

# Episcopal Generations Booth at General Convention

The Episcopal Generations Booth - and all that it set in motion - was the result of a Planning Team made up of five generations of Episcopalians. Each was deeply gifted, motivated, faith-formed and willing take on the very difficult task of living and working faithfully out of personal experiences and contexts, while also becoming open and respectful towards those who have other experiences and contexts. In other words, the Planning Team was able to “Mind the Gap” enough so that the Spirit could work.

The Booth Planning Team learned from their experiences of “the generation gap.” The gap wasn’t simply funny, or something far-off in a more remote (safe) category of social justice, or advances in technology, or even theology.

The gaps are much more about intimate concerns of comfort, identity, security, connection, meaning, welcome, exclusion, or the lack there-of, as they pertain to being part of the Church of Episcopal Generations.

With this theme at the center of the work, the Episcopal Generations Booth incorporated this playful and recognizable slogan, “Mind the Gap,” throughout the booth’s elements.

Planning team members were:

- The Rev. Les Carpenter
- Sarah Midzalkowski
- Kate McKey
- Kathryn Rickert
- Janie Stevens
- Bronwyn Skov
- Ruth Ann Collins
- Jason Sierra and
- The Rev. Daniel Brown.

## Booth Elements

Several cartoons, brainstormed by the group and authored by Jason Sierra, were displayed around the perimeter of the booth that depicted examples of generation gaps. Questions for conversation about how to identify and bridge each of the gaps were articulated as a beginning place for discussions.

Several of the cartons can be viewed at <http://episcopalgenerations.wordpress.com/category/general-convention/>.

The group is also working on developing a study guide for this resource to be offered as a vehicle for congregational conversations, adult forums, and study groups. Release of the guides will be announced by the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team in winter of 2012/13.



The Booth used daily themes based on the Charter for Lifelong Learning. They were:

- **July 3, 4 & 5 centered on “Invite”:** God invites all people to enter a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service to hear the Word of God through scripture, to honor church teachings and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, to respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, reflecting our diversity and cultures and to hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the gospel message. The Booth provided a variety of playing cards, books, and drawing materials for participants to create an invitation to experiencing God.
- **July 6 & 7 centered on “Inspire”:** God inspires all people to experience Anglican liturgy, to study Scripture, to develop new learning experiences and to prepare for a sustainable future. Play-Doh® was provided for people to mold as they were inspired.
- **July 8 & 9 centered on “Transform”:** By doing the work Jesus calls us to do, carrying out God’s work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace; by striving to be a loving and witnessing community, by seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration, and by holding all accountable to lift every voice to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Booth also incorporated the Five Marks of Mission and the Baptismal Covenant which are embedded in the Charter for Lifelong Learning.

### Interactivity

“Interactivity” was incorporated into many of the activities” especially the Play-Doh® and the Godly Play story. These activities often led to meaningful and substantive conversations on God, Spirit, church and other theological topics with those who stopped to explore.

“A Rite for the Blessing of Episcopal Generations Cards” was one of the examples of unintended outcomes!

### Connectivity

As with all Exhibit areas, some walked right by the booth but more often than not they stopped and were very clearly drawn into the issues and questions around minding the gap. This is clearly a topic that is at the heart of the church - one that engages the hearts and minds of faithful Episcopalians across the DFMS. The decks of playing cards, Episcopal Generations, worked very well when we used them as a way to begin a conversation and to meet people.



## Engagement

Going beyond simply connecting, more than a few people returned to the booth day after day to continue conversations about the gap.

## Inquiry

The Booth was a place of questions. Some folks came by just to ask “how to” or “where to find” kinds of questions.

In addition, the Booth was a place of developing clarity around the “Generations” branding. Use of the word “Generations” is a little confusing to folks who are not on the inside of the church.

## Budget/Actuals

Pre-Convention meeting expenses	\$ 140.94
Pre-Convention travel	\$ 1,450.50
Materials	\$15,937.10
Travel expenses	\$ 1,651.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,180.12</b>

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\* This report is based on a full report from the Episcopal Generations Booth. The full report is available by contacting Valerie Harris, Associate for the Formation and Vocation Ministries Team at [vharris@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:vharris@episcopalchurch.org).

