



Olivia Adams
Nomination for
General Convention Deputy - Laity

My name is Olivia Adams and I am a senior at Big Rapids High School. This fall I will be attending Aquinas College and majoring in Community Leadership. I have attended St. Andrews of Big Rapids for the past seven years.

Currently I serve on Executive Council as the Youth Representative. I have also had the privilege to serve as a Lay Deputy to the General Convention '09.

I have attended the Bishop's Pilgrimage in '07, Episcopal Youth Event '08 and Episcopal Youth Camp. Besides working within the church, I am also active in my school. I have served officer roles in Student Council such as vice president and president. I play percussion in the Wind Symphony and in marching band. When I'm not busy multitasking, I'm updating my Facebook, singing to the radio, banging on drums, and loving every moment of this wonderful life.

The Episcopal Church taught me how to have an open and loving heart. My heart was once selfish and very cautious. I feared what people thought of me and their perception. I depended on the opinions of others to build my self esteem. I was afraid to share my heart with the world because I feared that I would be vulnerable. Over time I was able to understand that it is up to me to be the person I want to be. If I wanted to find happiness within, it would be necessary to have a change of heart. I learned that it is okay to share my heart but to never forget to wear my armor. I now have gained the confidence to speak for myself and to be myself, all because The Episcopal Church nurtured my heart.

Episcopalians are Christians first. It is our duty to do work with eyes on Jesus. We have to offer our love and hospitality to the world around us. I am an Episcopalian because I believe that with love and with God we can make a difference in this world. We don't have to say anything because actions speak louder than words. Episcopalians reach out to our sisters and brothers in this world, it is our mission to spread the peace.

I am an Episcopalian because I love my church. I wouldn't want anything different. I couldn't imagine life without the community that surrounds me with its love. I love The Episcopal Church because of everything it stands for. This is a church that lives for God and serves God by welcoming all people into its midst and reaching out when there is need.

I am an Episcopalian because this is my journey. This is my life. I make my own choices. My faith is here to guide me. The Episcopal Church has allowed me to search for my purpose, not for what the church expects of me. I am allowed to just be.