

SAFEGUARDING AND TITLE IV

THE TOPIC

Unfortunately, sexual harassment and exploitation happen in The Episcopal Church, and they have not always been dealt with well. This General Convention made it a priority to repent for the past and to commit to a new way of doing things – in a number of powerful and lasting ways.

WHAT HAPPENED AT GENERAL CONVENTION

Before General Convention, a Special Committee on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation was convened and submitted several dozen resolutions. Three members of the Diocese of North Carolina were on this committee.

General Convention began with a Listening Liturgy, a powerful service of lament and confession led by the bishops. Diocesan priest the Rev. Dr. Jeanine Driscoll was on the planning team and was instrumental in writing the service. You can read more and watch the service at <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/07/05/bishops-lament-and-confess-the-churchs-role-in-sexual-harassment-exploitation-and-abuse/>.

Several days into convention, a deputy was not allowed to bring her infant onto the house floor to nurse. In reaction to that, the Rules of Order have been clarified to allow for caring for infants and feeding young children. The resolution was carefully written to include parents of any gender and feeding style: <https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions/D087?house=hb&lang=en>

Near the end of Convention, the House of Bishops affirmed A Working Covenant for the Practice of Equity and Justice for All in The Episcopal Church, which will guide their work as a house and in their dioceses in the coming years. Some of it is based on research by diocesan priest the Rev. Dr. Helen Svoboda-Barber. Read it at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/covenant-next-step-response-abuse-and-exploitation>

An overview of the work related to sexual harassment and gender equity is located at <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/07/13/general-convention-responds-to-the-voices-and-stories-of-women/>.

FAQS

How do I report sexual harassment in the church?

Contact the diocesan Pastoral Response Team at 1-877-332-3394 and leave a confidential message. A team member will contact you within 48 hours.

Our church doesn't pay clergy different amounts based on their gender! Does it...?

While each congregation has good reasons for paying what they do, when looked at as a group, there is a clear and large difference between men and women's clergy pay. In fact, in our province, male rectors at multi-staff parishes make on average \$25,000 per year more than female rectors doing the same jobs. More details can be found at <https://www.cpg.org/linkservid/6960B732-E1FC-7D1C-A19B-95B0B87FEB91/showMeta/0/?label=2016%20Church%20Compensation%20Report>.

Someone from my church/my family has just come out as transgender. What now?

A good place to start is with TransEpiscopal at <http://www.transepiscopal.org>.

NEXT STEPS IN OUR DIOCESE

The Diocese of North Carolina is ahead of many dioceses in addressing sexual harassment because we already have an established Pastoral Response Team (PRT). The PRT is a great place to start with any questions or needs you have.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber at rector@stlukesdurham.org.