

A Vision for Episcopal Church Women

*Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church
is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages,
coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church.
We aspire to be a God spark* - shining and sharing the love of Christ.*

** The core self, the part of us made in God's image, spirit and soul.*

This Vision Statement was developed by the 2003-2006 National Episcopal Church Women Board as part of a discussion about their future. The role of women in the Church and the world continues to change and that impacts the heart and soul of Episcopal Church Women. The Board recognized that the focus and activities would have to change to adjust to those changes.

Verna Dozier, theologian and Biblical scholar, said, "Don't tell me what you believe; tell me what difference it makes that you believe." The National Board of Episcopal Church Women recognized the importance of this statement and has consequently called every Episcopal woman into action to make a difference. This is something women do effectively as individuals, but think of the difference that we can make when we come together to do so. *What are the women in your congregation doing to make a difference?* Think of the lives that can be touched in fellowship, with spiritual growth and through outreach. *Are these opportunities being offered in an organized and consistent way in your church?*

Jesus understood the importance of being in community and combining the spiritual gifts given to each of us through the Holy Spirit. We are the Body, working together. Working together we will make a difference. A *Call to Action*, or more simply a plan for activities, should be developed around the local focus and passion. The National Board has developed a Call to Action focused on Literacy, Non-Violence, Leadership Development and Interfaith Education as indicated in the enclosed *Call to Action* brochure which may or may not meet your needs. The idea is that if the number of focus areas were minimized, nationally we would be maximizing the difference we were making. In the same way, the women of your congregation can maximize the difference they are making by coming together to be a "God spark" as envisioned by the National Board.

God, make a fresh start in me. Shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

Psalm 51:10 The Message