

Building a Legacy
Honoring The Reverend Canon Gordon Yeaton Jr.
Concept and Proposal

A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

Concept

Passionately connected to his community, Gordon Yeaton was a devoted man of God. He believed that every person is integral to completing the mosaic that is God's perfect masterpiece. He filled his lifetime with service, declaring his beliefs through his actions.

Rev. Yeaton was a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles until his death in 2007. His commitment to educating young people is legendary. He was also an avid supporter of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, CA, where he volunteered for several years (refer to attached biography.)

A fitting tribute to Rev. Gordon Yeaton and his life work is to build a Habitat home in his honor providing a simple, decent home for a young family with children. Having it built by Episcopalian hands of all ages would honor him completely.

Proposal

Establish a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership between the Episcopal Church and Habitat for Humanity. The first demonstration of this alliance will be the building of a Habitat home in honor of Rev. Gordon Yeaton in Westminster, CA. Framing of the home will take place at and during 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Anaheim, CA.

Transported to and completed at its permanent location in Westminster, the "Episcopal Home" will stand as declaration of Christ's love expressed through the Church.

Habitat for Humanity

Located in Santa Ana, CA, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County (HfHOC) is a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. HfHOC has constructed 130 affordable, ownership homes in Orange County for qualified families. The faith community in Orange County has embraced Habitat's ministry. City governments, businesses, foundations and individuals also provide financial support.

HfHOC tithes to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI.) This tithe has contributed toward the completion of over 300,000 Habitat homes around the world.

Clinging to the belief that it takes a community to raise a child, Habitat raises homes so children may thrive in a secure and stable environment. Habitat is an ecumenical Christian ministry, serving all people without regard to personal creeds.

Qualified families purchase Habitat homes at an affordable price. These families have exhibited social and civic responsibility. They are legal residents of the USA, have stable employment and good credit. They contribute to their homes by paying 1% down, assuming long-term mortgages and completing 500 hours of “sweat equity” building Habitat homes. To assure their success, they attend homeownership courses. Volunteer mentors (“family partners”) assist them.

Benefits of Partnership

- Visible fulfillment of the theme of the 76th General Convention – Gordon Yeaton was the personification of ubuntu. Framing a home near the convention is a highly visible method to honor his connectedness to community.
- Positive media coverage – Habitat for Humanity maintains a solid reputation and brand. Partnering in a high profile manner will affirm the Episcopal Church’s devotion to the world community.
- Hands-on activity – Construction is immensely satisfying. The excitement and tangible results of participants’ efforts is unsurpassed.
- Team and community building – One of the greatest benefits of building a Habitat home is the sense of connectedness that naturally occurs. People must work as a team. Abiding relationships result. That connectedness can carry over into people’s home churches.
- Lasting value – Habitat homes stand as tributes to the people who built them with love and selflessness. For many years to come, participants of the 76th General Convention can drive past a home in Westminster CA and recall having put their faith into action in 2009.
- Global impact – As the relationship between the Episcopal Church and Habitat for Humanity is nurtured, local and global housing missions will grow and flourish. Collaborative efforts will strengthen both entities while serving humankind.

Fundraising and Friendraising

Building a Habitat home takes resources: financial and physical. Following are suggestions of ways to raise funds while engaging convention participants in a common goal:

- Buy-a-plank – Purchase lumber pieces used in the building. The purchaser can draw or write messages to the homeowners on the lumber and take pictures with it.
- LEGO® Home – Sell LEGO® pieces and build a gigantic, multi-level “home of the future” – one piece at a time.
- “Pennies for Home” – Youngsters create colorful wood houses they can take home for collecting change toward the Episcopal Home in California.
- \$7 for the Future – Request that each participant of the convention donate \$7 toward completing the Episcopal Home.
- Challenge the Dioceses – Each diocese is challenged with raising approximately \$2500 toward the building of the Episcopal Home.
- Recycle and Renew – Youth groups create recycling programs that can help finance completion of the Episcopal Home.
- Dine & Talk with Habitat International CEO – Jonathon Reckford, CEO of HFHI headquartered in Atlanta, GA believes in this partnership. On July 9, 2009, he would participate in the diocese-hosted dinner at the Nixon Library. He would also enjoy speaking with the young people at the Convention the same afternoon.

Expected Outcomes

- A common goal will unite participants of the 76th General Convention. The unity will continue at home churches.
- A highly visible and tangible project will generate an air of excitement and challenge.
- People of all ages and skill levels will contribute to the home.
- The life work of a fine man will be honored in a most fitting manner.
- Ubuntu will be displayed in real life.
- A wonderful family will have a simple, decent home where their children can grow and thrive. They will live in the house that love built.

Next Steps

Upon acceptance of this proposal, a memo of understanding will be created outlining the expectations and responsibilities of both the Episcopal Church and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Attachments:

Biography – The Reverend Canon Gordon Yeaton Jr.

Sponsorship Outline