

# UBUNTU - GENERAL CONVENTION 2009

**Our Episcopal Church  
is a part of the world-wide Anglican Communion  
with churches on six continents.**

**General Convention of the Episcopal Church  
meets during July 7 through 17, 2009.**

**We can explore what this huge gathering  
means for our congregation and for us.**

**Some web sites you may want to check out:  
(These will not be "links" but you can copy them onto your browser.)**

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm>

The Ubuntu Logo for General Convention:

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009\\_96805\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009_96805_ENG_HTM.htm)

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anglican\\_Communion\\_corrected.gif](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anglican_Communion_corrected.gif)

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EpiscopalChurch-Diocesesmap.png>

<http://www.heifer.org>

<http://www.er-d.org>



**LET'S BEGIN**  
Gathered:  
Us and God



**LET'S PRAY**  
Together:  
Us and God



**LET'S CHECK IN**  
How did  
*your* day go?



**BIBLE STORY**  
Clues for our decisions



**LET'S CHOOSE**  
Activities  
that work for us



**CLOSING PRAYER**  
Until next time: Bye!

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families:  
We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell.

Book of Common Prayer, page 828.

Scripture References: The New Revised Standard Version Bible published by the  
Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.



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# Ubuntu - General Convention 2009



**LET'S BEGIN:** General Convention (July 7-17) has as its theme: "Ubuntu" (U-boon-to): A person is a person through other persons." We can look into what this concept might mean to the convention and to us.



**LET'S PRAY:** Help us, God, to see ways each of us is a person through other persons. Amen.



**LET'S CHECK IN:** We can share an act of generosity we have recently received or observed.



**BIBLE STORY: JOHN 14:18-20** Read it or tell it like this: Jesus was getting his friends ready to take on the work he had begun. He wanted them to know they would not be left alone. "We are in this together," Jesus said. "God is in you, I am in you, and you are in us."

**UBUNTU:** The concept of Ubuntu comes to us from Africa. If someone has Ubuntu they are generous, hospitable, friendly, and share what they have.

**WONDERING TOGETHER:** What do I think it means that I am a person through other persons? What does it mean for all of us to be in this together?



**LET'S CHOOSE:** We can decide which activities to do.



**THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION:** The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion with 77 million members in over 160 countries-- almost every country in the world. The map on the "wikipedia" web site shows which countries have members.



**JESUS LOVES YOU:** We could find out how to say "Jesus Loves You" in some of the languages used in the Anglican Communion. Google: "Jesus Loves You in different languages." Who do we know who speaks one of these languages?



**UBUNTU SIGHTING:** We can "catch" each other being generous. We can also be on the lookout for generous acts we see in our community (we might even find some on the news).



**KUDOBA** (a game played in Zimbabwe): Sit in a circle, a bowl with the marbles in the center. First player takes a marble, tosses it into the air (not too high!) and picks up as many marbles as possible before catching the tossed marble. Take turns. The winner is the one who ends up with the most marbles.



**DUKKAH** (a snack from the Middle East): Toast in an oven for about 10-15 minutes, the first four ingredients (listed in the box). Then place all the ingredients in a clean kitchen towel and pound them until they are in small pieces and mixed together. Put the Dukkah in a bowl and dip pieces of bread in olive oil and then into the Dukkah. Enjoy.



**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, God for the amazingly diverse people around the world who are part of the Anglican Communion with us. Amen.

## UNIT ONE Some things that may help

Bible

web site: Wikipedia map of Anglican Communion

a metal bowl  
approximately 20 marbles

Ingredients for Dukkah:

- 1 cup shelled pistachio nuts
- 1 cup almonds
- 1 T. whole coriander seeds
- 1 T. whole cumin seeds
- ½ tsp. dried thyme
- ¼ cup sesame seeds
- ¼ tsp salt



THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION



# Ubuntu - General Convention

## UNIT TWO

### Some things that may help

Bible

web site: Wikipedia map of the Dioceses of the Episcopal Church

Sidewalk chalk



**LET'S BEGIN:** We can find follow General Convention where almost 1000 members of the House of Deputies and 300 members of the House of Bishops will meet.



**LET'S PRAY:** Show us, God, how to pray for the people meeting as the Episcopal Church.



**LET'S CHECK IN:** If we were going to describe the Episcopal Church to someone who just landed on our planet, what things could we tell that person?



**BIBLE STORY: ROMANS 12:5:** Read it or tell it like this: Paul says the church is a whole bunch of people. Each person is different and yet each one is also a part of the whole Body of Christ, which is the Church.

Hospitality is another mark of Ubuntu. People who speak Spanish, French or Chinese (as well as other languages) will be at convention.

**WONDERING TOGETHER:** What ways is our church better because we belong? What might it feel like to be in a city where all the signs are in a language we do not know well?



**LET'S CHOOSE:** We can decide which activities to do.



**THE TWO HOUSES:** Most dioceses send 4 clergy (priests or deacons) and 4 lay people (Christians who are not ordained) to the House of Deputies. With over 110 Dioceses, think about how many tables and chairs are necessary. Approximately 300 bishops attend the House of Bishops.



**OUR DEPUTIES AND BISHOPS:** Who are the deputies who will go from our diocese? Who are the bishops?



**WHAT WILL THEY DO?** They will hear people making a difference from many parts of our church, vote on resolutions about caring for our environment and sharing our resources, and approve a budget for the church. Resolutions have to be approved in both houses.



**TRIVIA QUIZ:** We could quiz people at our church. In addition to the United States, how many countries have churches in The Episcopal Church? (14) When was the first woman seated as a deputy? (1970)



**ESCARGOT GAME:** Children in France play a game like Hopscotch. Escargot is French for "snail." Draw the escargot as shown here, using sidewalk chalk. The first person hops in each space then puts their initials in one space. The next person hops through but cannot hop on the initialed space. That person then gets to initial a space. The game is over when it is no longer possible to hop through the spaces.



**UBUNTU SIGHTING:** We can be on the look out for people who are being hospitable and thank them.

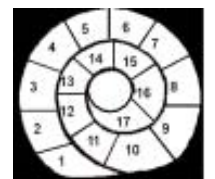


**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, God, for all the people who give their time to do all the work of our church. Amen.



SHIELD OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ESCARGOT GAME



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# Ubuntu - General Convention



**LET'S BEGIN:** We can find out more about who "we" are in the Episcopal Church.



**LET'S PRAY:** Help us, God, to discover our part as members of the Episcopal Church.



**LET'S CHECK IN:** We can each mention one thing we really like about our church.



**BIBLE STORY: ROMANS 12:5:** Read it or tell it like this: Paul was trying to explain how we can each be unique and still be a part of the body of Christ. God wants us to be who we are; each of us is needed in our church.

A person with Ubuntu is friendly and cares about people.

**WONDERING TOGETHER:** Who do we know who is genuinely friendly? Who do we know that would think *we* are friendly?



**LET'S CHOOSE:** We can decide which activities to do.



**UBUNTU SIGHTING:** Who could we "surprise" by our being friendly? Who could we discover who does not seem to be appreciated (a tired clerk in a supermarket, someone in our neighborhood who lives alone)? We can look for opportunities and then surprise someone with a complement or a written thank you.



**CHECKING OUT CONVENTION:** Deputies and bishops receive resolutions. Some resolutions come from committees, some began as a conversation in a local church and go forward through the deputies or the bishops. Some resolutions affect the way we do things in our local parishes (what set of Scriptures to use on a Sunday, for example), others affect the way we live out our call to be part of the whole body of Christ (choosing to help people in developing countries with their most basic needs). We can go online to check out which resolutions are dealt with at convention and which ones pass. <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009>.



**OUR CHURCH IN THE WORLD:** We could check out web sites that show some of the things The Episcopal Church is doing in the world: <http://www.globalgood.org>. (Practical resources to help reduce poverty and sustain the environment).



**TAPATAN GAME:** We can draw a gameboard, like the one shown, to make a game that is played in the Philippines and in Sweden. We will need three pennies, three nickles and a game board for each two people who want to play. Players take turns putting their pieces on an empty point. When all six pieces are on the board, players take turns moving a piece along a line to the next empty point. The pieces can be moved up or down or diagonally but cannot jump over a piece. The person getting three in a row first wins the game. Keep on playing while it is fun.



**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, God, for the work you give The Episcopal Church to do in our world. Amen.

## UNIT THREE

### Some things that may help

Bible

web sites:

[www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009)

[www.globalgood.org](http://www.globalgood.org)

paper and markers  
or crayons

Tapatan Game  
(drawn on paper)  
three pennies and  
three nickles  
per team of two people



TAPATAN GAME



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# Ubuntu - General Convention



**LET'S BEGIN:** We continue to explore ways we belong to the Episcopal Church.



**LET'S PRAY:** Help us, God, to see what you call us to do as part of your church. Amen



**LET'S CHECK IN:** We can each tell about the coolest thing someone shared with us recently.



**BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 28:18-20:** Read it or tell it like this: Jesus said to those who have been following him: "The job is now yours. Show people what you have learned as we have been together. And don't worry: I will be with you as you do this work."



**WONDERING TOGETHER:** Who are some people who have shared with us what they know about Jesus? Who are some people who have discovered things about Jesus from us?



**LET'S CHOOSE:** We can decide which activities to do.

**A SHIELD FOR US:** Using the pattern we see here, we can draw a shield and put in symbols for things we see our own church doing to be a part of the "job" Jesus has given us. What are some ways we share with people who have less than we do? Ways our church shares?



**AND THE WINNER IS:** When General Convention has completed its work, we can check out things it has accomplished and decide how we can help make these things happen.



**UBUNTU SIGHTING:** We can be watching for places where people are sharing with each other. We can also look for examples in news reports.



**JUST FOR FUN:** We can create our own "hand game" similar to Rock, Scissors, Paper. We can make up our own motions. The ones seen here can give us some ideas. We can decide what "wins" over what, and play the game while it is still fun.



**OUR FAMILY SHARING PROJECT:** We may decide to select a way we, as a family, can share in our community or in a country that needs our help. Maybe we will purchase a non-perishable food item each week to give to a food pantry. We might decide to collect coins until we can purchase an animal for Heifer ([www.heifer.com](http://www.heifer.com)) or to send to Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)) to use where it is needed.



**OUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT:** We might decide to make some changes that will help heal our planet earth. Where could we walk rather than use a car? How many lights do we really need to have on in our house, and what kinds of light bulbs do we use? What could we do to waste less water?



**CLOSING PRAYER:** Thank you, God, for all those who served at our General Convention and for the work you give us to do. Amen

## UNIT FOUR

### Some things that may help

Bible

web sites:

[www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009)

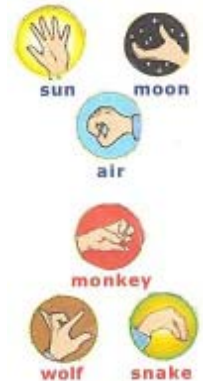
[www.heifer.com](http://www.heifer.com)

[www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)

paper and markers  
or crayons



OUR SHIELD



HAND GAMES



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