

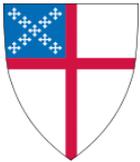
POHICK POST

 Pohick Episcopal Church

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September/October 2022



From The Rector

Rev Lynn Ronaldi

Hello, Pohick! It's good to be home! Thank you again for a necessary, life-giving summer of Sabbath rest, reconnection, and renewal!

The Hebrew word Shabbat means *to rest from labor, or a day of rest*. It derives from the root word, *to set apart as holy*.

In His infinite wisdom, the Lord knows his creatures need periods of rest. A discernible Biblical pattern of Sabbath points to this truth.

First, in creation, God Himself rested on the 7th day.

The Sabbath year was an agricultural year of rest every 7th year. "...*but on the 7th year you shall let it (the land) rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat...*" Exodus 23:11. During the Sabbath year, God's people were told not to plant or harvest – and God promised to provide enough to see them through.

Then there was the Jubilee year – occurring after every 7th Sabbath year – thus every 50 years. In the Jubilee year, the land and the people rest, and all those who are in slavery are set free to return to their communities.

Set free. Indeed, I experienced that deep sense of liberation while on Sabbatical. In a recent sermon that moved many of you, I spoke of the freedom and return to holiness that result from a period of rest, detachment, and decluttering. I said, "*Our God is a God of Resurrection. As we release our hold and open our palms, we will be free to receive all the new life our Lord longs to give us.*"

My recent Sabbatical, or period of Sabbath rest, involved resting in many senses of the word.

I rested physically by exercising my body and filling my lungs – by walking up and down mountains in Montana, Italy, and Scotland. (I felt like a mountain goat when all was said and done!)

I rested emotionally by detaching myself from emails, social media, phone, and internet.

I rested relationally by spending weeks away with Tom, and reconnecting with family and friends for a few weeks, and laughing and loving freely. The last month of sabbatical (and beyond) included cancelling plans to visit friends in Texas so that I could help care for my father as he heals from pneumonia. Thank you for all the love and prayers.

And I rested spiritually by making pilgrimages to holy places, and praying in silence and solitude on mountains and on a private retreat.

Rested, healed and whole, Tom and I have rejoiced to return to our beloved community at Pohick!

With several new staff members, Pohick is enjoying a fresh influx of new ideas and energy, and a fresh wind of the Spirit! In the last several months, we welcomed Susan Pehrsson as our new Christian Education director, Clint Herbert as Sexton, and Danny Catalanotto as Music Minister. Recently, a lively new seminarian, Aaron Ross, has accepted my call to join us!

I am deeply thankful for the mature and gentle spiritual leadership of our Rev. Celal Kamran during my Sabbatical! He has grown in leaps and bounds with your support and encouragement! I am profoundly grateful for the constancy and leadership of our Senior Warden, Stew Remaly and our Junior Warden, Tony Harriman. The Vestry and Staff were incredibly supportive and faithful. And all of you at Pohick have continued to be enthusiastic and willing doers of the Word!

All this is a testament to a spiritually strong and loving Christian community, grounded in love and filled with the Holy Spirit!

As we leave behind the strange and life-changing days of the Pandemic, we are experiencing a life-giving, healing, and renewing Fall. We see abundant evidence of spiritual health at Pohick:

- The Brotherhood's Crab Feast and Apple Butter Weekend were great opportunities for

Christian fellowship and outreach! Many thanks to Stew, John Pasour, Mo Faber, Kathy Kirkland, Carolyn Cockroft and so many others! Country Fair has been postponed until October 8!

- Newcomers continue to pour in – some who encountered us virtually through our Digital Ministry's online services. Susanne Leon, Jane Thurston and Invite Welcome Connect continue to welcome and connect newcomers to Pohick! A Newcomer Dinner at the Rectory is planned for November 11, and a Christmas Open House at the Rectory on December 16. An Inquirers Class begins in February.
- Sarah Markovits, gifted Adult Choir member and professional youth choral instructor, has graciously agreed to conduct a new Teen Ensemble (Choir) at Pohick! Similar to the arrangement in which Barbara Lynn assists Music Minister Danny Catalanotto in conducting the younger children's choral program and Cherubs program, Sarah will conduct the Teen Ensemble, supervised by Danny.
- Danny's Cherubs Program and Children's Choir are attracting new families from our community – true evangelism! The Adult and Bell Choirs are stellar. Worship is made beautiful and meaningful by our outstanding acolytes and LEMs.
- Our parish continues to support those who have endured great loss. We have mourned with, loved, and comforted the Holm, Edgemon, Hodges and Uribe families.
- We continue to reach out to the community around us through choirs, outreach, and soon our Live Nativity and Advent and Christmas events. Tom and I will welcome the Parish to another Christmas Open House, on Friday, December 16.
- Christian Education classes are welcoming and transforming children, teens, and adults. Rev. Lynn will lead a Bible study in the Annex this fall on Luke's Gospel as it addresses Grace and Community, and Rev.

Celal will lead an Alpha class in the Vestry house. Many thanks for the outstanding outreach of VBS, and for all the fantastic VBS volunteers.

- All involved in Communications continue to keep us informed in creative ways: Kara Faunt with Constant Contact, calendar and web page updates; Lori Buckius and Erin Kamran with the Pohick Post; Helen Parker with the outstanding new Directory; and the Audio-Visual Team who faithfully live-stream our services for the homebound and seekers each week.
- Huge thanks to Tony Harriman for his work on the new Security System and on the brand new sign to be erected on the Fairgrounds this month, and to Clint Herbert for his daily maintenance and repair of our historic buildings and grounds! Please join Clint in the Fall Work Day, rescheduled to October 29!

I hope and pray that families and individuals will continue to place God and Christian community ahead of the many competing interests of our culture. As we consider our personal and communal commitments to Christian Stewardship, I pray that we remember our baptismal call to ministry.

Please listen to messages calling us to Stewardship – not only of financial gifts, but also of spiritual gifts. Our Book of Common Prayer clearly says we are a four-fold ministry: First lay ministers -- then deacons, priests, and bishops. Each one of you is equipped with spiritual gifts, and called to be gracious ministers of God's love.

You are set apart to rest in the Lord. You are set apart for service in the Body of Christ. You are set apart as holy, in the process of being transformed by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Lynn+



From the Senior Warden

Stew Remaly

Greetings, blessings and peace to all, We made it through Apple Butter and the Fair!! The Church season is in full swing and soon the Stewardship Drive will begin along with preparations for the Christmas season. Thanks to all who have been supporting all of the many ministries and events. Thanks to John Pasour and Doug Smith for leading the Apple Butter weekend and the Country Fair. Special thanks to Kara Faunt for the Constant Contact reminders and the work she does on the weekly bulletins. Also, thanks to Clint Herbert for keeping the grounds and buildings in great shape. Clint will have all the volunteers focus on a few critical areas on the Fall workday. Please continue to review the weekly bulletins and online calendar for all the activities taking place over the next couple of months

At the September Vestry Meeting:

- Held up in Prayer all those on the Parish Prayer list or those in need of special prayers.
- Reviewed reports from the Commission Leads.
- Approved establishing a contract with NanoTech and funding up to \$12,000 per year for the next three years. NanoTech will provide critical Information Technology (IT) long-term service and support.
- Discussed a new investment strategy for some of the short-term investments into a longer but higher yielding investment portfolio. The finance committee is continuing to review the strategy and will provide a recommendation at the October meeting.
- Received a very thorough update from the Junior Warden, Tony Harriman on the status

But it also requires a fair ground, booths, cooking facilities, a stage, rented tables and chairs, and more. Those things take money as well as time and talent. How about Vacation Bible School? That is a major community outreach effort and it requires volunteers' time and talent. It also requires classrooms, and auditorium, a kitchen, and so on. And, of course physically, Pohick Church is more than a single, historically significant building. The Pohick physical plant is 39 acres of land, much of it treed. The upkeep on that land requires a combination of time, talent, and treasure. The Pohick physical plant is five permanent buildings, including the shed and Rectory, and two "temporary" trailer classrooms. All of these need to be heated in the winter and cooled in the summer. They need to be kept clean, to be painted every few years, and they need phones, lights, and power. They need progressive upgrades to IT systems and to security systems. The Pohick physical plant is just over half a mile of paved roadway as well as over a mile of unpaved roadways and walking trails that must be maintained. The Pohick physical plant is a fairground with a stage/bandstand, access to electricity and water, and storage for the booths set up on Fair Day. All that needs to be kept up and the booths and stage need to be significantly repaired or replaced every few years. The Pohick physical plant is a staff of full and part time workers to include two priests and a seminarian (yes, the seminarians are paid a small stipend), as well as a music minister, an administrative assistant, a finance administrator, a director of Christian education, a webmaster, a nursery supervisor, and a St Francis choir director. The cemetery warden is paid out of cemetery funds. So just how much of that budget is covered by old and generous endowments? Well, the answer to that is none. While there are a handful of small, targeted endowments, Pohick has no multimillion-dollar pot that supports the Church. Pohick is dependent on the stewardship of the church family, much like the church family of the first century. As the annual pledge drive comes into view, please give prayerful consideration to continuing and even increasing your pledge. Think about what brought you to be a part of the Pohick family and remember that nearly

everything you love about Pohick depends on the dollars of her parishioners.

Yours in Christ
Your Stewardship Committee Chair



Junior Warden

Tony Harriman

Cameras, New Doors, and Change! Oh, My!

Not long ago the Choir Director unlocked the Church for Choir practice around 7:00 pm. There was a guy already inside. He hid in one of the boxes when the doors were locked that afternoon, unseen, unheard. Kara can now see inside the Church from her desk. The whole Church can be viewed from Tony Harriman's home. During daylight. At night. There are now five cameras installed. All cameras can see motion.

Pohick Church, our church, our buildings, and the congregation that face security threat. These threats come with historical prominence as George Washington's Church, the proximity to Route 1, and from the nature of the parish and the welcoming signs on the corner and the welcome conveyed to visitors on the internet. The cameras come as a result of Rev. Lynn's direction to the Vestry to look at ways to improve security at the church and work from the Pohick Security Committee; Susan Pehrsson, Fred Crawford, Doug Smith, and Tony Harriman.

New doors for the Parish House main entrance and Common Room entrance will be the next installation in late October or early November. To improve the safety of staff during the day and groups meeting in the Parish House at night, there will be only a very, very few keys issued for the new doors. Notice the boxes with the illuminated target at the Parish House, Main, and Common Room entrances. These boxes allow e presentation of access credentials to enter the buildings.

An access control system has been installed to work with the new doors. Kara will unlock the Parish Main Door for visitors and vendors who appear in front of the door camera from her desk. Clergy, staff, Choir members, guild members, and others who need routine access to the Parish House to meet, to serve, to minister, will present a credential to the access box to unlock the door. Once the door is installed, the phone will unlock the door. Others may want to present key fobs, which are on order,

This is a change. Once the doors are installed, the Junior Warden key will not open the Parish House Main or Common Room doors. These keys will continue to open the Church, the Vestry House and doors inside the Parish House. So, keys are still needed. Regarding external access, staff, ministry guild leaders, etc. will be identified and provided with a means to access the property.

Generally, the new doors are always locked and locked when the power goes out. At times, the doors will be unlocked to allow newcomers to walk down to the Common Room for Coffee for example. And on the theory that almost nobody, except maybe the Sexton, needs to get into the Church at 3:00 am the credentials will not work all the time. All this is a change. And if, Oh My!, someone needs to get into the Parish House and can't, the doors can be opened remotely from almost anywhere!



Golden Dove Gift Shop

Visit Pohick's GOLDEN DOVE Gift Shop!

Sundays 9:00 am -10:30 am
First Saturdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm as well as during docent tours and special events

December 4 – Christmas Common Room Event
9:00 am – 12 noon

Gifts: Olive wood items from Bethlehem, Children's Books, Jewelry, Gift baskets, Devotion Books, Apple Butter, Pohick tea towels, potholders, ornaments & car coasters. Pohick grocery bags are only \$2.50 each. Spend \$10 or more and receive a free bag! Proceeds go to Pohick Church and community outreach! Be sure to check out the Clearance Corner!!!

Support during the recent sidewalk sale was greatly appreciated!

Questions about "the Dove"-contact Pamela Nelson. Join the team as a volunteer, contact Donna Crawford. Training is provided along with partnering with a board member during shop shifts. Suggestions, contact Parish Representatives, Kathy Bray or Carol Heintze.



Martha Guild
Connie Myers

The Martha Guild will hold a meeting on Monday, October 3 beginning at 7:30 pm via Zoom. All women of the church are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Connie Myers at 703/201-2204 or jetskiing@hotmail.com with any questions.

Thanks to all those in the congregation that attended the very successful Wine Tasting. The food, wine and fellowship were amazing. Congratulations to the winners of the baskets --- Jane Grant, Edwardene Pitcock, Mo Faber, Clint Herbert and Liz Jones. Another thank you to Terry and Marc Abrams for their hospitality.

The Martha Guild will once again offer homemade Baked Goods for the Thanksgiving Holidays and Greenery – wreaths, tabletop trees and centerpieces - for the Christmas Holidays. A new addition this year will be Advent Wreaths for the Advent season.

All of these items will be advance ordered --- either with order forms found in the Parish House or online. All the details with order deadlines and pickup dates will be found on the website, posted in the Parish House or noted in the Sunday bulletins as the time approaches.

Fellowship / Coffee Hours ----

Beginning Sunday, Sept 11 we will have two (2) Fellowship / Coffee Hours ---one will continue to be held after the 8:00 am service – at approximately 9:00 am and the second Coffee Hour will be held after the 10:30am service at approximately 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

The guidelines are as follows:

- Coffee, hot tea, bottled water and packaged juice will be provided by the Church
- Snacks will be provided by the volunteer Coffee Hour hosts ---- this can be pre-packaged such as Rice Krispies Treats, cookies, fruit snacks, etc, or can be items prepared at home.
- PLEASE – only one or two options per coffee hour!!!!!!!
- The stress is on – “KEEP IT SIMPLE” !!!

To provide this popular and valuable activity requires assistance from the congregation. Please consider volunteering to be a Fellowship/Coffee Hour host. This can be a couple, a family, two families, individuals working together, or even an organization/group within the Church. Coffee Hour is a great way to get to know fellow parishioners and to greet newcomers. The more volunteers, the easier it makes it on everyone! A sign-up sheet can be found in the Common Room in the Parish House. Questions --- please contact Connie Myers at 703-201-2204, or jetskiing@hotmail.com



Christian Education

Susan Pehrsson

Vacation Bible School was a huge success with 53 children attending; 90% from the community. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the children enjoyed storytelling, art, music, games and tasty snacks. Many compliments were received from the parents. Many parishioners came to the final program featuring the children’s music learned during the week. It was a pleasure seeing the happy faces of the children and the excited parents. Thanks to everyone that contributed to the week, we are very fortunate at Pohick to have the dedicated volunteers that give generously of their time and talents.

On September 11, the children and youth enjoyed Festival Day to kick off the children and youth programs. The Festival followed the 10:30 am service and everyone enjoyed lunch, games, crafts, music and special treats like cotton candy and ice cream. Parents had the opportunity to meet the teachers and advisors and register their children for all the programs.

Church School resumed on September 18 with classes from 9:25 am until 10:20 am. There are four Church School classes this year: Godly Play for preschool (age 3) to 1st grade downstairs in Classroom E&F, and 2nd to 4th grade upstairs in Classroom A&B; Weaving God’s Promises for 5th to 8th grade in Classroom C; and Connecting Faith and Justice for the High School students in the Trailer. Children’s Chapel for children ages 3 through 1st grade is held in Classroom E&F immediately following Godly Play at 10:20 am. The children join their parents in the church at the Peace. Pohick is very blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers to teach and help with church school. It promises to be a wonderful year working with the outstanding children and youth.

All comments or questions concerning the educational programs should be directed to Susan Pehrsson, 703-282-6574 or spehrsson@pohick.org.



Pohick Needlework

Jacqueline Wells

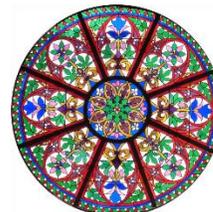
Needlepoint Cushions -- Needlepoint at Pohick Church was worked on and labored over by many hands, some departed, some unknown and some still working on the cushions. Their job is to update and maintain the beautiful artistic and religious work known to the Pohick family that graces the pews of the Church.

The needlepoint project began in 1972 under the direction of Reverend Albert Jones, pastor of Pohick Church at the time. The cushions that resulted from the project are part of the rich historic legacy of the parish. The cushions were designed with that legacy in mind. The high-quality yarn was brought from England by Joan Stanford, one of the designers and an early worker on the needlework project. Additional members of the church congregation, both men and women, designed and worked on the cushions, along with the beautiful carpet underneath the Eucharistic table. Once the design was finished, each cushion took three to five years, or approximately five hundred hours to complete.

Today the older pillows are sent out regularly to be stretched, cleaned, and filled with a special substance that allows the cushions to keep their shape against the pressure of parishioners sitting on them each Sunday. The cost of finishing a pillow is approximately \$700, paid for by parishioners in thanksgiving and loving memory of friends and family. Each pillow is valued today at approximately \$1000.

We are respectfully asking all parishioners to care for and enjoy the cushions and to consider especially

the time and effort that it takes to finish one of these beautiful objects. We pray that the cushions will last many years with our loving care. It is important to remember that food and drinks play havoc with the needlepoint. Food attracts insects that can eat the wool, and stains in the wool from spilled coffee and other drinks can be impossible to remove. We humbly ask you to enjoy and respect the needlepoint work in the Church as if it were your own. The wonderful artwork on the cushions is part of the legacy of our historic congregation.



Seminarian

Aaron Ross

Greetings Pohick Church,

I hope this message finds you all well! I am Aaron Ross, your incoming seminarian for 2022-2023. My role as the seminarian is to absorb as much as possible about this fantastic community that can inform my future ministry. I have already had a chance to meet many of the congregation, and you all have given my family (Liz and Emelia) and me a warm welcome, so thank you!

Rev. Lynn has asked me to share some of my goals with the Pohick community. My first goal is to learn to build a pastoral identity in a thriving parish community! I will be meeting with, observing, and processing theological reflection with Rev Lynn, and shadowing Rev Celal in EYC as well taking the time to be present in the life of Pohick Church. I will also be given the opportunity to assist at the Eucharist Table and preach.

Some may have noticed, I come to service while in army uniform and slip away. I am also an Army Chaplain Candidate with prior service as an enlisted soldier. My hope with my priesthood is to serve as an active-duty chaplain. Things learned at Pohick will be brought with me wherever the Army may send me.

Finally, during my time at Pohick, I will wear a clerical collar with a small black line in the middle. The collar is considered to be a "Seminarian Collar." This is a tradition in some parts of the church to symbolize what it means to be clergy-in-training. As I am building my clerical identity, this is another growth tool.

Thank you again, Pohick Church, for welcoming me as your seminarian. I look forward to serving and learning from you all!



Update on Issues in the Anglican Church

Don Brownlee

Three seminal events in the life of our Church and Communion occurred over the summer: The other bishops and dioceses gave their Consents to our election of the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson as our next bishop; the COVID-delayed and -shortened General Convention of The Episcopal Church took place in Baltimore; and the COVID and other reasons-delayed Lambeth Conference of bishops from across the Anglican Communion took place in Kent, England.

In Our Diocese: Under the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church, dioceses elect their



bishops, but a majority of the other diocesan bishops and diocesan Standing Committees must “consent” to the election. In August, we were notified that the required majority of Consents had been received, and the

election was official. He said after his election in June, “There’s so much Gospel hunger, Gospel drive in Virginia. It’s simply awe inspiring.... My prayer today is that God will grant us joy-filled day after joy-filled day as we start this new journey with each other and with God.”

Bp.-elect Stevenson has been serving as Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church. In this role, he is the principal liaison between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the House of Bishops, the various dioceses, and many of the governing bodies of The Episcopal Church.

He has been working with Bp. Susan Goff and the diocesan staff during this transition period. He will officially begin work in the fall, preside of the Diocesan Convention in November and be consecrated at a service in Richmond in December. Bp. Susan had previously announced plans to retire at the end of the year. Presumably he will call for the election of another fulltime assistant or Suffragan bishop, or call some active or retired bishop to serve as an assistant here.

* * *

The General Convention: The triennial General Convention of The Episcopal Church was delayed a year, and shortened considerably, because of COVID-19. Only bishops, and clergy and lay delegates attended; dioceses were asked to limit alternates to one clergy and one lay person, and there were not the usual displays from vendors.



The shortened convention took only what was deemed essential legislative action.

- The Convention [gave initial approval](#) to a proposal to redefine the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) as “those liturgical forms and

other texts authorized by the General Convention.” The practical implication is that various liturgies approved by the General Convention, such as those blessing same-sex marriages, could be elevated to the equivalent of Prayer Book status, even though the BCP itself has not been revised.

Bp. Jeffrey Lee, provisional bishop of Milwaukee and one of the proposal’s proponents, said “What [it] is about, really, is acknowledging that common prayer is evolving, and it creates a framework for that evolution to happen, including the inclusion of a number of different rites in a curated collection.”

Article X of our Constitution spells out how the BCP can be revised, but does not specifically provide for other liturgies that might be authorized but not made as revisions to the BCP. The General Convention has over the years approved a number of Trial Liturgies, but they have remained in that trial status pending a decision about formally incorporating them into the BCP.

The resolution, [referred to as A059](#), does not change the status of the current BCP nor any of the trial liturgies that have been authorized. It does not change the process for changing it. It says the BCP “is understood to be those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention in accordance with this article and the Canons of this Church.”

Any changes to the BCP must be approved by two successive General Conventions. A single session of the General Convention may approve trial liturgies. A059 allows a single session of the General Convention to “Authorize for use throughout this Church...alternative and additional liturgies to supplement those provided in the Book of Common Prayer”

Although A059 engendered some initial controversy that it somehow demoted the BCP, or was a back-door way of amending it, in the end it passed the House of Bishops on a unanimous voice vote. As an amendment to the Constitution, it must be approved again at the next General Convention. A working group will be set up to determine what changes to the Canons might be needed to implement the resolution.

- Clergy and Lay delegates [elected](#) Julia Ayala

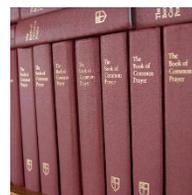


Harris as the next president of the House of Deputies. She succeeds the Rev. Gay Jennings, who is completing her third and final term.

As self-described “church geek,” she told the deputies, “You have sent the message to church geeks everywhere; that if you try hard and you read the canons and you read all the minutes, that you can actually make a huge difference on this church,”

The responsibilities and visibility of the President of the House of Deputies have increased dramatically in recent years. It is a fulltime, paid position, and serves alongside the presiding bishop as vice chair of the Executive Council.

- The General Convention also approved the reunification of the former Episcopal Diocese of Ft. Worth with the Diocese of Texas.



Texas state courts had ruled that property, including the name, of the former Episcopal Diocese of Ft. Worth belonged under Texas law to those who voted in 2008 to leave The Episcopal Church. That group is now affiliated with the

Anglican Church in North America (ANCA) and continues to use the name Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

In February, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene in the case, bringing the legal issues to a close. The parishes that wished to remain part of The Episcopal Church reorganized as “The Episcopal Church in North Texas.” But they decided earlier this year their best path forward was reunification with the Diocese of Texas. That move was approved by both houses of the General Convention, and the former Episcopal Church diocese has ceased to exist.

* * *

The Lambeth Conference: The Lambeth Conference gathers together all bishops of the Anglican



Communion, typically every ten years. It is considered one of

the four Instruments of Communion, along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate’s Meeting and Anglican Consultative Council.

But Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby delayed what should have been the 2018 Lambeth Conference because of ongoing divisions within the Communion, then it was twice delayed because of COVID-19.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Communion’s Primates [had said when they met in March](#) that they one of their “agreed aims” was that “we do not have the whole Lambeth Conference spent talking about issues of human sexuality, but we look at those things which are destroying tens and hundreds of millions of lives, and will do even more around the world.” But issues of human sexuality, and the role of gays and lesbians in the

life of the Communion’s churches, almost derailed the conference just as it was beginning.

Instead of resolutions on various topics, Abp. Welby and Lambeth’s planners rolled out a series of “[Lambeth Calls](#)” on various topics, such as Mission and Evangelism, Environment and Sustainability, and Human Dignity. Rather than explicitly voting yes or no, each bishop would say that the call spoke to him/her and committed to trying to implement it, or that it required “further discernment,” and he/she committed to the ongoing discernment process.

But just before the conference opened, a new draft of the call on Human Dignity was released that explicitly reaffirmed a 1998 resolution, known as [Lambeth 1.10](#), that said marriage was between a man and a woman. Bishops from the US, Canada, Scotland and other countries that have moved away from this standard were outraged at the last-minute change from what the drafting committee had proposed. Bishops who believe the Communion should hold to that standard pushed privately and publicly to keep the revised language, or in some way reaffirm Lambeth 1.10

Abp. Justin managed to largely diffuse the controversy in an address in which, as one observer said, he “threaded the needle.”

“For the large majority of the Anglican Communion the traditional understanding of marriage is something that is understood, accepted and without



question, not only by Bishops but their entire Church, and the societies in which they live. For them, to question

this teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries would make the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For many churches to

change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.

“For a minority, we can say almost the same. They have not arrived lightly at their ideas that traditional teaching needs to change. They are not careless about scripture. They do not reject Christ. But they have come to a different view on sexuality after long prayer, deep study and reflection on understandings of human nature. For them, to question this different teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries is making the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For these churches not to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.”

He closed his address by saying he was “very conscious that the Archbishop of Canterbury is to be a focus of unity and is an Instrument of Communion. That is a priority. Truth and unity must be held together, but Church history also says that this sometimes takes a very long time to reach a point where different teaching is rejected or received. I neither have, nor do I seek, the authority to discipline or exclude a church of the Anglican Communion. I will not do so. I may comment in public on occasions, but that is all. We are a Communion of Churches, not a single church.

Thus, in a few sentences, he validated the theological positions of both sides in this debate. But he came down firmly on the side of Anglicans in the western world who stress that the Anglican Communion is a communion, not a global church.

The bishops then spent time discussing marriage, human sexuality and human dignity, but took no votes on the Call. Theologically-conservative bishops circulated their own document for signature that reaffirmed the traditional point of view.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, [in an impromptu video message](#) at the end of the day, said he came away “hopeful:”

“...Not because we all came to agreement across all of our differences. No, no, we didn’t even try to do that. I left hopeful not because I convinced anybody of where I stand, or that they convinced me of where they stand. I left hopeful because this group of bishops today seem to be able to recognize and affirm our love and respect for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ in the body of Jesus Christ. And that we could find a way to honor and respect our differences.

“And I have to tell you that as far as I know that is the first time a document in the Anglican Communion has recognized that there is a plurality of view on marriage. And that these are perspectives that reflect deep theological and biblical work and reflection. That they reflect and respect the context in which we live and seek to address the pastoral needs of our people, of all the children of God—that’s why I say today is a hopeful day.”

A Post about the “Pohick Post”

I want to shout out a special thank you to Lori Buckius, our gifted and faithful Pohick Post Editor, who has stepped in to produce the Post graphically as well as editorially this month. Our IT manager, Erin Kamran, is normally the Post’s graphic artist. Erin, who is healing from an injury, has been unable to use a computer to produce the Post graphically (photos, color headlines, etc.) We have combined the September and October Posts in this issue. The deadline for the November Pohick Post is October 20, and we welcome your contributions! Please pray for Erin’s healing, and join me in thanking Lori!