

Forward Movement

Forward Movement has served The Episcopal Church for 78 years, having been born during a time when many people understood the church to be weary and divided. Chartered by the 51st General Convention in 1934 and charged to “reinvigorate the life of the church and to rehabilitate its general, diocesan and parochial work,” Forward Movement is accountable to the General Convention through the office of the Presiding Bishop, who appoints the Forward Movement Board of Directors and serves as its President. At a time when our church seeks renewal, Forward Movement is adapting its ministry to the needs of today’s church.

The founders of Forward Movement asked, “What does our church need in order to thrive?” We are asking the same question today, and we’re working to support vibrant engagement with the Good News – for Episcopalians, other Christians, and seekers. To that end, Forward Movement is embarking on a new chapter for the digital era in which we now live. We are disseminating our popular traditional content, such as *Forward Day by Day*, via new media as well as print. We’re also creating new content for our time with a completely fresh approach.

Our hope is to continue what Forward Movement has always done: to provide resources to build up the church through increased discipleship. Our resources, in digital and print media, focus on devotion, Christian formation, discipleship, and evangelism.

Print publishing has been the means by which Forward Movement has sought to carry out its mission for most of its history. The quarterly devotional magazine *Forward Day by Day* has been published continuously since 1935. Circulation is now 308,000 printed copies per quarter, 94 percent of which is within The Episcopal Church, the rest going to other provinces of the Anglican Communion, primarily to the Anglican Church of Canada. In total, we have subscribers in 66 nations. More than 100,000 copies of *Forward Day by Day* are distributed each year, at no charge, to prisons, jails, hospitals, convalescent homes, juvenile detention centers, and overseas military bases.

Forward Movement also publishes more than one hundred other titles, mostly pamphlets and booklets, on prayer, discipleship, worship, sacraments, Anglican history and spirituality, and pastoral concerns. Roughly twenty new print titles are issued each year. Distribution is through an online bookstore, parish churches, and an annual catalog. Several of our titles are published in Spanish, and we hope to increase greatly the number of titles on offer to Spanish readers.

Already, several current titles are available on the Amazon Kindle and Barnes & Noble Nook stores, as well as other popular locations. We are developing products for smartphones, to support spiritual practices for twenty-first century people on the go. We expect to provide downloadable content that can be used in congregations as printed handouts, bulletin inserts, email attachments, or on websites. In other words, we are seeking to create flexible content that can be used as local mission dictates.

Forward Movement’s offices are located in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, and have been since the company’s inception. Executive Director Scott Gunn oversees a staff of eight full-time and eight part-time employees. In this triennium, Editor and Director Richard H. Schmidt retired after six years of dedicated and excellent service to the mission of Forward Movement.

The Forward Movement Board of Directors meets twice each year to set goals for the organization’s ministry, including the annual operating budget of \$1.6 million. Just under 50 percent of the expense budget goes for salaries and benefits for personnel, while nearly one-fourth pays for printing. Other categories of expenses, in descending order of amount, are warehousing, office and building expenses, service and consultant fees, marketing, and miscellaneous. Ninety-five percent of Forward Movement’s income comes from sales of literature, with the rest deriving from gifts and endowment. Forward Movement is self-sustaining, and it does not request money from the General Convention.

The following persons now serve on the Board:

The Rev. Jay Sidebotham (Chair), Elisabeth Rogers (Vice Chair), Janet K. Simpkinson (Treasurer), the Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, Pamela Wesley Gomez, Carlos de Jesus, Malaika Kamunanwire, the Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, the Rev. Canon Christine T. McSpadden, Michael Phillips, Slocomb Reed, and Richelle Thompson. The President of the Board is the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Proposed Resolution

Resolution A147 Continue Forward Movement

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the Presiding Bishop be authorized to continue Forward Movement under her supervision and to appoint a Board of Directors as may be required to maintain its work.