

# FORWARD MOVEMENT

## Members

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook, Chair	San Diego, VIII	2024
The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, Vice-Chair	Connecticut, I	2025
Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Treasurer	Indianapolis, V	2026
Ms. Kate Bond, Secretary	Oklahoma, VII	2026
The Rev. Canon Victor Conrado	New York, II	2024
The Rev. Ryan Fleenor	Connecticut, I	2026
The Rev. Robert Hendrickson	Arizona, VIII	2026
Ms. Kelli Martin	Olympia, VIII	2026
Mr. Jamie McMahan	Pittsburgh, III	2024
Mr. Jason Sierra	Texas, VI	2026
The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli	Indianapolis, V	2024
The Rev. Canon Eva Suarez	New York, II	2026
The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ex Officio	North Carolina, IV	

## Staff Management Team

- The Rev. Scott Gunn, Executive Director
- Ms. Lindsay Barrett-Adler, Director of Development
- Ms. Tania Z. Jones, Executive Assistant and Human Resources Specialist
- Ms. Kathy Jose, Director of Business Operations
- Ms. Miriam McKenney, Director of Mission
- Mr. Jason Merritt, Marketing Director
- Ms. Loren Dixon, Director of RenewalWorks

## Changes in Membership

Robert Hendrickson, Kelli Martin, Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Jason Sierra, and Eva Suarez were all appointed to the board. Since our last report, Jean Beniste, Clyde Kunz, and Julie Thomas left the board as terms expired.

## Representation at General Convention

Deputy Kate Bond, Deputy Scott Gunn, and Bishop Susan Brown Snook are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this Report at the General Convention.

## Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors is grateful to donors who support Forward Movement with generous financial gifts. These gifts allow Forward Movement to send almost 100,000 printed copies of material each year to prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, and military bases. Donor gifts also allow Forward Movement to provide discipleship and evangelism resources such as podcasts, apps, and websites free of charge.

## Mandate

An agency of the Episcopal Church, Forward Movement was chartered by the 51<sup>st</sup> 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. About sixteen (16) 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, create online resources, organize conferences, market materials, 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. Perhaps we are known most widely for *Forward Day by Day*, a popular daily devotional published continuously since 1935. While about 90% of subscribers are in the Episcopal Church, this publication is also read in the Anglican Church of Canada, by Anglicans around the world, and by Christians and seekers of all sorts. 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.

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 Book of Genesis during the Epiphany season 2024. Visit the Good Book Club website ([www.goodbookclub.org](http://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 still sell 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.

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 over 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. Founded by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, RenewalWorks is expanding under the leadership of its current director, Ms. Loren Dixon, to offer more resources to congregations.

The current combined annual budget is now about \$2.5 million. 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.

To learn more about Forward Movement and its work, please visit [www.forwardmovement.org](http://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.