

Local church hosts gathering of nation's Anglican leaders

By Michael Petty
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This past week, Tallahassee was the venue for three significant Anglican meetings. The Most Rev. Robert Duncan, archbishop and primate (principal bishop) of the Anglican Church in North America, came to St. Peter's Anglican Church along with about 40 members of the Church's Executive Committee, the Archbishop's Cabinet and the board of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund. Local hotels and restaurants were the beneficiaries of an economic boost as these leaders from across North America traveled to our community.

The Anglican Church in North America was formed in 2009 and has more than 100,000 members in 1,000 congregations in the United States and Canada. These congregations are organized into 21 dioceses (regional groups of congregations), each of which is presided over by a bishop. The Right Rev. Neil LeBar, the bishop of the Gulf Atlantic Diocese, which includes Tallahassee, also was present for the meetings.

The Anglican Church in North America is part of the global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, a fellowship of Anglicans on this continent, South America, Africa and Asia. It is also a province-in-formation in the roughly 80 million member Anglican Communion, the global communion of churches headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Anglican Church in North America has four congregations in Tallahassee.

The Church's Executive Committee consists of 18 bishops, clergy and lay people from the United States and Canada and governs the church



About 40 clergy and lay people from the Anglican Church of North America were in Tallahassee this week to discuss plans for the denomination that was started in 2009.



The Most Rev. Robert Duncan is archbishop and primate of the Anglican Church in North America. The Archbishop's Cabinet consists of 10 bishops and priests who advise Archbishop Duncan in his ministry as primate.

The focus of attention for both these bodies is on reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. One important piece of that is Anglican 1000, a program launched by Archbishop Duncan in June of 2009 to start 1,000 new Anglican churches in North America in five years.

Other priorities include shared ministry with other Anglican churches around the globe and ecumenical relations with other church bodies, including the Orthodox Church in America, the Roman Catholic Church and the North American

Lutheran Church. The Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) was created seven years ago for the purpose of supporting holistic, community-based development projects that incorporate evangelism. Since the time of its founding, ARDF has supported 106 projects in 32 countries. Current projects include a vocational training center in Egypt, microfinance efforts in Myanmar, a small business program in Peru and drought relief in Africa.

For more information, visit www.AnglicanChurch.net and www.AnglicanAid.net.

— The Rev. Michael Petty is the associate rector at St. Peter's Anglican Church.