

FORWARD MOVEMENT

Membership

Mr. Miguel Escobar, <i>Chair</i>	Long Island, II
The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Olympia, VIII
Ms. Julie Thomas, <i>Treasurer</i>	Georgia, IV
Ms. Liz Bartenstein, <i>Secretary</i>	Virginia, IV
The Rev. Jean Beniste	Chicago, V
The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook	San Diego, VIII
The Rev. Canon Victor Conrado	New York, II
The Rev. Albert Cutié	Southeast Florida, IV
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor	Connecticut, I
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Ms. Lynne Jordal Martin	Connecticut, I
Mr. Jamie McMahon	Pittsburgh, III
The Rev. Dr. Joshua Samuel	Long Island, II
Ms. Anne Schmidt	Dallas, VII
The Bishop of Southern Ohio, <i>Ex-Officio</i> (vacant)	Southern Ohio, V
The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	North Carolina, IV

Staff Management Team

The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, Executive Director
Ms. Tania Z. Jones, Executive Assistant and Human Resources Specialist
Ms. Kathy Jose, Director of Business Operations
Ms. Miriam McKenney, Director of Development and Mission Engagement
Mr. Jason Merritt, Marketing Director
The Rev. Jay Sidebotham, Director of RenewalWorks
Ms. Richelle Thompson, Managing Editor
The Rev. Chris Yaw, Director of ChurchNext

Mandate

An agency of the Episcopal Church, Forward Movement was chartered by the 51st General Convention in 1934 “to reinvigorate the life of the church and to rehabilitate its general, diocesan, and parochial work.” Today Forward Movement’s mission is to “Inspire disciples. Empower evangelists.”

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.

Just over twenty (20) full and part-time staff members manage Forward Movement’s work, some stationed in offices in downtown Cincinnati and others around the United States. Together, we edit and design the publications, market them, fill orders, and respond to the diverse concerns of those who call and write with comments and questions. We welcome suggestions from congregations and readers on how we can be of more use and offer better service.

Summary of Work

Today, Forward Movement carries out its work in widely varied ways. We organize conferences, including Discipleship Matters and Evangelism Matters (offered in partnership with the Presiding Bishop’s Office). We offer free online resources, such as Grow Christians (www.growchristians.org), which encourages faith at home. For several years, we have worked with the Rev. Tim Schenck to offer Lent Madness (www.lentmadness.org), a fun, informative, and inspiring Lenten devotional. We have a full-time marketing team member focused on social media missioner on staff, part of whose responsibilities include posting inspiring and informational content on our social media channels and others.

Since Lent/Easter 2018, Forward Movement has worked with many organizations across the church to encourage Episcopalians to read whole books of the Bible together in a project called the Good Book Club. The Presiding Bishop has invited us all to go on this journey together. As of this writing, the most recent program was reading the Gospel of Mark during the Epiphany season 2021. Visit the Good Book Club website (www.goodbookclub.org) for free resources and details about how this project invites all Episcopalians and their congregations to take part.

In the print realm, we now focus on books, many of which offer opportunities for small group discussion and reflection. We seek to offer resources that encourage discipleship, whether through daily meditation or engagement with the richness of our prayer book tradition. We continue to offer

some pamphlets, the cutting-edge technology of our founding era in the 1930s, which continue to be useful in many congregations.

Material for Latino/Hispanic Episcopalians and seekers is an important part of Forward Movement's ministry. We have offered free resources, such as a guide for multi-cultural congregations who wish to celebrate *Las Posadas*. We have created new print and online resources. Our flagship devotional is available in Spanish as *Adelante día a día* in print, as an e-book, on social media, and in other channels.

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 about 300,000 copies per quarter, over ninety (90) percent of which is in The Episcopal Church. We have subscribers around the world, with the largest number outside the U.S. going to the Anglican Church of Canada. In addition to print, the devotional is available as a podcast, in Braille, as an e-book, on a smartphone app, by e-mail, and through our social media channels (Facebook and Twitter). More than one hundred thousand (100,000) 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.

Podcasts are becoming increasingly important in our work. In addition to the *Forward Day by Day* podcast, we offer several podcasts of morning and evening prayer. We also offer seasonal and topical podcasts. As of this writing, we typically have up to 4,000 daily listeners.

We enjoy working with our partners. This work enables us and them to focus on core mission, collaborating for greater effectiveness. We now carry out work in collaboration with the Center for Biblical Studies, the Episcopal Church Center, the Episcopal Church Foundation, and Episcopal Relief & Development, among others.

Forward Movement operates RenewalWorks, a 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 about 350 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. Led by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, RenewalWorks is expanding to offer more resources to congregations.

Forward Movement also operates ChurchNext, an online education ministry that serves approximately 24,000 registered learners. With more than 400 courses on offer, ChurchNext serves both individual subscribers as well as parish and diocesan partners. The pandemic saw engagement increase as more classes were offered, many of them for free. One of the most popular was “Civil Conversations in Uncivil Times” taught by Ray Suarez.

Forward Movement's offices are located in Cincinnati, OH, as they have been since our founding. The Executive Director, the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, oversees a staff of over twenty (20) people, both full-time and part-time. While most staff are based in Cincinnati, there are also staff based in Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, and elsewhere in Ohio.

The Forward Movement Board of Directors meets twice each year. When we are not in a pandemic crisis, we meet most often in Cincinnati. Recent meetings have been held by videoconference. The Presiding Bishop serves as president of the Board and appoints its members.

To learn more about Forward Movement and its work, please visit www.forwardmovement.org. Early in its history, a collect for the ministry of Forward Movement was written, and we hope you will use it to pray for our ministry in the church and beyond.

O God, we ask your guidance and blessing for the Forward Movement of your church. Use it, we pray, to open our eyes to your glory and to the opportunities that lie before the church to reach people everywhere with the good news of Christ. Grant that the leaders of Forward Movement may be both wise and daring disciples and stir up in us the will to share joyfully in this work with our prayers and gifts. Let not our purpose grow slack, that the nations of this world may become one holy people under the kingship of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. This we ask in His name. Amen.

Budget

The current combined annual budget is now about \$2.5 million, having been reduced from about \$3 million due to the global pandemic. 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, donations of materials, marketing, and general & administrative. No funding is requested from the General Convention budget.