Information About Serving on the General Convention Deputation

General Information

The Diocesan Convention in 2019 elected four Clergy Deputies and one Clergy Alternate Deputy and four Lay Deputies and three Lay Alternate Deputies. The 2020 Diocesan Convention therefore seeks nominations for and will elect three Clergy Alternate Deputies and one Lay Alternate Deputy for the 2021 General Convention.

General Convention deputies and alternates participate in the governance and discernment of The Episcopal Church through activities before, during and after the 80th General Convention gathering in Baltimore, June 30-July 9, 2021. Deputies are also the diocese’s representatives to the Provincial Synod. Historically, the diocesan budget funds the participation at General Convention of the eight lay and clergy deputies, and the first lay and clergy alternates. All members of the deputation, including alternates, are expected to participate fully in the preparation before and debriefs after General Convention.

Before General Convention

The deputation has begun preparing for General Convention, meeting by teleconference to do team building, review and propose legislation, and to discern the assignment of focused topics of interest in which each deputy and alternate will take leadership. The meetings are set for mutually convenient times. Deputation members are expected to review the Blue Book, especially those sections relevant to their focus areas, and equip their fellow deputies to make informed choices with their votes. Deputies hope to be invited to present at local parishes.

During General Convention

General Convention 2021 is scheduled from June 30-July 9. For deputies appointed to legislative committees, training will begin a day or two before the official start date. During General Convention, deputies and alternates are expected to be present on the House of Deputies floor to listen to debate, vote, and track the progress of legislation. The Colorado deputation has a tradition of ensuring that all alternates present have an opportunity to sit on the floor of the House and participate in the debate and voting. Each deputation member also is responsible for tracking specific pieces of legislation. This may involve attending and even testifying at legislative hearings before and after legislative sessions in the House. The deputation meets in caucus frequently for about 45 minutes. This practice assures the health of the team and that all members know the current status of legislation and other business and events. In the past, Episcopal Church Women (ECW) delegates and other visitors attend these caucuses. Deputies coordinate with the Diocesan Communications Director to report daily updates.

After General Convention

After General Convention, the deputation has a canonical duty to report to the diocese on the business accomplished. In the past, the deputation has held briefings at Saint John’s Cathedral open to the entire diocese and made presentations at diocesan convention. Individual deputation members typically make presentations at their own congregations. Some have made presentations at other congregations and at regional convocations; the Standing Committee has also invited briefings at its meetings. 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. The final duty of the deputation is to assist in the planning for the election of the next deputation by providing information and education about the work and process of General Convention. Individual deputies may also volunteer to be appointed by the presiding officers of General Convention to committees, commissions, task forces and boards (although individuals may also be appointed to these bodies who are not deputies or alternates).
**Time Commitment**
To be a faithful and effective deputation member, the time commitment is substantial. The rewards of participation are also immense. As ministers in Christ’s church, deputies and alternates are called to participate in the councils of the church in accordance with individual gifts and calling. A combination of interest and passion in the governance and future of the church as both the Body of Christ and institution are necessary. Here is what the time commitment at meetings (not including teleconferences and optional briefings and opportunities) looks like: several regular zoom meetings and, ultimately and hopefully, face to face meetings prior to June 30-July 6, 2021 General Convention in Baltimore, MD.

**Questions?**
If you have any questions about standing for election for the General Convention deputation, please contact the 2020 co-chairs of the Colorado Deputation:

Mr. Lawrence R. Hitt II, Esq.  larry@episcopalcolorado.org
The Rev. Melissa Adzima  melissa@ststephenslongmont.org

To express interest:

Please complete the attached nomination form and submit to The Rev. Nancey Bookstein, Chair of Nominations Committee at DioConvention@coloradodiocese.org by August 5, 2020.