church to hold Christ as central and believe their church attempts to do so.
- Episcopalians see the church both actually and ideally as a people of the book whose faith is united by and expressed in their Book of Common Prayer.
- Episcopalians view their church as both aspiring to hold and successfully expressing a sacramental understanding of the Christian life and relationship with God.

"Understanding who we are is essential to knowing what our task is," said Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. "Sometimes we sum up that quest for understanding as knowing 'who we are, whose we are, and where we're going.' *Around One Table* offers Episcopalians an objective tool to use in discovering how the broader community of Episcopalians is answering those questions."

To download an abridged or full copy of the report, see video comments and read about the researchers and their methods (see Q&A), visit

www.episcopalchurch.org/arroundonetable

Photos on this page are from www.iamepiscopalian.org/ where lay and clergy members of the Church tell what it means to them to be Episcopalians.



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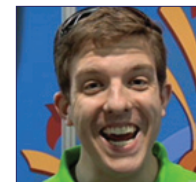
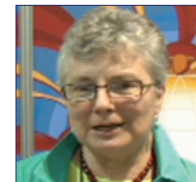
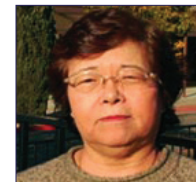
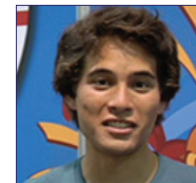
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Online Giving

New way to give to The Episcopal Church is easy, effective, efficient

Fresh opportunities to share and support the work of The Episcopal Church are now available through Online Giving, provided under the auspices of Mission Funding,

Citing ease, effectiveness and efficiency, Mission Funding director the Rev. Susan McCone explains, "Online Giving is designed for the donor to contribute for a cause, in someone's name, all in determining a personal amount. There are no minimums or maximums. Rather, Online Giving is a new avenue for participation."

An eye-catching red button – Give to the Episcopal Church – guides the donor through the safe, secure process.

A special feature allows for donations to be offered for births, memorials, or for other special occasions. "It offers someone the opportunity to honor or remember a loved one with a gift that supports the mission of The Episcopal Church," McCone said.

Donors can earmark the use of funds in key mission and ministry areas:

- The Legacy Fund, an endowed fund that contributes to the Church's budget;
- Episcopal Church Fund, an unrestricted fund to support the work of the Church;
- The Archives New Building Fund, an unrestricted fund to support the purchase of land and building costs



for a new archives and mission research center in Austin, Texas;

- United Thank Offering, a program that distributes domestic and international grants, directly impacting the lives of women and children and addressing compelling human need;
- The St. Ives Fund, providing financial support for the legal costs associated with preserving and defending the church's property.

The process is easy – simply click on the red "Give to the Episcopal Church" button located on various pages on Church's website:

- The Episcopal Church homepage at www.episcopalchurch.org;
- www.lamEpiscopalian.org;
- United Thank Offering (UTO) at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto;
- Mission Funding Archives at www.episcopalchurch.org/mission_funding_107380_ENG_HTML.htm

McCone stressed the security of the system, assuring that personal information will be safe. Also, she promised, donor information will not be shared, sold or compromised.

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