

*“To serve you is perfect freedom . . .”*

These words from the Collect for Peace in The Book of Common Prayer are written on the wall outside the entrance of the headquarters of the Episcopal Church in New York City. The life of the Episcopal Church is a life of service. It begins in our congregations, expands across dioceses, and extends over the entire world.

Through baptism, we become ministers, called to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world and to take our place in the life, worship, and decision-making of the church. While many people only hear about the Episcopal Church when we do something that makes the national news, the church’s mission to reconcile all people to God and each other goes on every day.

Every three years the church gathers as the General Convention, during which we listen for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we set the direction of the church’s mission and ministry, its policies and its worship. On any given day in between conventions the church’s mission is enacted by such diverse ways as considering loans for projects to benefit marginalized people here and abroad, helping priests from the developing world to study at Episcopal seminaries in the United States, ministering to people in prison and in homeless shelters, visiting people in hospitals, feeding the hungry and putting together resources for welcoming children into our worship.

The Church Center building in New York – you might hear it referred to as “815” for its location at 815 Second Avenue – is a focal point and resource center for our mission and ministry. It is a center for ecumenical and interfaith engagement, and a contact point for international and national agencies. It is a place to find support for



The Episcopal Church welcomes you  
The 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention, Columbus

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stimulating ministry, outreach and growth in your congregation or diocese.

Our work with young people, ethnic groups, women, small congregations, foreign and domestic missionaries, refugees, and international partners finds resources here. So does the relief work that the church does after disasters and our efforts in such areas as congregational growth and development, stewardship, peace and justice advocacy, and chaplaincy.

Resources for our ministry exist elsewhere as well. For instance, every day, near the Capitol in Washington, D.C., the Office of Government Relations and its Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) make the church's voice heard as lawmakers debate.

Of course, most Episcopalians, not to mention the vast majority of people in the world, will never set foot in "815." The Church Center, indeed the Episcopal Church, exists to equip us to minister to the world which desperately needs to hear the Good News and feel God's presence in your actions. That ministry may not make news every day but it is the way Episcopalians carry on Christ's work in the world.

“ . . . that through  
your grace we may  
proclaim your truth  
with boldness, and  
minister your justice  
with compassion . . . ”

*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 230*

### Read more about it:

- Links to Episcopal Church ministries  
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ecc.htm>
- The Episcopal Public Policy Network  
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm>
- “An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church,” Don S. Armentrout, Robert Boak Slocum, editors, Church Publishing Inc., © 2000  
[www.episcopalchurch.org/19625\\_19610\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm?menupage=19609](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/19625_19610_ENG_HTML.htm?menupage=19609)

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