



COMMUNITY OF THE  
CROSS OF NAILS

NORTH AMERICA

## Newsletter

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International Representatives Meeting  
Coventry, June 2017



Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,  
forgiving one another, as God in Christ  
forgave you. – Ephesians 4:32

# From the President of CCN-NA:

A story. A symbol. A space. A network.

For the 30+ plus years I have been connected with the Community of the Cross of Nails, I have been a part of multiple conversations that have tried to get to the heart of what the CCN is. What does it do? Why do people care? With many individuals working to be reconcilers in their churches and organizations, what difference does the Coventry-inspired community and network make in today's diverse and conflict-filled world?

In early June I traveled to Coventry for our regular gathering of international representatives from the U.S., U.K., Germany, Central Europe and South Africa. It is always a rich time to hear about the network in different parts of the world. We gathered in St. Michael's House in the shadow of the cathedral, the center of Coventry's reconciliation ministry, and participated in Morning Prayer and Evensong rhythms of the day.

I have now been to Coventry enough times to compile a memory of where I was in my life and journey as I sat in the ruins each time and walked throughout the cathedral. It is a place and space that still speaks to many and inspires. I return from each visit looking anew at my own community and context: How can I be a reconciler? The story of forgiveness over revenge, rebirth after destruction, resurrection after death is the lasting story of Coventry and our story today.

Why am I still involved with the CCN after so many years? We clearly are not the only network or institution talking of reconciliation. We are not the largest and clearly not the best funded. In fact, it seems that lately many have woven the word "reconciliation" into job titles, departments and projects. And maybe that is the reason. The Community of the Cross of Nails offers a humble witness to many today coming to this work in new ways. We have been speaking and working the language of forgiveness since the early days when the smoke was still rising from the smoldering cathedral in WWII. And, the CCN is what we want to make of it and become.

A story. A symbol. A space. A network. Perhaps that is enough in today's world to keep moving forward and being in conversation.

I welcome your thoughts.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton  
President

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## Membership Dues

Membership dues and other gifts help fund the reconciliation ministry at Coventry Cathedral and go towards the support of our American intern. They provide for a tangible way for each of us to strengthen the work of this global network.

Please return the form included in this newsletter. An even better way to give is to visit our website at <http://www.crossofnails-na.org/> and contribute online through PayPal. Giving online provides you with a quick and easy receipt for your tax records.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

# Welcome to Our New Partners:



## Gethsemane Episcopal Church

Gethsemane Episcopal Church was welcomed into the Community of the Cross of Nails on March 19, 2017. We were very happy to host Dean John Witcombe of England's Coventry Cathedral and Dean John Downey of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie, Pennsylvania, who made the presentation to us. The Cross of Nails now rests in a special location at the front of the sanctuary, just to the right of the altar.

Gethsemane has been hosting reconciliation events in Marion, Indiana, for almost a decade. We have discussed issues such as women's role in the church, human sexuality, a Christian attitude toward politics, and most recently racial reconciliation. We have a team of people who work on these projects, usually around a dozen and involving students from two local Christian colleges.

Our affiliation with the Cross of Nails links us with a worldwide community of reconcilers. It inspires us to know that the things we do locally are being repeated internationally by people who also take seriously the Gospel call to bring about reconciliation. It helps us here because it gives us visibility and credibility. It's easier now to work with the colleges on projects in our city. Our next project will look at poverty, how to relate to and work with people with less than we have. This plays into our recent focus on racial reconciliation as well, as Marion has a high percentage of poverty among its minority population.

Marion has been defined for years by a lynching that took place at the town hall in 1930. When Dean John Witcombe was here, he commented that the narrative of unjust suffering stemming from the lynching should be turned around, so that our community would be known for the reconciliation that came in its wake. Because of our affiliation with the Cross of Nails, we believe we can make that vision into reality.

The Rev. James Warnock, Rector

## Virginia Theological Seminary

On the December 2, 2016, during the CCN North America Board meeting, Dean John presented a Cross of Nails to Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) in Alexandria, Virginia, USA.

The Center for Anglican Communion Studies at VTS works on three imperatives: Reconcile, Reflect, and Resource. Each of these imperatives aligns with the priorities of the CCN: healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity, and building a culture of peace.







# A Note from Our Coventry Intern: Haley Jones

“Reconciliation is a journey in the context of a community; it’s about the pilgrimage that you take from the hurt or trauma of wrongdoing to the possibility of new relationships through intentional encounter.”

If you have spent time at Coventry Cathedral, you have learned and been witness to the importance of pilgrimage on the reconciliation journey. We do not refer to reconciliation as a process, because there aren’t linear steps to reconciling people or groups of people who are in conflict. Reconciliation is a journey in the context of a community; it’s about the pilgrimage that you take from the hurt or trauma of wrongdoing to the possibility of new relationships through intentional encounter. When we envision reconciliation like a pilgrimage, we make room for the necessity to move slower when the terrain is too painful, bring friends to carry us when we cannot carry ourselves, celebrate when we’ve neared the destination of inner healing, and turn around to look back at how far we’ve come.

When I reflect on my two years at Coventry Cathedral on the Reconciliation Ministry Team, I see it as its own pilgrimage in reconciliation learning. My seminary education provided me with theological study for exploring reconciliation and conflict transformation, but by the time I graduated I was certain that I needed to be immersed in a ministry that was seeking to teach and engage people in *living* reconciliation. I needed a practice that could run parallel to what I had studied and discussed in the classroom. While on the Reconciliation Ministry Team, my main role has been in the development of the program at St Michael’s House, an international center for reconciliation. It’s been a great gift to be a part of each stage of dreaming, visioning, and implementation.

Over the last two years, I have been a partner in creating a regular lecture series, helped develop a series of reconciliation workshops, facilitated difficult conversation circles, and written an *Introduction to Reconciliation* curriculum for the Bishop’s Certificate in Discipleship and Ministry course. My hope at Coventry Cathedral was to put my knowledge into practice, and I was able to succeed in that goal by developing, leading, teaching, and facilitating reconciliation education. My pilgrimage to Coventry has provided me with a more articulated understanding of reconciliation as well as vocation into the ministry that seeks to build bridges across divides.

I’m grateful to the North American Board of the Community of the Cross of Nails for their continued support over the two years.



# Healing the Wounds of History

## A Community of the Cross of Nails Encounter and Pilgrimage

Miami, Florida and Cuba  
February 1-2, 2018 (Miami)  
February 3-10 (Cuba)



The Board of the Community of the Cross of Nails-North America will gather in Miami, Florida, on Thursday and Friday, February 1-2 for its annual meeting. After the meeting, those who are able and interested are invited to journey to Cuba from Saturday, February 3, to Saturday, February 10. Both the Miami and Cuba portions of the experience are open to all, but space is limited and priority given (as space allows) to current and past members of the CCN. One can choose to participate in either or both portions of the pilgrimage.

The first part of the experience will be centered in the “Little Havana” section of Miami. Our intention is to meet with Cuban Americans of different generations whose lives were and continue to be impacted by the 1959 Cuban Revolution and subsequent waves of hundreds of thousands of Cuba émigrés to the U.S. For decades an influential core of the Cuban American community in Miami has opposed rapprochement of the U.S. with Cuba under Castro rule. Younger generations of Cuban Americans are changing their views about Cuba.

While in Cuba we will visit the two Cross of Nails centers established back in the late 1980s: the Cathedral in Havana and St. Mary’s in Santiago de Cuba. These CCN partners based in Episcopal churches will allow the Cuba portion of the pilgrimage to look at the broad social and political realities impacting continued strained relationships between the two nations and will also provide a vantage point to look at the interconnected history of the Cuban Episcopal Church and the U.S.-based Episcopal Church as conversations continue to welcome the Cuban church back into The Episcopal Church.

To join the Cuba portion of this trip, you must submit your information and check no later than August 31, 2017.

For more information contact The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton at [mpendleton22@gmail.com](mailto:mpendleton22@gmail.com).

# Days of the Round Table



For several years, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, a CCN Partner in Raleigh, NC, has been offering hospitality to individuals experiencing food and housing insecurity.

The initiative began as a “Back Door Ministry.” Church members donated food for simple bag lunches. Volunteers staffed a table near the rear, weekday entrance two afternoons per week to hand them out, along with city bus tickets. Although this ministry filled a need, Pullen’s outreach ministers found something missing: space and time indoors to eat, talk, and rest, family-style. Also Pullen was missing an opportunity to get to know these neighbors, and try to bridge a divide of difference.

Now guests are invited into the Fellowship Hall for the “Round Table Ministry.” They come and go as they wish, every Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00–3:00 pm. Most sit at tables—inside where it is cool (or warm), or outdoors if they prefer—for a hodgepodge but nourishing meal donated by Pullen, the local food bank, area restaurants, and other churches. One recent day’s dishes were cheese quesadillas, broccoli and vegetable salad, cherries, biscuits, banana bread, and pasta salad, along with coffee, sweet tea, and lemonade. In summer 2017, the monthly number served averaged 800.

Among the blessings have been opportunities for guests, volunteers, and pastors to connect and minister to each other. A woman learns that another Round Table friend has lost his 34-year-old son to a sudden heart attack, and grieves for the friend, despite never having met the son. The mother of an adult son with developmental disabilities brings him for lunch and fellowship, and afterward they will walk to a nearby library, where she hopes to apply online for financial aid to return to community college. Volunteers and guests alike greet each other with a hug, and know each other’s names. They share photos of family and pets. Some guests help to serve or clean up. One young man, homeless, had been on the road for months after coming out as gay and being cast out by his conservative Christian family. At his request, a Pullen minister connected with the family by phone, and over several months, in the space of calm reminders that God is love, the young man and his family were able to reconcile so that he could return home.

There is a relaxed feel in the room, which the guests have said is unusual in the places they frequent for assistance. The Round Table offers belonging.

*"What does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* —Micah 6:8

Erin Newton  
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church





# Coventry Pilgrimage

October  
3rd-6th 2017  
(register by 1st Sept)

Come and join partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails from around the world, share stories of reconciliation and healing, and rediscover the unique and timeless experience of Coventry Cathedral

*"Our time in Coventry and the people we were with are still inspiring us. It was a truly fulfilling time and will long be with us".*

*Member of the  
Neuendettelsau Deaconry,  
Germany*

Cost:  
£150 per person

Sign up at [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/pilgrimage](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/pilgrimage)



# CCN North America: Board of Directors

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## Share your Stories & Resources!

We would love to hear about the work of reconciliation you are doing in your community! Please share them with us and we'll include them on the website, Facebook and in the annual newsletter!

We would also love to share your favorite tools, books, go-to websites, or articles for teaching or learning about reconciliation.

Email stories, resources, and tools to The Rev. Mark Pendleton at  
[mpendleton22@gmail.com](mailto:mpendleton22@gmail.com)

**CCN – North America**

Church of the Good Shepherd

P.O. Box 145

Lookout Mtn, TN 37350