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 The Episcopal News

# Taylor is ‘recklessly optimistic’ about the church, the future, he tells convention

By Pat McCaughan

Los Angeles Bishop John Harvey Taylor on Nov. 15 welcomed the 124th annual diocesan convention back to Riverside, issuing a call for community activism and neighborly curiosity, and inviting congregations “to have me over for dinner” to share sustainability strategies.

Taylor set forth an ambitious vision for 2020 of lifelong learning, financial transparency, social justice, community activism, congregational sustainability, and an estimated \$95 million capital campaign.

Churches that thrive and grow “are communities of pilgrims on journeys of lifelong individual and institutional discovery,” he said.

“Communities that are curious about learning what lies just around the next corner, that are curious about the strangers in our neighborhoods and the lives they’re leading. Curious about how God in Christ actively prepares a kingdom of justice and peace, and curious about one another,” Taylor told some 800 clergy and lay delegates, youth representatives, guests, visitors, and exhibitors at the meeting, themed “The Lifelong Way of Love.”

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce cited Asian American immersion experiences, the Gathering: A Space for Asian Spirituality, and hosting the Union of Black Episcopalians international gathering in Los Angeles among the accomplishments of 2019. She echoed themes of vitality and diversity of communities, stewardship and financial transparency.

She announced a March 7, 2020 diocesan Ministry Fair at Campbell Hall, and a third annual stewardship event planned for the first Saturday in June.

Canon to the Ordinary Melissa McCarthy described her role as chief of staff, which among many other duties involves working with the transitions and formation office regarding clergy and congregational transitions. “My goal is to visit as many churches as I



COLLEEN DODSON-BAKER

Convention delegates applaud after Dolores Huerta (pictured at right) delivers the Margaret Parker Lecture during the Nov. 15 - 16 meeting.

can,” she said. “Because knowing our congregations helps me know my job better.”

In other convention business, delegates elected diocesan officers and clergy and lay deputies for General Convention 2021, and approved a \$4.6 million Mission Share Fund budget.

During the convention dinner Friday evening, Bishop Taylor announced the appointment of two canons of the diocese: Suzanne Edwards Acton of St. Stephen’s, Hollywood, activist for women and the marginalized; and Jim Alexander of St. Andrew’s Church, Ojai, a longtime member of Diocesan Council and many other diocesan boards.

## Day 2: ‘Si se puede!’

On Nov. 16, legendary labor organizer and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta galvanized some of the gathering, leading rousing chants: “We’ve got the power” and “Si se puede! Si se puede!”

Huerta, 89, who founded the National Farm Workers Association along with César Chavez, addressed convention delegates as part of the diocese’s biennial Margaret Parker Lecture Series.

In remarks frequently interrupted by applause and laughter, she urged delegates to join her and “to fortify ourselves, to take on the issues challenging our society, country and world. We have to start with the basics and start thinking about what we as institutions, as individuals, can do to erase some of the wrongs happening right now.”



JANET KAWAMOTO

Delegates unanimously approved a single resolution, to continue the work of dismantling racism through 2027.

The Rev. Canon Jaime Edwards-Acton, rector of St. Stephen’s Church in Hollywood, facilitated ‘Fish Tank,’ inspired by a popular ABC-TV show in which would-be entrepreneurs present their business plans to several CEOs to enlist support to turn their dreams into reality.

Three finalists emerged from a class of eleven churches, to present their business plans to be voted on by convention delegates.

They included: the Church of the Holy Communion, Gardena, seeking to develop its hall as an entertainment venue; St. Francis, San Bernardino, seeking to create an addiction treatment facility; and St. Luke’s of-the-Mountains, La Crescenta, seeking to redevelop its campus as an entertainment venue.

Complete convention coverage, including election results, a summary of Dolores Huerta’s address, ‘Fish Tank’ results and a photo gallery are posted on the Episcopal News website at [bit.ly/ConventionReports2019](https://bit.ly/ConventionReports2019).

— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 —

4 p.m. **L.A. Baroque "Surf & Turf" Concert**

St. James' Church  
1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena 91030  
Information: [www.losangelesbaroque.org](http://www.losangelesbaroque.org)

5 p.m. **Healing Steps Eucharist**

St. Wilfrid of York Church  
1831 Chapel Lane, Huntington Beach  
Information: [stwilfridschurch.org](http://stwilfridschurch.org)

— WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 —

7 p.m. **Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical /Interfaith**

Holy Trinity Church  
100 N. 3rd Avenue, Covina 91723  
Information: 626.967.3939

7:30 p.m. **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

All Saints Church  
132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena  
Information: [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org)

— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 —

5 p.m. **An Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols**

All Saints' Church  
504 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210  
310.275.0123 ext.112 or [www.allsaintsbh.org](http://www.allsaintsbh.org)

More listings are online at [diocesela.org/calendar](http://diocesela.org/calendar).



COLLEEN DODSON-BAKER

*Blessings to our diocesan family for a bountiful Thanksgiving and a holy Advent*

Bishop John Harvey Taylor, Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce and Canon to the Ordinary Melissa McCarthy

## Changes coming for The Episcopal News

By Janet Kawamoto

As 2019 draws to a close and we all gear up for the new year, The Episcopal News is making some major changes, shifting our priorities in order to better serve the Diocese of Los Angeles with timely news about its congregations, institutions, people and leaders.

With the consent and encouragement of Bishop John Harvey Taylor, Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and Canon to the Ordinary Melissa McCarthy, the News staff will begin in 2020 to concentrate its efforts on online publication of stories at [diocesela.org/episcopal-news](http://diocesela.org/episcopal-news).

Links to stories and up-to-date news will be posted on our Facebook page (@episcopalnews), and Twitter account (@EpiscoNews\_LA). We invite you to follow both to help you keep up with what's going on in our large and diverse diocese. We will continue to publish The Episcopal News Update, our weekly email newsletter, every Wednesday. If you don't yet receive it, please visit our subscription page, [diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact](http://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact) and sign up.

It's difficult to give up publications with a history, especially The Episcopal News maga-

zine. The first diocesan publication began in 1897 and continued under various names and styles. The late Canon Ruth Nicastro reshaped it in the 1970s as The Episcopal News. We always have tried to honor her legacy. But Ruth would encourage us to carry on our work in the way that best serves the people of the diocese, and at present that's mostly online.

The print versions of The News magazine are not going away entirely. We plan to publish four-page monthly issues (replacing The Episcopal News Weekly) and produce an annual printed magazine with special reporting and in-depth stories.

Whatever form our publications take, we encourage you to share news of what's going on in your congregations. Send news items or story leads (and photos, preferably high-resolution) to [editor@ladiocese.org](mailto:editor@ladiocese.org). The Update is published most Wednesdays (biweekly in the summer); publication is suspended for the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

As we begin this new era of diocesan communications, I am fortunate to work with Bishop Taylor, Bishop Bruce and Canon McCarthy, constant sources of great stories and support. Thanks also to Canon for Common Life Bob Williams and to Alysha Kawamoto, communications office assistant, for helping to keep the diocese informed.

I give especially fervent thanks for the Rev.



The final bimonthly issue of The Episcopal News, Autumn 2019, is now available online for reading and printing. Visit the website at [diocesela.org/episcopal-news](http://diocesela.org/episcopal-news).

Canon Pat McCaughan, our ace reporter, and Molly Ruttan-Moffat, art director. I'm grateful that these two wise, talented, hardworking, wonderful friends will continue to be part of The News team.

Most of all, I am grateful to our readers for your interest and support. I always look forward to hearing from you. †

Janet Kawamoto, editor of The Episcopal News since 2004, may be reached at [editor@ladiocese.org](mailto:editor@ladiocese.org) or 213.482.2040, ext. 251. †

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