

Overcoming the Conflict Myth

{ Engaging Science, Technology & Faith
at the Grassroots

What is the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)?

Overview:

- Independent and lay-led foundation
- ECF's mission is to strengthen the leadership and financial capabilities of Episcopal congregations, dioceses, and other institutions
- ECF carries out this mission through a wide array of programs including...



Leadership Resources

- ECF Vital Practices (ecfvp.org)
- Vestry Resource Guide
- Fellowship Partners Program
- Vital Teams
- Educational Events

Financial Resources

- Capital Campaigns
- Planned Giving
- Endowment Management
- Funding Future Ministry
- Educational Events

ECF Fellowship Partners Program

Innovative scholars and ministry leaders transform lives.

Since 1964 the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) has provided financial support to emerging scholars and ministry leaders throughout the Episcopal Church. In addition to financial support, ECF helps these individuals to share their knowledge, experience, and best practices with the wider Church in practical ways.

Open to both lay and ordained Episcopalians, ECF builds a relationship with Fellows not only when they are receiving financial support, but over the long haul, so that our community of Fellows may serve as a gift and resource to the Church in serving God's mission.



– *Précis* –

⌘ **Part I:** Brief overview of the issues

⌘ What's the prevailing common opinion? What's the academic consensus?

⌘ **Part II:** How does *The Episcopal Church* approach the issues?

⌘ Orientation, organization, mechanisms

~ *Brief discussion / Q&A* ~

⌘ **Part III:** Practical pointers for dialogue

⌘ Ideas and resources for parish/diocesan engagement

⌘ **Part IV:** Group discussion/sharing

⌘ Questions, ideas, best practices

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARDS IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SETTLE THE FIGHT THAN WITH TWO PAIR OF GLOVES ON A SATURDAY NIGHT!

WHO WILL WIN?



IT'S MAN VS. MONKEY
IN AN ALL OUT BRAWL!



SCIENCE VS. RELIGION

A.K.A. DARWINISM A.K.A. THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

A.K.A. CREATIONISM A.K.A. INTELLIGENT DESIGN

THE WINNER WILL DECIDE ONCE AND FOR ALL HOW WE ACTUALLY GOT HERE!
THE BIBLE BELT IS UP FOR GRABS!

ONLY ON PAY-PER-VIEW!

NO PART OF THIS POSTER OR THE BIBLE BELT IS TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © 2005 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARDS.

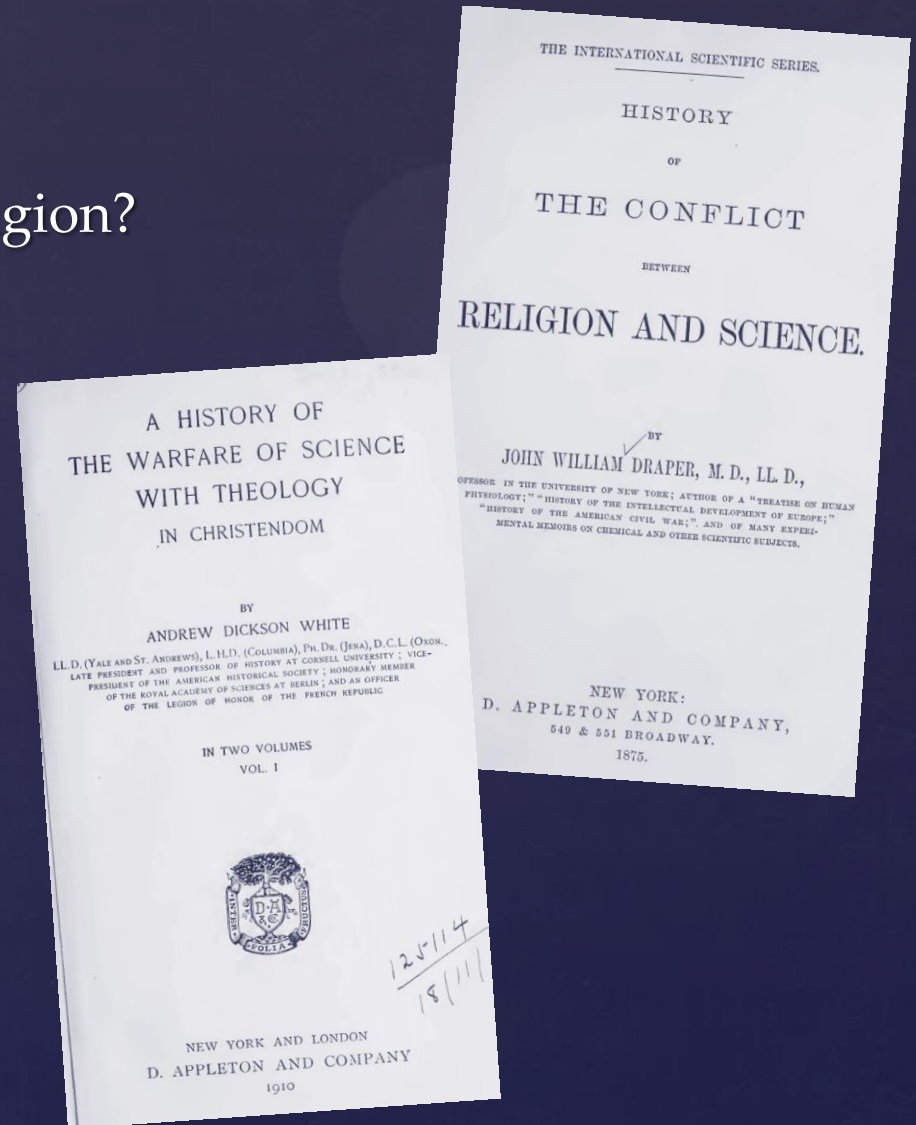
Deconstructing the “conflict myth”...

⌘ **WAR** between science and religion?

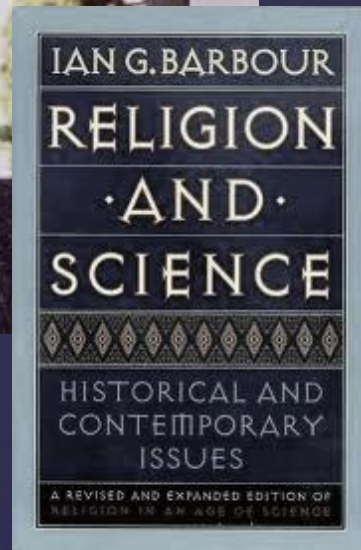
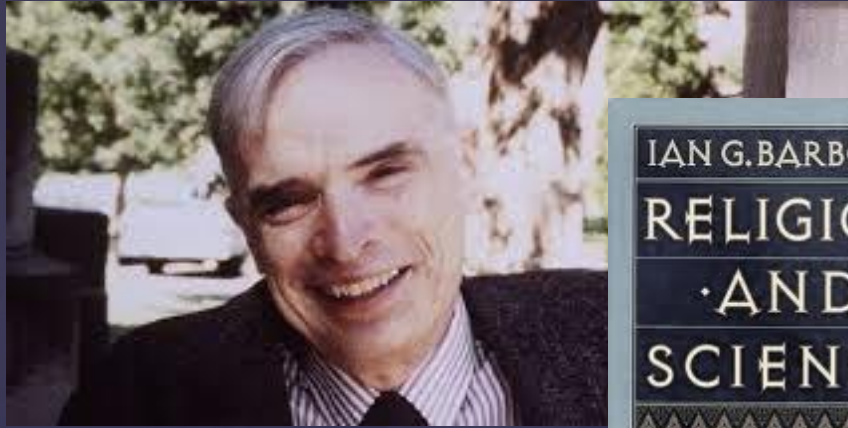
⌘ So where does it come from?

⌘ Draper-White and the origins of the “conflict myth”

⌘ *Historians*: more complicated, more exciting



Deconstructing the “conflict myth”...



Conflict

Independence

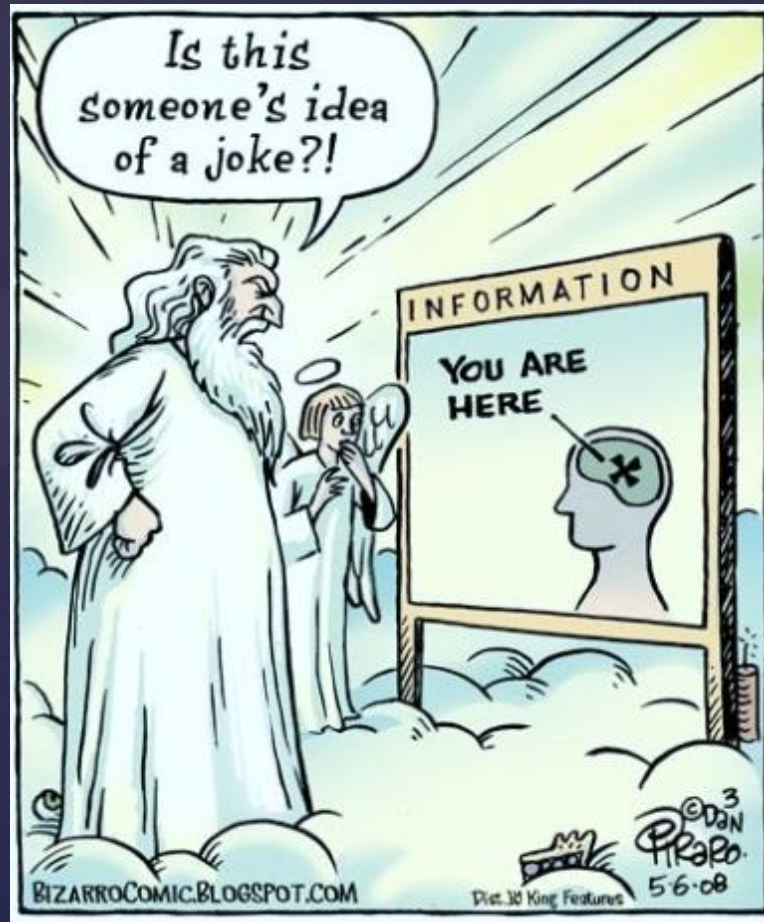
Dialogue

Integration

Barbour's four-fold typology

Deconstructing the “conflict myth”...

& *Philosophers*: reductionism, materialism,
naturalism (methodological vs. metaphysical)



& *Theologians*: truth does not contradict truth,
legitimate spheres of inquiry (*fides et ratio*)

Engaging the Episcopal way...

⌘ GC77-Res. A136:

“Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith”

⌘ “The 77th General Convention affirms that *there is no inherent contradiction* between holding and practicing the Christian faith and practicing or utilizing the outcomes of science and medicine.”

⌘ “The proper practice of *science cannot and does not automatically lead its practitioners or others to lose faith in God*, or to be led into beliefs that contradict the existence of God.”

A136 Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith

<u>PROPOSER</u> Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith	<u>SPONSORED BY</u>
<u>ENDORSED BY</u>	<u>HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE</u> HD / Education
<u>PAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE</u> Blue Book: p. 621–622; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A	<u>REVIEW STATUS (PRAF, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)</u> None required
<u>CURRENT STATUS</u> Filed	

RESOLUTION TEXT

1 Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 77th General Convention
2 affirms that there is no inherent contradiction between holding and practicing the
3 Christian faith and practicing or utilizing the outcomes of modern science and
4 medicine; and be it further
5 Resolved, That this Convention affirms that certain characteristics of faith, most
6 explicitly the tenet that reason and tradition are essential to extending our
7 understanding of God's Creation, are mirrored in science; and be it further
8 Resolved, That in God's physical universe, the proper practice of science cannot
9 and does not automatically lead its practitioners or others to lose faith in God, or
10 to be led into beliefs that contradict the existence of God; and be it further
11 Resolved, That the methods of modern science, when applied to a search for
12 truth, contribute to our understanding of God's Creation such that we should use
13 scientific information, after diligence as to its acceptance among scientific peers

Engaging the Episcopal way...

⌘ Res. A136 (cont'd)

⌘ “The *methods of science*, when applied to a search for truth, *contribute to our understanding of God’s Creation* such that we should use scientific information, after diligence as to its acceptance among scientific peers in relevant disciplines, to inform and augment our understanding of God’s Creation, and to aid the Church in developing Christian programs and policies consistent with our faith and our understanding of God’s Creation and our stewardship of it.”

A136 Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith

PROGRAM
Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith

ENDORSED BY _____

DATE NUMBERED FOR REFERENCE
Blue Book: p. 621–622; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

CURRENT STATUS
FDed

SPONSORED BY _____

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
HD / Education

REVIEW STATUS (FROM CONSTITUTION, CANONS)
None required

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10 to be led into beliefs that contradict the existence of God; and be it further
11 Resolved, That the methods of modern science, when applied to a search for
12 truth, contribute to our understanding of God’s Creation such that we should use

⌘ “This Convention *encourages the dioceses and the parishes of The Episcopal Church to establish Christian education programs pertinent to this complementary relationship between science and faith.*”

Engaging the Episcopal way...



The screenshot shows the website for the Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith. At the top is the logo of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, featuring a shield with a cross and a chalice, surrounded by the text "THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH" and "A.D. 1785". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home, The General Convention, The Executive Council, CCABs, About, and GCO Extranet Login. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: ← Executive Council Committee or Commission. The title of the page is "Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology and Faith". Below the title is a navigation menu with tabs: Mandate, Roster, Meetings/Minutes, Documents, and Groups. The "Mandate" tab is selected. The text under the "Mandate" tab reads: "It shall be the duty of the Committee to identify, explore and recommend policies to General Convention and Executive Council regarding emerging issues in science and technology and their implications for Christian faith, life, and practice. Duties: • To represent the Church in ecumenical and other gatherings relating to its concerns • To facilitate education on the theological, scientific, and ethical implications of policy-related and other controversial issues • To serve as a resource for the House of Bishops and other Church bodies Membership".

- ⌘ Executive Council Committee on Science, Technology & Faith (ECCSTF)
 - ⌘ Mandate
 - ⌘ Composition
 - ⌘ Resolutions

Engaging the Episcopal way...

⌘ Episcopal Network for Science, Technology & Faith (ENSTF)

- ⌘ Mission
- ⌘ Officers
- ⌘ Local Chapters

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



NETWORK FOR
Science, Technology & Faith



⌘ Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & Faith

- ⌘ Annual gathering of TEC, ELCA, PCUSA, UCC, UMC, etc.

Interlude...

{ Discussion Q&A

Empowered for engagement...

↳ Ideas/resources for the parish

↻ Speaker series

- ↻ Academics, community leaders, scientists *in your pews*, ecumenical/interfaith panels

↻ Discussion groups / 'study circles'

↻ Curricula:

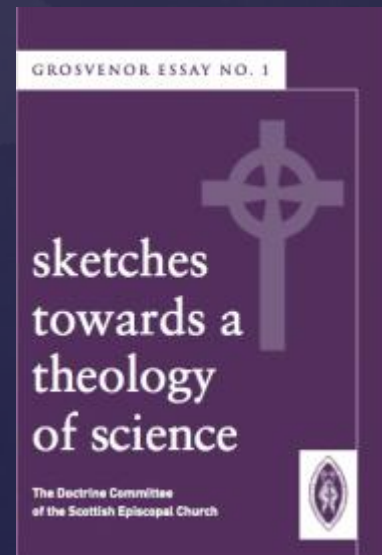
- ↻ 'Catechism of Creation'

↻ Essays/Books:

- ↻ 'Sketches towards a theology of science' (Episcopal Church of Scotland)
- ↻ ISSR Library/Companion

↻ Multimedia:

- ↻ 'Test of Faith'
- ↻ 'Painting the Stars:
Science, Religion,
and Evolving Faith'
- ↻ Faraday / Ian Ramsey
lectures/seminars



Empowered for engagement...

⌘ Ideas/resources for the parish (cont'd)

- ⌘ Lenten series

 - ⌘ Bp. Nick Knisely:

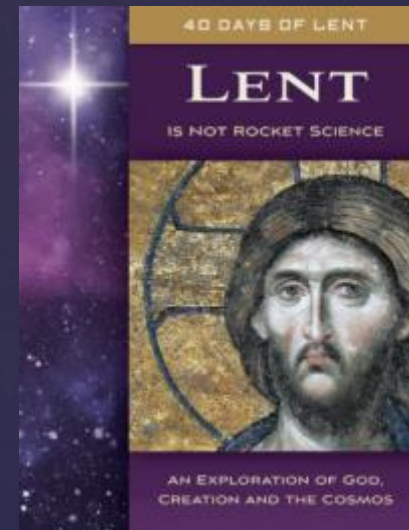
 - “Lent is not Rocket Science”

- ⌘ Youth/Confirmation

 - ⌘ Catechism & Confirmation

- ⌘ Campus ministry

- ⌘ Parish library



Empowered for engagement...

& Liturgy:

- ∞ Sermons (clergy *and* laity!)
- ∞ Collects
- ∞ Hymnody
- ∞ Tie-ins
 - ∞ Feast of...
 - ∞ Teilhard de Chardin (Apr. 10)
 - ∞ Copernicus/Kepler (May 23)
 - ∞ St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4)
 - ∞ CS Lewis (Nov. 22)
 - ∞ Lenten Carbon Fast

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning
(Words by The Reverend Thomas Troeger)

Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
With a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
Keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge
that our science and our art
And the breadth of human knowledge
only partial truth impart.

Far beyond o
lies a depth we
Where your purp
and the pulse o

UN-SCIENCE, NOT SCIENCE,
ADVERSE TO FAITH.

A SERMON

PREACHED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
ON THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY, 1878.

BY THE

REV. E. B. PUSEY, D.D.
REGIUS PROFESSOR OF HEBREW AND CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH.

Prayers for the Natural Order

40. For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Telegraph MIDDLE GEORGIA NEWS SOURCE

HOME NEWS SPORTS LIVING & ENTERTAINMENT OPINION PHOTO/VIDEO

Living & Entertainment > Religion

Episcopalian church in Warner Robins explores science/religion debate in sermons

BY PHILLIP RAMATI
pramati@telegraph.com May 10, 2014

Warner Robins — As a young lad, Ford Petersen was encouraged by his father to watch the original "Cosmos" TV series, created by Carl Sagan.

Petersen found the series fascinating thanks to Sagan's ability to make science accessible to a broad audience.

"When 'Cosmos' came out (in 1980), my father shared it with me," Petersen said. "I actually purchased the 'Cosmos' book. It was exciting to think about."

Petersen ultimately chose a religious life over a scientific one, becoming an Episcopalian minister. But the ideas raised in the original "Cosmos" never faded away, and when he heard that Fox was reviving the series with Neil deGrasse Tyson as host, he saw an opportunity.

"How often is there a question where (it's answered) by science or faith?" he said.



Father Scott Petersen of All Saints Episcopal Church in Warner Robins is delivering a

Empowered for engagement...

- ⌘ ENSTF Local Chapters: Parish/Deanery/Diocese
 - ⌘ Speaker series
 - ⌘ Discussion groups / 'study circles'
 - ⌘ Ecumenical/interfaith discussions
 - ⌘ Media outreach
- ⌘ Convention
 - ⌘ Resolutions, specialist/personal testimony

Resolution #5

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CLERGY LETTER PROJECT

Resolved, That the 39th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southeast Florida approve the following Resolution and support its submission to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CLERGY LETTER PROJECT

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention endorse The Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science, and urge Episcopal clergy participation in The Clergy Letter Project; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge Episcopal scientists to serve as technical consultants for members of the clergy as part of The Clergy Letter Project; and be it further

Resolved, That 76th General Convention reaffirm Resolution A129 of the 75th General Convention and oppose the introduction into the science curriculum of public schools of faith-based theories of creation such as Creationism, including Intelligent Design; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention strongly encourage participation by Episcopal parishes in the Annual Evolution Weekend sponsored by The Clergy Letter Project.

Explanation

Resolution A129 of the 75th General Convention affirmed that the theory of evolution "provides a fruitful and unifying scientific explanation for the emergence of life on earth [and] that many theological

Engaging the Episcopal way...

& Communications

⌘ Traditional media outlets

⌘ Social media

ST. LOUIS' #1 SOURCE FOR NEWS | PRINT EDITION | E EDITION | APPS
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
64° Clear
DOBBS
News Opinion Business Sports High Schools Entertainment Lifestyles Photos Autos Homes Jobs Find & Save
Classifieds
MAD MEN - BELLY JOEL - FAIR ST. LOUIS - B.B. KING - STL250 CAKES - BALLPARK VILLAGE - 'GAME OF THRONES' - 'THE VOICE' - F
Home / Lifestyles / Faith & Values / Civil Religion / The Rev. Pamela Dolan
Advanced Search | Privacy | About Our Ads
Rev. Pamela Dolan
AN EPISCOPALIAN BELIEF ST. LOUIS CONTRIBUTOR
Faith and science can work together for change
Recommend 233 Tweet 9 8-1 2 5 Shares 6 Print Email
April 04, 2014 12:25 pm - Pamela Dolan
A recent article about the new incarnation of the science show Cosmos and the ongoing influence of Carl Sagan quoted Paul Fidalgo, communications director for the Center for Inquiry: "He [Sagan] showed us that to marvel at life on our planet was to cherish it and work to preserve it. For that, we have to reject bad, old modes of thinking, look at the world as it really is rather than how we'd like to believe it is, and tackle the crises that face us."
As a Christian, let me just say this to that: Amen!

facebook
Episcopal Network for Science, Technology & Faith
Episcopal Network for Science, Technology & Faith
Community Page about The Episcopal Church
for Episcopalians interested in the intersection of science, technology, medicine, and faith.
1,206 Likes
Twitter
Episcopal Network for Science, Technology & Faith shared a link via The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. April 15
Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, theoretical physicist and Anglican priest, with some thoughts on 'destiny beyond death'... a fitting subject this week, no? A blessed #HolyWeek to all
A Destiny beyond Death?
John Polkinghorne gives a short interview based upon the themes of his
Comment Share
Amelia Hagen, John Francis Nash, Emily Besuden and 3 others like this.

Empowered for engagement...

Public Insight Network
AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA

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Search the site Search

221,201 sources

You have **knowledge** and **insights** that can help journalists cover the news in greater depth and uncover stories they might not otherwise find.

A Community of Joy in Jesus Christ!

SAINT MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Faith and science

The Episcopal Church generally favors scientific inquiry and discovery. Because we are not Scriptural literalists, we find plenty of room for both the traditions of the Christian faith, and scientific pursuits, although we believe it is essential for such pursuits to be ethical.

Notably, we find absolutely no contradiction between a Biblically-informed faith and the theory of evolution. Although the supreme governing body of the church, General Convention, has not definitively taken a singular position on the matter, generally, Episcopalians oppose efforts to undermine the teaching of the theory of evolution in public schools (and it is taught in science courses at Episcopal schools). Many have grave misgivings about efforts to introduce any religious-based curricula in public schools, and therefore do not subscribe to so-called "creation science" or "intelligent design."

It is vital for all scientific inquiry to be done in an ethical manner with sufficient oversight. Although

technology
science
faith

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL KNOWLEDGE FLOWS

By Joseph Wojcicki

Amid all of the headline-grabbing actions of The Episcopal Church's 77th General Convention, Resolution A1356 received comparatively little fanfare. Yet, for many interested in the interplay between science and faith, its passage is hugely significant. The crux of the resolution is encapsulated in its title, "Affirming the Compatibility of Science and the Christian Faith." The resolution opposes the all-too-common fallacy that science and religion are (and always have been) locked in inevitable and insurmountable conflict.

In *Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues*, Ian Barbour offered a "broad sketch" of the ways that science and religion have been understood to relate to one another! On his reading, conflict is but one way of conceptualizing the relationship. The others – independence (i.e., science and religion have different methods and/or use distinct languages), dialogue (i.e.,

and Christian faith" as an Act of Convention and, therefore, as a matter of official doctrine in The Episcopal Church. In so doing, the unequivocal statement moves The Episcopal Church to the forefront of conversations about science and religion.

BEYOND CONVENTION, INTO THE DAILY LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Act of Convention isn't just grit for the doctrinal mill. It also encourages the full participation of laity and clergy in the examination of the multifaceted relationship between science and faith, preempting "dioceses and parishes of The Episcopal Church to establish Christian education programs pertinent to the complementary relationship between science and faith."

What can the average parish or parishioner do? Here are a few suggestions.

& Communications

✧ *Personal/parochial/diocesan:*

✧ Social media, blogs, newsletters/magazines

✧ *Secular:*

✧ Op-eds, letters to the editor

✧ Local media coverage of parish events/activities

✧ 'Public insight' for NPR-affiliate

Empowered for engagement...

↳ Resources:

↻ ECCSTF:

↻ <http://www.generalconvention.org/ccab/mandate/368>

↻ ENSTF:

↻ <http://episcopalscience.org>

↻ <http://facebook.com/episcopalscience>

↻ <http://twitter.com/episcopsci> / @episcopsci

↻ ISSR Library/Companion:

↻ <http://www.issrlibrary.org>

↻ *ISSR Library Companion*: <http://books.google.com/books?id=mPwmLoLrVb0C>

↻ Academic centers:

↻ Faraday Institute for Science and Religion (Cambridge, UK):

<http://www.faraday.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk>

↻ Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion (Oxford, UK):

<http://www.ianramseycentre.info>

↻ Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (Berkeley, CA): <http://www.ctns.org>

↻ Zygon Center for Religion and Science (Chicago, IL): <http://zygoncenter.org>

Empowered for engagement...

⌘ Resources:

⌘ Video series:

- ⌘ Test of Faith: <http://www.testoffaith.com>
- ⌘ Living the Questions: “Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and Evolving Faith”:
<http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=485>

⌘ Curricula:

- ⌘ ENSTF ‘Catechism of Creation’
 - ⌘ <http://episcopalscience.org/resources/catechism-creation/>
- ⌘ ELCA ‘Faith and Science’ (3-session curriculum for youth):
 - ⌘ http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Faith_Science_Cirriculum.pdf
- ⌘ ELCA ‘Catechism’ (3-session curriculum for confirmation):
 - ⌘ http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Catechism_Curriculum.pdf
- ⌘ ELCA ‘Faith and Science in Dialogue’ (for college campus ministr)
 - ⌘ http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Campus_Ministry_Faith_Science.pdf

⌘ Sermon series:

- ⌘ Robinson College Chapel, Cambridge:
http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/chapel/sermons_6.php
- ⌘ The Clergy Letter Project: <http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/>

⌘ Technology and faith:

- ⌘ Techrament: <http://techrament.com>

⌘ The Society of Ordained Scientists (SOSC)

- ⌘ <http://www.ordainedscientists.org>

Empowered for engagement...

☞ Resources:

☞ Select articles/podcasts:

- ☞ Alvin Plantinga, “Science and Religion” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy):
 - ☞ <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/religion-science/>
- ☞ John Hedley Brooke, “Science and Religion: Lessons from History?” (Science):
 - ☞ <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/282/5396/1985.full>
- ☞ Peter Harrison, “Science and Religion,” Oxford University Podcast:
 - ☞ <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/peter-harrison-science-and-religion>
- ☞ “Misconceptions of science and religion found in new study” (re: study of Rice University sociologist, Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund, titled “Religious Understandings of Science” presented at the 2014 American Association for the Advancement of Science):
 - ☞ <http://news.rice.edu/2014/02/16/misconceptions-of-science-and-religion-found-in-new-study/>
- ☞ “Sketches Towards a Theology of Science” (Episcopal Church of Scotland):
 - ☞ <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/grosvenor-essays/sketches-towards-theology-science-grosvenor-essay-1/>
- ☞ “Science and Faith in Harmony: Positive ways to Include Science in Worship”:
 - ☞ <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/science-and-faith-in-harmony-positive-ways-to-include-science-in-worship/>
- ☞ The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely (D of RI), “Lent is not Rocket Science”
 - ☞ <http://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2146/2014-lent-is-not-rocket-science.aspx>

{ Discussion Q&A

Empowered for engagement...

⌘ Next steps...

⌘ Marvel

⌘ *Wonder is worship*

⌘ “How *wondrous* are your works, O Lord...” (Psalm 92.5)

⌘ Do

⌘ State your case: Make your *life* your *argument*

⌘ “You shall love me with all your heart, soul, and *mind*...” (Matt. 22.37)

⌘ Go

⌘ *Going* is at the heart of the *Great Commission*

⌘ “Go therefore...” (Matt. 28.19)

⌘ Share

⌘ *Witness* is *sharing your story*—communicate, contribute, converse, counter the clamorous

⌘ “Go into all the world and *share the good news*...” (Mark 16.15)

Contact info...

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