

Preview of 81st General Convention



Louisville, KY; June 21-28, 2024

Presenters: Deputies



In-Person Shorter Convention

- 2024 General Convention will be 6 legislative days
 - 2022 ("Covid Convention") in Baltimore was 4 legislative days
 - 2018 Convention: 10 days
 - Return of vendors, ECW Convention, seminaries, other gatherings
- General Convention meets as Two Houses (Think U.S. Congress)
 - House of Bishops
 - Nearly 300 Bishops able to participate
 - Diocesan, Suffragan, Assisting, Provisional
 - House of Deputies
 - Nearly 900 Deputies able to attend
 - Representing the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church

2018 - 2022 Triennium

Province II Includes:
CONVOCATION OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCHES
IN EUROPE , HAITI,
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

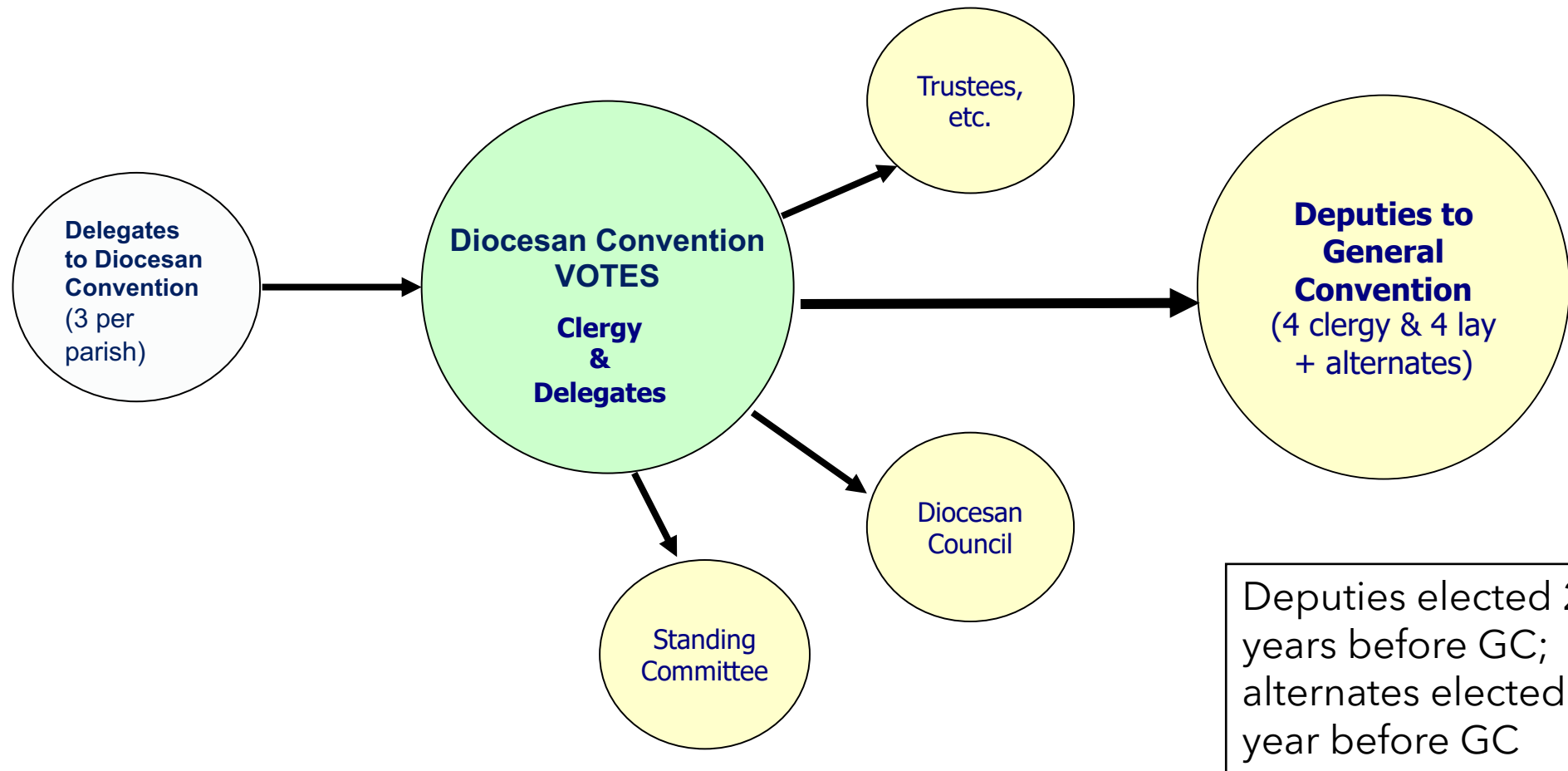


The Office of the Suffragan Bishop
for Federal Ministries
(Hospitals, Prisons, Armed Forces)
Under the Direction of the Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Church in Micronesia
Convocation of Episcopal Churches
in Europe
Under the Direction of the Presiding Bishop

*Austria, Belgium, France,
Germany, Italy, Monaco

How GC Deputies are chosen in the Diocese of Ohio



The House of Deputies

- First met in 1785 in Philadelphia
- Deputies are fully independent representatives, elected by their dioceses and free to vote their consciences after careful listening, reflection, consultation, and prayer.
- 8 per diocese: 4 clergy and 4 lay (with alternates in each order)
- Chaired by President Julia Ayala Harris, and Vice President, the Rev. Rachel K. Taber-Hamilton, elected in 2022.
- President and Vice President must be from different orders (clergy/lay)



Julia Ayala Harris,
President, House of Deputies



The Rev. Rachel K. Taber-
Hamilton
Vice President, House of Deputies

The House of Bishops

- Originally met together with House of Deputies, as there were no American bishops
- Split into a separate house in 1789 – first meeting of bicameral legislature
- All current and retired bishops eligible by virtue of his or her office as bishop
- Chaired by the Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
- Vice Chair is the Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, Managing Director, College of Bishops Charlotte, NC



The Most Rev.
Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop

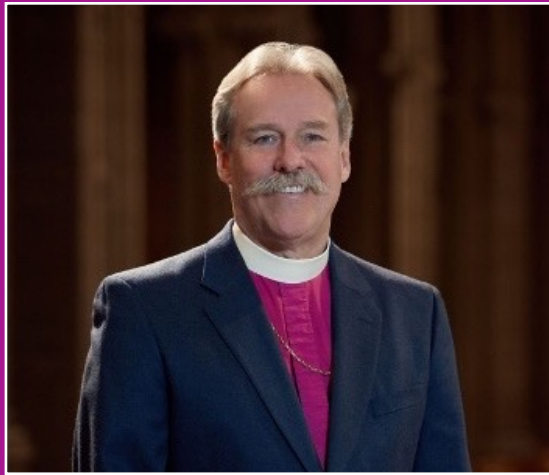


The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves
Vice Chair,
House of Bishops

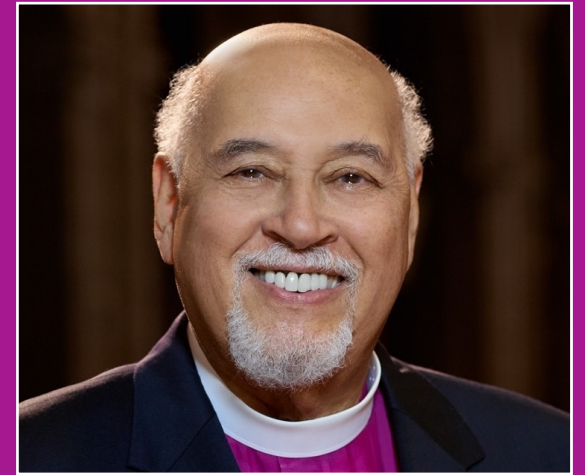
Bishops attending from Diocese of Ohio



The Right Rev.
Anne B. Jolly
12th Bishop of Ohio



The Right Rev.
Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
11th Bishop of Ohio



The Right Rev.
Arthur B. Williams, Jr.
Former Assisting Bishop

Deputies to the 81st General Convention - Diocese of Ohio



The Rev. Bridget Coffey
St. Andrew's, Toledo
1st Clergy



The Rev. George Baum
St. Timothy's, Massillon
2nd Clergy



The Rev. Vincent Black
Ascension, Lakewood
3rd Clergy



The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett
Our Saviour Akron
4th Clergy



Dianne Audrick Smith
St. Andrew's Cleveland
1st Lay



Eva Warren
Harcourt Parish, Gambier
2nd Lay



William Powel
St. Paul's Cleveland Hts.
3rd Lay, Chair



Jenna Bing
St. Hubert's, Kirtland
4th Lay

Alternate Deputies to the 81st General Convention - Diocese of Ohio



Ruth Mercer
Christ Church, Shaker Heights
1st Lay Alt.



Richard Pryor
Christ Church, Kent
2nd Lay Alt.



Demetrius Carruthers
St. Paul's, Canton
3rd Lay Alt.



Dale Murphy
Trinity Cathedral
4th Lay Alt.



The Rev. Leah Romanelli DeJesus
St. Luke's, Cleveland
1st Clergy Alt.



The Very Rev. BJ Owens
Trinity Cathedral
2nd Clergy alt.



The Rev. Jeff Baker
Diocese of Ohio
3rd Clergy Alt.



The Rev. June Hardy Dorsey
St. Andrew's, Elyria
4th Clergy Alt.

Preparation for General Convention

- Interim Bodies (Standing Commissions & Task Forces) met following 2022 General Convention
 - In-person and via Zoom
- Legislative Committees began meeting in April to consider legislation proposed by Interim Bodies.
 - Pre-Convention Zoom meetings via Zoom
- Resolutions may be submitted until 2d legislative day of General Convention.
- Ohio Deputation began meeting in January to consider proposed resolutions submitted by Interim Bodies ("Blue Book" Reports).

Issues/Business of the 81st General Convention

- Election of new Presiding Bishop (for up to 9-year term)
- Contested elections for President and Vice President of the House of Deputies
- Elections for other offices of The Episcopal Church:
 - Executive Council (the "Vestry" of General Convention between General Conventions)
- Resolutions proposed to address key issues.



Nominees for the
28th Presiding Bishop
of The Episcopal Church



The Rt. Rev.
J. Scott Barker
Diocese of Nebraska



The Rt. Rev.
DeDe
Duncan-Probe
Diocese of Central New York



The Rt. Rev.
Daniel G. P.
Gutiérrez
Diocese of Pennsylvania



The Rt. Rev.
Sean Rowe
Diocese of Northwestern
Pennsylvania and Diocese
of Western New York



The Rt. Rev.
Robert Wright
Diocese of Atlanta

House of Deputies Elections

Nominees for President

- Ms. Julia Ayala Harris (Oklahoma, Incumbent President)
- Ms. Zena Link (Western Massachusetts)
- The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton (Olympia, Incumbent Vice President)



Ayala Harris



Link



Taber-Hamilton

Nominees for Vice President

- The Rev. Charles Graves (Texas)
- The Rev. Steve Pankey (Kentucky)
- The Rev. Ruth Meyers (California)



Graves



Pankey



Meyers

The Business of General Convention

- Approval of the Budget (2025-2027)
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
- Book of Common Prayer
- Creation Care and Environmental Racism
- Formation and Ministry
- Changes in Dioceses
- Revisions to Title IV (Priest Discipline Process)
- Israel Palestine
- Task Force on Individuals with Mental Illness
- Standing Commission on World Mission
- Continued Dialogue with Goal of Full Communion with United Methodist Church

Budget 2025-27

- Executive Council adopted new process for preparing “triennium” budget.
 - Prior to 2022, “staff” budget presented to a GC Legislative Committee—inefficient and duplicative.
- New process: Standing Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council prepared budget.
 - Executive Council approved to present directly to General Convention.
 - Streamlined process; now easier to accommodate funding requests of GC resolutions after GC adjourns

Joint Budget Committee of Executive Council

- Presents its first budget at General Convention
- \$143M budget (flat)
- Reduces many areas over time, programs and staff;
- Will work with newly-elected PB and staff to reconcile General Convention resolutions that request funding

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

- Subcommittee of Liturgical Music proposing
 - Develop alternative texts (available online) for problematic hymns
 - Create a supplement to the 1982 Hymnal. Support for “Resounding Voices” and seeking new material
- Subcommittee on Calendar
 - Authorize (second reading) recognition of the following on the liturgical calendar:
 - Harriet Ross Tubman
 - Frederick Howden, Jr.
 - Simeon Bachos (Ethiopian Eunuch)
 - Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Barbara Clementine Harris

The Book of Common Prayer

- Constitutional Amendments require two 'readings'
 - 2022 GC: First reading of amendment to Article X regarding how the Book of Common Prayer can be revised to address authorized liturgies
- If the change passes a second reading at the 81st General Convention in 2024, Article X would, for the first time, define the Book of Common Prayer as "those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention."
 - "Breaking the Binding" of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.
 - In other words, liturgies that are not in the current prayer book – such as same-sex marriage rites and gender-expansive liturgies – could be elevated to "prayer book status."
 - Propose development of resources and models for hybrid worship
- Authorized liturgies compiled at episcopalcommonprayer.org

Task Force on the Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

- CG 2022 authorized task force to focus on ways to address environmental issues.
- Proposed Resolutions
 - Establish a Standing Commission on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism (\$1.4M requested).
 - Create a Care of Creation Loan Program for Episcopal Dioceses. Allocates \$3M in TEC endowments for low-interest loans for capital projects. Goal of reaching carbon NetZero (2022-A087)

Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development

- Mandate: To coordinate and encourage the development of all orders of ministry.
 - 1) Better coordination and resource sharing across diocesan Commissions on Ministry (COMs) – oversight of ordination process.
 - 2) Increase availability and promotion of Spanish-language formation and theological educational resources via online hub of formation and ministry resources.
 - 3) Change FROM lack of focus on traditional youth camp, campus and young adult ministry TO wide visibility and integration of the formation work (e.g., Episcopal Service Corp.)

Proposed Funding:

- Establish online hub for formation and ministry resources
- Create a taskforce to address compensation and/or benefits for deacons and non-stipendiary priests.

Reunion of Michigan and Wisconsin Dioceses, Mission Diocese of Navajoland

- All three dioceses in Wisconsin (Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee) voted to combine to become Diocese of Wisconsin.
- Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan have voted to combine as the Diocese of the Great Lakes.
- Area Mission of Navajoland Is petitioning to become the Mission Diocese of Navajoland.
 - Will allow missionary diocese to elect a bishop
- All actions are subject to approval of General Convention.

Title IV Revisions

- In Fall, 2023, in response to concerns about the Title IV disciplinary process as applied to Bishops, Presiding Bishop Curry called for “canonical and procedural changes to the ecclesiastical discipline of bishops” and requested the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons (SCSGCC) to submit legislation in 2024, which include:
 - Numerous resolutions to address “parity” in the process, including the composition of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, which include equal numbers of Bishops, priests/deacons, and lay members.
 - Increased accountability for decisions of the Church Attorney (the “prosecutor” in the discipline process) re: whether to proceed with a disciplinary case against a priest or bishop.
 - Recommending that SCSGCC consider whether to include elected and lay leaders in the church to a disciplinary process.

Israel and Palestine Conflict

- Legislative Committee on Social Justice & International Policy is reviewing multiple resolutions addressing the conflict.
- Focus:
 - October 7th attack was anti-Jewish terrorism
 - That Israeli government is pursuing policy of apartheid against Palestinians
 - Support for a two-state solution
 - The role that Episcopalians play in working for just peace

Task Force on Individuals with Mental Illness

- Recommendation to provide tools to equip clergy and lay leaders to:
 - Train trainers in model program to strengthen inclusion of parishioners with mental illness.
 - Promote clergy wellness
 - Become Certified in Mental Health First Aid
 - Enhance community inclusion for Individuals/Families
 - Enable Resource Connections
- Financial Support requested: \$102K

Safety, Wellness, and Mental Health Task Force

- Proposed Resolutions:
 - Authorize and Support the use of the Best Practices Guide and Model Anti-Harassment Policy, \$75,000
 - Limit on Confidential Settlement Agreements (or NDAs)
 - Establishing a Database for Title IV Outcomes on the Office of Transitional Ministry Profiles of Clergy

Standing Commission on World Mission

Focus on Issues from Global Perspective with proposed resolutions focused on:

- Dismantling Colonialism – Create task force
- Rising Religious Nationalism – Educate and work with partners
- Gender-Based Violence – Educate and advocate
- Progress towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Province V Resolution on “Migration with Dignity” in support of all those migrating to United States

Full Communion with United Methodist Church?

- On April 30, 2024, General Conference of United Methodist Church (UMC) voted to establish full communion with The Episcopal Church (TEC).
 - UMC formally removed its ban on ordaining gay clergy and redefined marriage to end formal church condemnation of homosexuality.
- The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations proposes a resolution to continue dialogue with UMC to achieve “full communion” at a future General Convention (as early as 2027).
 - Full Communion means:
 - “those Churches in historic succession with whom [the TEC] has entered covenant agreements adopted by the General Convention.”
 - The Episcopal Church is in “full communion” with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Lutheran Church in Canada, and other denominations.
 - Full communion allows mutual recognition of holy orders and thus the ability to share clergy across both denominations.

Questions?

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