

# FORWARD MOVEMENT

## Membership

The Rev. Gary Jones, *Chair*  
Mr. Mike Phillips, *Treasurer*  
The Rev. Nancy Frausto  
Ms. Pamela Wesley Gomez  
Mr. Carlos de Jesus  
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Martins  
The Rev. Christine McSpadden  
Ms. Mimi Murley  
Mr. Belton Ziegler  
The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, *Ex Officio*  
Ms. Richelle Thompson, *Deputy Director and Managing Editor*  
Ms. Miriam McKenney, *Development Manager*  
Ms. D. Jane Lyman Paraskevopoulos, *Director of Business Operations*  
The Rev. Jay Sidebotham, *Director of RenewalWorks*  
Ms. Heidi Weaver, *Marketing Manager*  
Ms. Tania Jones, *Executive Assistant*

The Presiding Bishop serves as president of the Board and appoints its members. Forward Movement's offices are located in Cincinnati, Ohio, as they have been since inception. The executive director, The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, oversees a staff of 12 full-time and 14 part-time people. While most staff members are based in Cincinnati, others are based in Illinois, North Carolina, elsewhere in Ohio, and in Texas.

## Summary of Work

**Mandate:** Forward Movement is an agency of The Episcopal Church chartered by the 51st General Convention in 1934 “to reinvigorate the life of the church and to rehabilitate its general, diocesan, and parochial work.”

**Meetings:** The Forward Movement Board of Directors meets twice each year. This triennium, the Board has met in Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC.

From its inception, Forward Movement has understood that for The Episcopal Church to be healthy, its congregations must be healthy. For congregations to be healthy, they must be filled with disciples rather than habitual Christians. Our work, then, is to encourage discipleship and evangelism.

Our first publication was a Lenten devotional focused on discipleship in 1935. *Forward Day by Day* was the immediate successor to that first publication and has been published continuously since then. Today, *Forward Day by Day* is published as a print quarterly with a circulation of just over 300,000 copies per quarter, over 90 percent of which is in The Episcopal Church.

We have subscribers in nearly every province of the Anglican Communion and in more than 60 nations, with the largest number outside the United States going to the Anglican Church of Canada. In addition to print, the devotional is available as an e-book, on a smartphone app, by email, and through our social-media channels (Facebook and Twitter). More than 112,000 copies of *Forward Day by Day* — along with other literature — are distributed free of charge each year to prisons, military bases, hospitals, and nursing homes.

We have expanded our resource offerings with more than ten books published per year, along with booklets and pamphlets. The general focus is discipleship, including scripture study, daily devotions, liturgical material, and prayer. While the historic focus of Forward Movement has been print publications, we have moved beyond print to encompass online and digital products. In addition to books, booklets, and pamphlets, we produce digital products including apps, daily emails, e-books, websites, and videos. In addition to more traditional devotionals, we have supported seasonal, light-hearted offerings such as *Lent Madness* and *50 Days of Fabulous*.

Material for Latino/Hispanic Episcopalians and seekers is an important part of Forward Movement's ministry. This triennium has seen the launch of *¡Adelante!* as a new brand for a Latino/Hispanic audience, along with increased staffing and additional publications. Our flagship devotional is available in Spanish as *Adelante Día a Día* in print, as an ebook, on social media, and via other channels.

This triennium, we have focused especially on partnership work. We now carry out work in collaboration with: the Center for Biblical Studies, ChurchNext, Confirm not Conform, the Episcopal Church Foundation, Episcopal Church Women, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the Episcopal Network for Stewardship, Episcopal Relief & Development, the Missionary Society, and the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE).

Forward Movement has launched RenewalWorks, a new donor-funded ministry aimed at encouraging congregations to assess their spiritual health and vitality and to respond based on what they learn in their assessment. To date, more than 60 Episcopal congregations have undertaken this work, and a good deal of data on the spiritual health — and challenges — of The Episcopal Church have been amassed.

Some early insights have been published in a book called *Footsteps: Making Spiritual Growth the Priority* (Forward Movement, 2014). Led by The Rev. Jay Sidebotham, RenewalWorks is expanding to offer more resources to more congregations.

## Budget

While the annual budget was \$1.6 million in 2012, the organization has expanded considerably in this triennium. The current combined annual budget is just over \$2.9 million. Forward Movement is self-sustaining. Funding comes from sales, donations, grants, and investment income. The largest expense is personnel costs. Other major expenses include printing and publication purchase, warehousing and shipping, marketing, and general & administrative. No funding is requested from the General Convention budget.