Duties of a General Convention Deputy

Election Term

General Convention deputies and alternates are elected by Diocesan Convention every three years and serve until the next diocesan election. General Convention deputies, along with bishops, participate in the governance and discernment of The Episcopal Church through activities before, during, and after the General Convention for which they are elected. By tradition, L1 and C1 serve as Deputation co-chairs.

Alternates Fully Participate

All deputation members, including all alternates, are expected to participate fully in the work before and after General Convention. Changes in status, residence, employment and the desire to continuously raise up and train leaders prompts the full participation of alternates so that they are able to step into the role of deputy effectively, as needed.

Before General Convention

About 6 months prior to General Convention, the deputation meets monthly in person or by electronic means at times and places convenient to the members. Deputation members summarize reports and proposed resolutions from Task Forces and Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards (CCABs) of The Episcopal Church. The deputation may choose to offer pre-GC Listening Sessions. Some deputies may be appointed by the President of the House of Deputies to serve on a committee during Convention.

During General Convention

The 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church will be held in Phoenix during June/July 2025. Deputies and alternates are expected to give full and prayerful attention to all matters that will come before Convention. Responsibilities of the House of Deputies with the House of Bishops include adopting legislation of concern to the Church; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, or the Canons of the Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices and committees for the upcoming triennium. Deputies and Alternates should be present on the House of Deputies floor to listen to debate, vote, and track the progress of legislation. Each deputy votes his/her conscience. Everyone is encouraged to post to the Deputation Blog and expected to participate in evening deputation meetings.

After General Convention

After General Convention, the deputation or some members and the bishop provide Reporting Sessions to the diocese and at the Diocesan Convention. Some deputies or alternates may report to congregations or convocations. The General Convention also refers a number of its passed resolutions to dioceses and congregations, and the deputation takes some responsibility for discussing and tracking these resolutions, including preparing appropriate resolutions for Diocesan Convention.

Time Commitment

To be a faithful and effective deputation member, the time commitment is substantial. The rewards of participation are immense. As ministers in Christ's church, we are called to participate and take our place in the councils of the church in accordance with our individual gifts and calling. A combination of interest and passion in the governance and future of the church as both Body of Christ and institution are necessary. Expect at least five pre-convention deputation meetings, several pre-convention Listening Sessions, possible convention committee appointment, 8 to 10 long days at convention, several post-convention reporting sessions and post-convention planning meetings.