

The Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements
July 23, 2020 11:00 a.m. EDT

Attending:

Members – Devon Anderson, Michael Barlowe, Kurt Barnes, Diane Jardine Bruce, Michael Curry, Mary Gray-Reeves, Gay Jennings, Bryan Krislock, Ryan Kusumoto Karen Patterson, Bryon Rushing, Scott Slater, Eugene Sutton, Patricia Wellnitz

Invited Guests – Caroline Bomgardner, Sally Johnson

Staff – Marian Conboy, Patrick Haizel, Fiona Nieman, Chuck Robertson, Stephanie Spellers, Mark Stevenson

Absent - Wendell Gibbs

Michael Barlowe opened the meeting and asked Michael Curry to offer an opening prayer. Canon Barlowe reviewed the agenda and called on Gay Jennings to give the report from the Presiding Officers. President Jennings said that the advisory committee consisting of the vice presidents of both houses, the parliamentarians, the chancellors, the Treasurer and the Executive Officer have continued to meet to consider the options, should an in-person General Convention next summer not be possible. President Jennings presented the current thinking of the presiding officers about a possible scenario, and discussion followed.

Canon Barlowe reminded everyone to use the Extranet to ask questions, share concerns, opinions and thoughts over the next months until the next meeting, which will be scheduled for early fall. President Jennings asked Bishop Curry whether he had anything to add. He said that we are taking seriously the pre-convention worship event. If we can't come together, we can join together online to worship and pray. He endorsed the scenario, saying it was a sensible plan and a wise way forward.

The Presiding Officers sent a letter to bishops and deputies on June 5th, and will send another one next week, keeping bishops and deputies up to date on latest developments. Patricia Wellnitz asked if she and Karen Patterson could receive the letter also, so that they can keep the ECW informed.

Eugene Sutton spoke about the importance of meeting in person; that there is wisdom and discernment just by being together. He hopes that no one thing's virtual meetings can take the place of meeting in person.

Michael Barlowe called on Patrick Haizel and Fiona Nieman to brief the committee on the current status with Baltimore – hotels and Convention Center. The convention center is presently deployed as a temporary hospital and COVID testing site. At this time, any conversations with the people in Baltimore are exploratory in nature. We have asked about

the availability of the convention center in early 2022 in the event that the 2021 convention must be rescheduled. Once they come back with dates, further conversations with the city, convention center and hotels can be scheduled. The committee was reminded that this is all confidential at this time, not to be shared outside of this group.

Gay Jennings responded to a question of whether provisions will be made for bishops and deputies who are at-risk or otherwise not able to attend an in-person General Convention. There are both financial and governance-related implications to a hybrid meeting. It is not currently permitted by our Rules of Order and would also be very expensive. There was discussion about the economic impact of the pandemic on dioceses and congregations, as well as to those in the hospitality industry.

In other matters, Canon Barlowe announced that the General Convention Office is proceeding with arrangements with Louisville for 2024, and will have sites to propose for 2027 at the next meeting, for inclusion in our Blue Book report as required by Canon.

There were no other questions or other business.

Byron Rushing offered a closing prayer. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. EDT