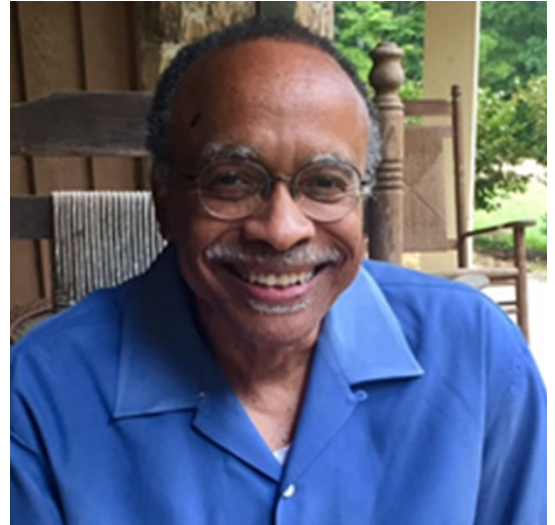


235th Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina Special Guests

The Rev. Luther Smith, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He writes, teaches, and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, interfaith cooperation, child advocacy, congregational renewal, Christian spirituality, and the thought of Howard Thurman. He is an ordained minister of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, cofounder of the Interfaith Children's Movement, cofounder of the International Community School, and Coordinator for the "Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty." His latest book is, *Hope Is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community*. Dr. Smith will already be known to many in the diocese, as he was one of the guest speakers at our clergy retreat and his book was commended by the bishop for reading during Lent.



The Rev. Carter Heyward, Ph.D., is an Episcopal priest, professor, theologian, activist, and writer, known as a pioneer in the areas of feminist liberation theology. At a time in which neither the Episcopal Church—nor any other part of the worldwide Anglican Communion—would ordain women as priests, Heyward was ordained on July 29, 1974 along with 10 other women at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, a group that would come to be known as the "Philadelphia Eleven." As a professor at Episcopal Divinity School, Heyward's primary teaching concentrated on 19th century Anglican theology, feminist liberation theology and theology of human sexuality. Throughout her vocation she has sought to transform consciousness, proclaim the possibilities for women to be priests, for LGBTQ+ people to be theological, and make way for new approaches to connecting the divine to intimacy, justice, and activism. Her primary work these days is with her local chapter of the NAACP. Heyward's latest book, her eighteen published work, is *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism*, which the bishop also commended for Lenten reading.



The Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson, Ph.D., has served for many years as Canon to the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church as well as Distinguished Visiting Professor at General Theological Seminary. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the development board of Durham University, Chuck previously served on the governing board of the National Council of Churches USA, and was vice president of the board of the Anglican Theological Review and guest editor of several ATR issues, as well as General Editor of Peter Lang Publishing's "Studies in Episcopal & Anglican Theology" series. He holds honorary doctorates and canonships from several institutions, and has authored or edited over a dozen books and many journal articles. Chuck has been represented the Presiding Bishop's office on our leadership team for the feasibility study toward a potential capital campaign in the diocese.



The Rev. Mieke Vandersall was ordained in 2004 by the Presbytery of New York City. She was ordained into a non-profit whose work was in advocating for a policy shift in ordination to include queer pastors. Her experience paired with a deep knowledge of the wide diversity of the ecumenical Church makes Mieke a compassionate and powerful partner for leaders of non-profits and faith-based organizations. Recognizing this as her particular gift, in 2014 Mieke started Vandersall Collective, the firm who have assisted the Diocese of South Carolina in conducting our recent feasibility study toward a potential capital campaign. Mieke has collaborated with over 100 clients on capital campaigns, major donor programs, crowdsourcing campaigns, strategic thinking and planning, website writing and development, communication strategies, and organizational capacity-building. Mieke is an avid crocheter, aikido practitioner at the New York Aikikai where she serves as a member of the board, and gardener.



Erin Weber-Johnson has worked for over two decades as fundraising and strategic planning consultant and educator. She joined Vandersall Collective in 2016. A published author, she strives to root her work in practical theology while utilizing her experience in the nonprofit sector. She also currently serves as Primary Faculty of Project Resource, a national training program on stewardship for the Episcopal Church. In 2017 she co-founded the Collective Foundation, which is currently working to address the gap in giving characteristics in faith communities of color. Previously, Erin served as the Senior Program Director at the Episcopal Church Foundation, as a grants officer at Trinity Wall Street in New York City, and served as a missionary for the Episcopal Church. Her book, [Crisis and Care: Meditations on Faith and Philanthropy](#) co-edited by Dr. Dustin D. Benac, is available through Cascade Books. A new book, *Belonging: The Air We Breathe*: will be released in 2025.

