

The Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements
February 26, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. EST

Attending:

Members – Devon Anderson, Michael Barlowe, Kurt Barnes, Diane Jardine Bruce, Michael Curry, Wendell Gibbs, Mary Gray-Reeves Gay Jennings, Bryan Krislock, Ryan Kusumoto, Karen Patterson, Bryon Rushing, Scott Slater, Eugene Sutton, Patricia Wellnitz
Staff – Betsey Bell, Patrick Haizel, Sally Johnson, Fiona Nieman, Chuck Robertson, Stephanie Spellers

Michael Barlowe asked Diane Bruce to offer an opening prayer and asked if anyone had additional agenda items. There were no additional items and the agenda was accepted.

Gay Jennings provided an update on the Legislative Committee. She reviewed the list of Legislative Committees, the timeline of populating all committees as well as the plan for work prior to General Convention. In order to facilitate pre-Convention work, committee sizes will be smaller than recent Conventions, with most committees consisting of 6 Bishops, 8 Lay Deputies, 8 Clerical Deputies as well as 1 Legislative Aide. A Legislative Committee preference survey will be sent to Deputies March 1 and the Presiding Bishop will survey the Bishops this Spring. The General Convention Office is still working out the details for on line hearings and the election of the Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee.

Michael Curry shared that while Covid will preclude us from our constitutional requirement to meet every 3 years for General Convention, we will mark the time with prayer and gather as a whole Church. The presiding officers have appointed a design team for the Convocation of Worship and Prayer, being convened by the chaplains of both houses. The six-member team will be supported by Betsey Bell from the GCO and will also have access to the Communications Team as needed for the technical work. While the time is not finalized, the Convocation is set for July 17, 2021 – William White Day, which is perfect since William White is still the only person to serve as the President of both Houses.

Michael Barlowe encouraged the subcommittees to schedule a time to meet. The Design Team, in particular, needs to make some key decisions around the schedule, as that drives many other decisions. Gay Jennings, the chair of that subcommittee, will schedule a meeting and asked that Fiona Nieman from the GCO be added to the group.

Eugene Sutton provided an update from Baltimore and expressed his gratitude that General Convention is still coming to his city. They are looking forward to hear about plans, especially on the possibility of a revival. He also shared that they are being intentional about a plan for panhandlers in downtown, and they will prepare deputies and bishops prior to their arrival for Convention. Scott Slater also shared that they will need clarity on their role for such things as the revival and/or

Maryland night. They also shared that Baltimore has a new mayor, and they are working with him and are hopeful he will greet us all at Convention.

Fiona Nieman and Patrick Haizel provided an update from the GCO. They have recently met with the Visit Baltimore staff. Mr. Haizel reported on many of the safety upgrades being made to the Convention Center, including a GBAC accreditation, which Visit Baltimore is hoping will be city-wide accreditation by the time we are in Baltimore. The Convention Center is still not hosting conventions, as it is being used in different ways to fight Covid, but they hope to have their first large scale event in July 2021.

All of the hotel contracts have been renegotiated, and all of the hotels also have the GBAC accreditation. We did lose one hotel to closure, but there are plenty of rooms available for us to use. The housing process will follow the same timeline as originally proposed, just one year delayed.

Ms. Nieman stressed the importance of finalizing the new schedule, allowing the GCO to work on other important contracts.

Finally, Ms. Nieman provided an update on both GC81 and GC82. A signed letter of intent has been completed with the city of Louisville for GC81. No other action is needed immediately, but she stressed that there will be overlap in planning, with the shortened timeline between GC80 and GC81. Michael Barlowe reminded the group that a Presiding Bishop election will take place in Louisville, and that he will meet with Bishop Curry to discuss some of the necessary events. Mr. Haizel asked that the proposed dates not be shared publicly until contracts are signed.

There are five cities in the mix for GC82 – Charlotte, Pittsburgh, Orlando, Phoenix and San Juan. All of the dioceses have agreed to be considered. Three out of the five cities have already responded to our requests for information, and Orlando and San Juan are working on their responses.

Ryan Kusumoto closed the meeting in prayer at 11:20 am EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsey Bell
Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer