



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

August 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We are looking forward to the coming program year of Confirmations! Confirmations, both during our visitations and in other special services are always a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with you and the faith communities you serve. We have been thinking a lot about Confirmation and how the rite can help us all better share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are writing with a few ideas about how Confirmation in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut might be more explicitly linked to God's mission. We so believe (are you surprised?) that this celebration is a moment for all those being confirmed, and young people in particular, to recommit to the responsibilities of their Baptism. This is a time to say, "Yes" to participation in God's Mission.

We have several thoughts about how we might be a part of this conversation with you and with the Confirmands. First, we would like to suggest Confirmation be the theme for this fall's Clericus meetings. We would like to explore the question, "What role does and might confirmation play in ones exploration of participation in God's mission?" Following our conversations we expect to revise the confirmation certificate reflecting what we have learned together. An interesting book that might feed this conversation is *"Signed, Sealed, Delivered, Theologies of Confirmation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"* compiled by Sharon Ely Pearson. It is a thoughtful book with a range of theologies and thoughts about Confirmation. We encourage you to order the book. If anyone has trouble locating or purchasing the book, please let us know and we will be happy to get one for you.

Second, we will be scheduling four Bishops and Confirmands dinners around Connecticut in the next program year. These will be opportunities for all who are preparing for Confirmation from a particular area to meet with us and talk about God's Mission and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We imagine that we will have three dinners in around Connecticut for young people and then invite all those over 21 preparing for Confirmation or Reception to join us for a dinner at The Commons in Meriden. Alison Hollo, Assistant in the Bishops' Office will be arranging locations and times for these dinners. We are really excited about these dinners!

As has become our custom in recent years, we will be doing Confirmations in parishes as part of our visitation schedules. The details of these services will be worked out with the parish priest in our pre-visitation planning conversations. We will continue to offer a number of regional confirmations on the feasts of All Saints, The Baptism of our Lord, and the Easter Vigil. And we will also have regional confirmations on the Saturdays after



Easter. Both of us will try to do as many of these additional Confirmation services as we can. When we are not available we will ask a colleague retired bishop to step in for us. All of these Confirmation services will be arranged by Alison Hollo in our office. Please do not schedule additional confirmations on your own with a retired bishop.

Thank you for your commitment to all those seeking Confirmation. We are blessed to serve with you. O Lord, Strengthen us as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Empower us for your service and sustain us all the days of our lives.

Faithfully,

Ian and Laura