

*An Introduction to*  
The 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention  
The Episcopal Church  
*for Deputies and Bishops*



Salt Lake City, Utah • June 25–July 3, 2015

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*From the Presiding Bishop:*

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

Peace be with you and among you, and may you be servants of God's peace in the work of governing The Episcopal Church.

As you prepare for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, I commend the cultivation of a divine vision of peace in your hearts, minds, deliberations, and actions. We will gather in Salt Lake City in June to consider the future of this Church, and to make decisions about how best to steer her in waters that are both hopeful and challenging. Like Jesus asleep in the boat in the midst of storm, trust that ultimately the love of God will prevail, whatever wind and hail beset us. We convene to assess the gifts we have been given for this voyage, and to consider how best to employ them so that more of this world might know the peace that passes understanding.

In the months ahead, reflect on that boat at sea. How will you answer when the wind starts to whistle? Whose voice will you listen for? How will you engage those next to you in the boat — and those who are floating, or sinking, outside?

Say your prayers. Gather with your deputation, and discover the gifts of those who share the same seat in the boat. Do what you can to meet and get to know others in your province or farther away — each brings unique perspectives and gifts from contexts different from yours.

Study the reports that constitute *The Blue Book*. They will be published as they are ready, so you don't need to wait until a weighty atlas is published to start reading the maps. Share the work with other deputies, discuss what you see, and listen and learn from other perspectives.

Learn about the work of a particular legislative committee, whether you are assigned to one or not. The well-being and ultimate course of the boat become more understandable if you know a small part of its functioning well.

Consider and attend to your health — spiritual, emotional, and physical. You will need to be as fit as possible for this work, and others depend on you — your deputation, diocese, the wider Church, and the world to be served in Christ's name. Engage Lent with a focus on the work you are beginning. What excess baggage can you set down this year? What new habits will you cultivate?

Physical conditioning is important — the days are long and intense, and are filled with both sitting and long distances to walk. Salt Lake City is above 4,000 feet in elevation, quite warm in summer, and dry — some will feel the difference from coastal cities intensely. Start walking or working out today! You and others in the boat will be grateful for your increased capacity.

Before you arrive in Salt Lake, consider how to maintain your health through the lengthy gathering. Pay attention to what you eat — your emotional and physical health depend on it. It goes without saying that spiritual health depends on eating regularly at both tables! Drink enough water, and try to get sufficient sleep. Say your prayers. Bring small reminders of home and loved ones — icons of the love that supports your work — and include something that evokes the needs of the wider world. This is why we are on this journey.

Gear up! Get your equipment in order, set down what is not useful, and focus on the ultimate goal of our journey — the peaceable kingdom, beloved community, shalom.

I look forward to seeing you all in Salt Lake.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. – *Book of Common Prayer p 833*

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Jefferts Schori". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop and Primate

*From the President of the House of Deputies:*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your willingness to serve at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church. Our preparations have kicked into high gear, and I am looking forward to a productive convention.

Now is a great time to begin preparing for your work at General Convention. This year, *The Blue Book* reports from committees, commissions, agencies, and boards of the Church are being released online at <http://www.generalconvention.org> beginning in late January. If you have been assigned to a legislative committee, you'll want to study in particular the reports and legislation that will come before your committee. If you are not serving on a legislative committee at this convention, I hope that you will choose legislation and issues to study, attend committee meetings and hearings, and explore the way that legislation moves through the convention.

The legislative process at General Convention allows us to hear about, learn from, and consider what God is doing in many contexts and communities. Once we leave General Convention, we have to put legislation into action — passing a resolution is the beginning, not the end. But we need the legislative process to hear all of the voices of the people of God.

Because the legislative process is so essential to our common life, we have been working to update and streamline it so it can better suit the needs of today's Church. The Presiding Bishop and I worked together to revise the legislative committee structure, and study committees from both Houses have reviewed their Rules of Order. On the first day of Convention, the House of Deputies will consider some significant revisions to our Rules of Order. You can learn more at <http://www.houseofdeputies.org/gc-2015>.

This will be my first General Convention as president of the House of Deputies, but it will be the ninth convention at which I have served as a deputy. Over the years, I've developed a list of Top Ten rules for surviving and thriving at General Convention:

10. We're at General Convention to serve the Church, not the other way around.
9. Be leaders and consider your theology of power. We all make choices about how we use power and exercise leadership — choices that shape not only the Church and the dioceses, congregations, and institutions we serve, but also our very hearts and souls.
8. Be kind. If you wouldn't say it face-to-face, don't post it on social media.
7. No triangles. If you're unhappy with someone — especially me — deal with it directly. I promise I'll do the same.

6. Pray for the deputies, alternate deputies, and bishops who serve at General Convention. Pray for the executive officer of General Convention, church staff, and convention center employees who make the event possible, and for the people of The Episcopal Church.

5. Do your homework. The reason we post reports and appoint committees in January is that it takes some time to do our jobs right. Be responsible for the work you've been given to do.

4. If you don't understand something, ask a question. If something isn't clear to you, it's a sure bet that someone else doesn't get it either.

3. Renew the spiritual practices that keep you centered, attentive, and humble so that you show up in body, mind, and spirit. While in Salt Lake City, take care of yourself. Get enough sleep, eat nutritious food, and wear comfortable shoes. If you drink alcohol, do so cautiously and sparingly.

2. Seek Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself. Remember that this doesn't mean agreeing with your neighbor, or staying silent if your neighbor needs to be held accountable, or avoiding healthy conflict.

1. Remember that your fellow bishops and deputies and the people we serve in the Church are the beloved children of God — made in His image, redeemed by His Son, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Between now and June, I hope you will join me in praying for the House of Deputies, the House of Bishops, and our beloved Church. I am eager to see you in Salt Lake City.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gay Clark Jennings". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings  
President, House of Deputies

## WELCOME!

*To the Deputies and Bishops of the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church*

Dear friends and colleagues,

The 2015 General Convention promises to be a historic gathering of The Episcopal Church. Among many other concerns, we will prayerfully consider structural and other changes to support mission and ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> century; we will elect a Presiding Bishop; and we will consider legislative initiatives that could define our common witness and mission for years to come. I hope this *Introduction to the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention* will assist you as you prepare for the important work in which we are engaged for the mission and governance of the church.

To support this work, many people have considered and planned for innovations to the convention's organizational and legislative processes. For example, the presiding officers have reformed and redefined the legislative committees, and both Houses will receive proposals for changes to their respective Rules of Order. Furthermore, General Convention will use new technologies and digital systems that will help us toward better stewardship of time and resources: while not entirely paperless, this will indeed be a "convention of screens."

What this means is that — from the most seasoned veterans of General Convention to the newest bishops and deputies — each of us will be learning to engage our work in new ways, and together we will experience new and revised practices. It will be important for us to be eager learners and willing teachers; freely asking our questions, freely sharing our emerging knowledge, and working together in a spirit of adventure and excitement.

As we approach the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, I am grateful to you for your willingness to share in the leadership of The Episcopal Church. As you prepare, please contact me, or any of my colleagues in the General Convention Office, if you have any questions.

With my prayers and every good wish,

Faithfully,



The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe  
Executive Officer of General Convention

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION

## What is the General Convention?

- The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. It is a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies, with more than 800 members (up to four clergy and four lay persons from each diocese); and the House of Bishops, with over 300 active and resigned bishops.
- General Convention gathers every three years. The 2015 meeting will convene in Salt Lake City, Utah for a nine-day legislative session (June 25 – July 3, 2015), and will be the 78th General Convention of the Church.
- The work of General Convention includes adopting legislation of concern to the Church; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, and the Canons of the Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices, boards and other committees. This work is undertaken in support of the mission and ministry of the Church, and with prayerful gratitude and spiritual discernment.

## How do I register for General Convention?

- Registration and other basic information may be found on the General Convention website: (<http://generalconvention.org>).

## What should I do to prepare for General Convention?

- Frequent the General Convention website (<http://generalconvention.org>) for the information and materials you need. Deputies and bishops should “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” *The Blue Book* — the collected reports and proposed legislation from the Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards (CCABs) of the Church. *The Blue Book* is being released as the reports are edited and translated, and will be updated regularly.
- The website for the Archives of The Episcopal Church (<http://episcopalarchives.org>) is where to go for past *Blue Book* reports as well as for the *Acts of Convention* from 1976 through 2012.
- If you can’t find something, or if you have questions, contact the General Convention Office at [gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org).
- Your individual dioceses and provinces may also provide opportunities to learn about matters being considered by the General Convention. Some diocesan deputations have found it helpful to divide research about resolutions among members before offering the work to the whole deputation for consideration. Some CCABs also make their members available to dioceses and provinces in providing an interactive approach to their *Blue Book* reports.



- Pray regularly for the Church and its mission and ministry; pray also for the bishops, deputies, alternates, the Episcopal Church Women, volunteers, staff, and all others who will be with us in Salt Lake City.

## What can I expect in Salt Lake City?

- Salt Lake City is a modern, growing city with many outstanding arts groups (including *Ballet West* (<https://www.balletwest.org>), sports activities, restaurants, museums, and much more. The state of Utah is a place of amazing natural beauty. You can find out more about the city and state online (<http://www.visitsaltlake.com>). You'll also find links to the hotels where most of us will be staying.
- We will meet in the Diocese of Utah (<http://www.episcopal-ut.org>), which will be offering hospitality and considerable volunteer support before and throughout the General Convention.
- The average temperature for late June, and early July is in the high 70s. Nights (and the convention center) may be cool for some people, so pack and dress accordingly. We will be in Salt Lake City during the dry season. The elevation is 4,330 feet; remember to drink lots of water during your stay!
- The convention will be held in the Salt Palace (<http://www.visitsaltlake.com/salt-palace-convention-center/>), a state-of-the-art, LEED Silver facility that is close to the convention hotels and venues.
- Salt Lake City is the headquarters city of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Members of the LDS Church — also called Mormons — are the majority religious group in the city and state. The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations has worked with LDS leadership in gathering information and a bibliography for those interested in knowing more about the LDS, and for us all as guests in Salt Lake City: <http://www.generalconvention.org/r/LDS-101>.

## What is the schedule for General Convention?

- A graphical calendar for the legislative sessions, committee meetings, and other events will be found at <http://www.generalconvention.org/2015Schedule>. The Spanish version of the Schedule may be found at <http://www.generalconvention.org/2015Horario>. The same information, in a linear form, may be found in Appendix 1 of this *Introduction*. Finally, a free app for smartphones will be available shortly before Convention that will have this information in a dynamic form.

## What happens at General Convention?

- While the principal work of the General Convention is conducted in its legislative processes, General Convention is also filled with activities and opportunities for mission and ministry gatherings. The calendar highlights a number of these, including worship, an evening sponsored by the Diocese of Utah, and opportunities for seminary and other meetings. For more than a century, the Triennial Meeting of the

Episcopal Church Women has been held at the same time and place as the General Convention. For information about the ECW Triennial, visit (<http://ecwnational.org/triennial-meeting-2015/>). Episcopal Relief and Development will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/75>), and the United Thank Offering will also celebrate a milestone anniversary. This small sampling of activities shows why some have described General Convention as having elements of a family reunion. There will undoubtedly be many informal and organized gatherings in Salt Lake City, and information about them generally will be available at the Information Centers in the Salt Palace and on the General Convention smartphone app.

## How is General Convention organized?

- The legislative process of General Convention is an expression of The Episcopal Church's belief that, under God, the Church is ordered and governed by its people: laity, deacons, priests, and bishops.
- The General Convention is the Church's highest temporal authority. As such, it has the power to amend the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; to amend the Book of Common Prayer and to authorize other liturgical texts; to adopt the budget for the Church; to create covenants and official relationships with other branches of the Church; to determine requirements for its clergy and other leaders; to elect its officers, members of the Executive Council, and certain other groups; to delegate responsibilities to the committees, commissions, agencies, and boards (CCABs) of The Episcopal Church; and to carry out various other responsibilities and authority.
- There are two legislative Houses of General Convention: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.
- The House of Deputies is composed of deputations elected from each diocese of The Episcopal Church; from Navajoland; from the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe; and from Liberia (which has seat and voice). Deputations may include up to four clergy and four lay members.
- The House of Bishops is composed of every bishop of The Episcopal Church with jurisdiction; every bishop coadjutor; every bishop suffragan; every assistant bishop; and every bishop "who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity, or who, under an election to an office created by the General Convention, or for reasons of mission strategy determined by action of the General Convention or the House of Bishops, has resigned a jurisdiction."
- General Convention acts through the adoption of resolutions. A resolution only becomes an Act of Convention after both Houses adopt it in the same form and at the same General Convention.
- Each of the two Houses has a presiding officer: the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies. When there is a joint meeting of the two Houses, the Presiding Bishop has the right to preside.
- The Secretary of General Convention has responsibilities to support the work of both Houses. She or he must first be elected as Secretary of the House of Deputies, and then confirmed by the House of Bishops. The Treasurer of General Convention is elected by concurrent action of both Houses.

- Deputies and bishops are expected to be familiar the *Constitution and Canons* of the Church, which detail the authority and work of General Convention and its officers.

## How does General Convention conduct its legislative work?

### What are Resolutions and Memorials?

- The principal way General Convention conducts its legislative work is through perfecting, debating, and adopting resolutions. Only Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards (CCABs); Bishops; Provinces and Dioceses; and Deputies may submit Resolutions for consideration.
- **Resolutions:** In the legislative context, a resolution is a statement that requires specific action, so that, if both Houses adopt it, the General Convention or an identified person, group, or agency of the Church will act accordingly. Resolutions are classified in several ways, according to their origin: “**A**” Resolutions are those submitted by CCABs in the *Report to the 78th General Convention*. “**B**” Resolutions are those submitted by Bishops. “**C**” Resolutions are those submitted by Provinces or Dioceses. “**D**” Resolutions are those submitted by Deputies.
- **Memorials:** In the legislative context, a memorial is comparable to a petition — a statement about a matter of great importance that urges the General Convention to take action. A memorial should present arguments for the proposed action, and may provide evidence of widespread concern for the matter being memorialized. Memorials are referred to a legislative committee to inform their deliberations. Although not a resolution itself, a memorial informs committees as they perfect legislation. Memorials are submitted by provinces, dioceses, bishops, deputies, and CCABs to highlight interest, concern, or opinion on a particular subject. Memorials to General Convention have often been the catalyst for major initiatives or changes in the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church.
- Once a resolution has been submitted, the Presiding Officers assign it to a **legislative committee** and to the House in which the resolution is first considered (“the House of Initial Action”).
- In advance of any action, the committee must hold hearings on resolutions, allowing testimony from beyond the committee. At least four hours in advance, notice of these hearings will be posted near the General Convention Secretariat located in Ballrooms A, B, and C of the Salt Palace Convention Center, and will be conveyed through other electronic means at General Convention. Under the direction of the committee chair, registered bishops, deputies, alternates, and visitors may sign up to address a legislative committee at a public hearing on a given topic or resolution.
- Individual bishops and deputies may propose up to three resolutions. Resolutions proposed by a bishop must be endorsed by no fewer than two additional bishops, and each bishop must be from a different diocese. Resolutions proposed by a deputy must be endorsed by no fewer than two additional deputies, and

they may all be from the same diocese. Complete instructions for submitting resolutions are available on the General Convention website.

- The **deadline for submitting a resolution** is 5:00 PM on June 26, 2015, the second legislative day. Once on site, resolutions may be submitted to the General Convention Secretariat located in Ballrooms A, B, and C of the Salt Palace Convention Center.

### What are Legislative Committees?

- Legislative committees are appointed by the presiding officer of their respective Houses to propose or receive, hear testimony, deliberate, perfect, and decide initial action on resolutions and memorials.
- In the House of Deputies, this appointment process begins after each diocese notifies the General Convention Office of the election of its deputies and deputy alternates. The deputies are then surveyed about their committee preferences and qualifications, and the data collected is used to help in the appointment process.
- More deputies have been appointed to legislative committees than at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention. Deputies not appointed to committees are encouraged to work with their deputations and attend committee hearings and deliberations. For legislative committee membership lists, please visit <http://www.generalconvention.org/r/LegCommRoster2015>.
- The presiding officers may also appoint special committees to address subjects not covered by existing committees or to serve in other specialized capacities. The Special Legislative Committee on Marriage and the Special Legislative Committee on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention are two such committees.
- Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance review resolutions that have funding implications. In the House of Deputies, resolutions with polity, constitutional, or canonical implications, or with proposed changes, are reviewed for by the Resolution Review Committee, a new committee appointed by the President.
- Since the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Convention (1991), legislative committees with identical names in both Houses generally meet together, hold joint hearings on resolutions, and discuss recommendations on each of the resolutions referred to them. The practical effort of these joint meetings is that if a resolution passes the House of Initial Action unchanged from the committees' recommendation, the other House is ready to place this matter on the calendar. While such joint committee meetings and work is sometimes referred to as a "cognate committee" or "parallel committee," there are no canonical or other requirements to hold joint committee meetings. Legislative committees, even when meeting together, vote separately.
- Reports on committee action are conveyed to the House of Initial Action for placement by the respective Committee on Dispatch of Business on that House's legislative calendar. After one House adopts a resolution, if the other House amends the resolution, it is returned to the first House through its legislative

committee, and the process continues. Please see the Legislative Process Chart in Appendix 4 for additional details.

- The presiding officers have reorganized and streamlined the legislative committees for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention. In addition to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, 22 legislative committees will be constituted at the 78th General Convention. A list of the committees and their chairs may be found in Appendix 2.

### What are the Rules of Order?

- The Rules of Order are the specific procedures the General Convention uses to organize or “order” its conduct and legislative business. There are three sets of Rules of Order: one for the House of Deputies, another for the House of Bishops, and the Joint Rules of Order pertaining to both Houses.
- Both Houses are proposing changes to their Rules of Order, which will be considered early in the convention. The proposed changes are found at <http://www.generalconvention.org/home/bluebook/rulesoforder>. The existing Rules of Order for each House, and for the Joint Rules of Order, may be found at the website of The Episcopal Church Archives at [http://www.episcopalarchives.org/CandC\\_ToC\\_2012.html](http://www.episcopalarchives.org/CandC_ToC_2012.html).
- The Rules of Order mainly concern legislative and committee actions, but also address such matters as decorum, the daily schedule, and a variety of practical matters. Each deputy and bishop should be familiar with the Rules and proposed Rules of Order for their House, and with the Joint Rules of Order.
- For the House of Deputies’ Rules of Order, “except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rule herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the interpretation of these rules, and the parliamentary procedures to be followed in this House.”

### What happens during the legislative sessions?

- The [schedule of legislative sessions](#) will be found in the Calendar in Appendix 1. The general order for legislative sessions will be found in the Rules of Order of each House.
- At the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention there will be three [joint legislative sessions](#): To receive nominations for Presiding Bishop and for a session on proposed changes in church governance and structure; to engage in a mission conversation focused on the Five Marks of Mission; and on the sixth legislative day, to receive the budget proposal of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance. (Please see the Draft Schedule in Appendix 1 for times of these joint sessions).
- **Debate** in both Houses is governed by the Rules of Order of that House. Both Houses stipulate that “no member shall speak more than twice in the same debate without leave of the House.”
- Microphones in the House of Bishops are placed on the individual tables. In the House of Deputies, you will find microphones located in the aisles, where those who wish to speak wait to be recognized by the

President. A new electronic queuing system will be in place in the House of Deputies for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, and will be demonstrated during the Orientation.

- Amendments or substitutes proposed from the floor (“**Floor Amendments**”) must be presented in writing as designated by the Secretary. Although such amendments must be made in accordance with House rules and upon recognition by the presiding officer, at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, it will be possible to pre-file floor amendments. Further information about the procedures for pre-filing will be given at Convention.
- On some matters, the House may set a Special Order of Business with special debate rules and a time limit. Debate in the House of Deputies is normally limited for each speaker, but may be further limited or extended by a vote of the House.
- The House of Deputies may move into a Committee of the Whole, with a chair appointed by the President.
- **Voting** on most questions is performed by “voice vote,” by which each bishop or deputy has a single vote. Deputies must be present and vote on all matters before the House. At the 78th General Convention, the House of Deputies will again interpret the “voice vote” to include the use of an electronic keypad. Electronic procedures will be reviewed during Orientation in Salt Lake City.
- In the House of Bishops, six voting members may request a Roll Call Vote. The House of Deputies votes “by Dioceses and Orders” on amendments to the Constitution and Canons, as required, but any matter may be subject to a Vote By Orders at the request by a majority of the clerical or lay deputation from three dioceses.
- In the House of Deputies, in a vote “by Dioceses and Orders” (also known as a “**vote by orders**”), each diocese has one vote in the clerical order and one vote in the lay order. Adoption requires a majority in the affirmative in an order; if the diocesan vote in an order is divided, it is recorded and not added to the affirmative total, effectively counting as a negative vote.

### What is the Virtual Binder?

- The 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention will be as paperless as possible — a “convention of screens,” where much of the legislative work of Convention will be displayed electronically, either on a tablet or projection screens in the Houses, or on laptops or tablets through the internet.
- Registered deputies, the first clergy and lay alternate deputies, and bishops will be provided an iPad for their use during General Convention (deputies who relinquish their seats to an alternate deputy will give their iPad to a second or greater alternate as part of the exchange of credentials.)
- These iPads will contain the “*Virtual Binder*,” the software that replicates electronically most of what used to be provided in the physical notebook binders that have been part of General Convention for decades. The iPads will also contain such reference materials as the *Constitutions and Canons*, the *Journal*, *The Blue Book*, worship materials, and other materials supportive of the legislation processes of Convention.

- The Virtual Binder will be updated automatically on the floors of the Houses, allowing for faster distribution of calendars, resolutions, and committee and other reports. This will be done wirelessly, through a dedicated intranet that can be accessed only by the Virtual Binder on the iPad provided to you. This means that although you may have other personal electronic devices with you, only the iPads we provide will be “up-to-date” during legislative sessions.
- The contents of the Virtual Binder will be mirrored to the internet, and will be available to you outside of legislative sessions, through any Wi-Fi connection. (This mirrored Virtual Binder will be available to registered alternate deputies and to any other persons who wish to subscribe, but they must provide their own electronic device. The Virtual Binder will be web-based, meaning that most notebook and desktop computers, as well as most tablets and smartphones, will be able to access the Virtual Binder away from the house floors through the internet.)
- Complimentary, basic Wi-Fi is available in the hallways of the Salt Palace.
- In addition to the Virtual Binder, we will also be providing a free “app” for anyone with an iOS or Android smartphone or tablet. The app will have general schedules, maps, exhibitor information, and other materials useful for our time in Salt Lake City.
- Training will be provided before and during Convention (although I believe that using the Virtual Binder will be far easier than mastering the complexities of the old, physical binder!). Trained volunteers and staff will also be on hand to answer questions and provide support.

### **What elections will be held at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention?**

- The election of the Presiding Bishop, the election of the President of the House of Deputies, and the election of the Vice President of the House of Deputies will be held at General Convention.
- The House of Deputies will elect a Secretary, and upon confirmation by the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the House of Deputies becomes the Secretary of General Convention.
- The House of Deputies will elect a person who becomes, if confirmed by the House of Bishops, the Treasurer of General Convention.
- Both Houses will also elect people to various boards or committees. Depending on the election, one House may elect, while the other House votes whether to confirm the election. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations has prepared a slate of nominees for Trustees of the Church Pension Fund, the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, the Executive Council, the General Board of Examining Chaplains, the Board of the General Theological Seminary, the Secretary of the House of Deputies, and the Treasurer of the General Convention. (You can learn more about these nominees by reading their statements in *The Blue Book*. Additional nominations may be accepted from the floor.)
- The full list of elections to be held at this Convention is found in Appendix 3.

### ***The election and confirmation of the Presiding Bishop***

- The election of the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>, the third legislative day.
- The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop (JNCPB) is expected to release its slate of nominees in May. Official nomination of those bishops, as well as any nominations from the floor, is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>, the second legislative day. On the afternoon of June 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a presentation of the nominees. (The times may be found in the draft Agenda in Appendix 1).
- The election of the Presiding Bishop by the House of Bishops is done in accordance with the *Constitution & Canons*, and with the Rules of Order of the House of Bishops.
- Once the House of Bishops has elected, the House of Deputies, in accordance with the Canons, will consider whether to confirm or not to confirm the election.
- The bishop elected becomes the Presiding Bishop-Elect only upon confirmation by the House of Deputies. The Presiding Bishop-Elect becomes the Presiding Bishop on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- Further information about the election and confirmation of the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop will be available before and during General Convention.

### ***The election of the President of the House of Deputies and the Vice President of the House of Deputies***

- By the seventh day of Convention, the House of Deputies must elect a President and Vice President. The President must be nominated and elected first, because Canon I.1(b) requires that the two officers be of different orders of ministry. (For instance: If the President is a lay person, the Vice President must be a priest or deacon.) These officers take office at the adjournment of Convention and serve through the 79th General Convention.

### ***What happens as General Convention draws to a close?***

- On the last day of Convention, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops must complete all action on matters submitted to them, including matters sent from the other House. If time runs out for adequately considering an important matter, it may be referred to a CCAB for further study (as always, given concurrent action). Any matter not referred to a CCAB or otherwise disposed of by joint action of the Houses will fail to be enacted.
- Two persons will be appointed by the Houses' Legislative Committees on Constitution and Canons to certify that all changes in the *Constitution and Canons* resulted from the actions of Convention. The two-person committee will confirm these changes with the Secretary of the General Convention, whose responsibility it is to oversee the publication of the revised *Constitutions & Canons*.



- Resolutions of courtesy and appreciation are adopted as scheduled, as are any “mind of the House” resolutions, which do not require any concurrent House action. Whichever House completes its work first notifies the other House that it stands ready to adjourn; when a similar message comes from the other House, General Convention is adjourned *sine die* (from Latin “without a day”), meaning that the 78th General Convention has concluded.

## What happens after General Convention?

### What are CCABs?

- The work of General Convention continues through the people and leadership of The Episcopal Church. In particular, the Executive Council and other Standing Commissions, Committees, Agencies, and Boards (CCABs) undertake the actions and responsibilities given them by General Convention.
- A listing and description of most of the CCABs will be found on the General Convention website.
- Many CCABs have members appointed by the presiding officers: generally bishops are appointed by the Presiding Bishop; and priests, deacons, and lay persons are appointed by the President of the House of Deputies.
- To suggest potential CCAB members to the presiding officers, a nomination form will be available both in the General Convention Secretariat and on the General Convention website. **Nominations for CCABs must be submitted by July 17, 2015.**

### What Joint Standing Committees continue the work of General Convention?

- Four Joint Standing Committees, whose membership is drawn from both Houses, serve key roles in the ongoing work of the General Convention: The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance (PB&F); the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop; the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements; and the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations.
- Although the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop is elected at each General Convention, it usually meets only in the triennium before the convention in which the election of a Presiding Bishop occurs. At that time, the Committee prepares a profile and presents a slate of candidates for that office.
- The work of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements is to recommend potential cities for future General Conventions, and to plan and propose a schedule for each convention. The schedule is a legislative item in the Committee’s *Blue Book* report, and one of the first Acts of Convention is to approve that schedule. (The 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention will be in 2018 in Austin, Texas.)

- The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations selects nominees for Trustees of the Church Pension Fund, the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, the Executive Council, the General Board of Examining Chaplains, the Board of the General Theological Seminary, the Secretary of the House of Deputies, and the Treasurer of General Convention.
- The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance prepares a proposed budget for consideration by the General Convention. Although PB&F meets twice during the triennium and is represented, by invitation, on the Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Finances for Mission (FFM), much of its work is accomplished during Convention.

### What about post-Convention publications?

- The *Summary of Actions*, a list of all concurred actions of the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, will be published within 30 days of the adjournment of Convention on the General Convention website.
- The *Journal of the General Convention* will be published on the General Convention website in 2016; and will list the committees, commissions, agencies, and boards that are authorized for the triennium, along with the names of members appointed to those bodies. Both Houses' minutes are also published in the *Journal* as well as in the *Acts of Convention*.
- The updated *Constitution & Canons* will be published in 2016, as will be the triennial budget adopted by Convention. Each of these publications will be available on the General Convention website (<http://generalconvention.org>).

## I need help? Where can I find it?

### Visit the Secretariats.

- At the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, the Secretariats of the General Convention, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops will be located together, in Ballrooms A, B, and C of the Salt Palace Convention Center.
- Volunteers and staff members are available in the Secretariat to provide legislative information and assistance during the Convention. Information will be also be posted at the Secretariat offices and will be available on the General Convention website.
- Volunteers will be available to direct visitors to the hearing rooms where legislation is being considered; to help review the daily legislative calendars; and to provide updates and status reports on legislation.
- The times and locations of legislative committee hearings are posted prominently, including on the General Convention website, at least four hours before the start of a hearing. Every proposed resolution will be posted for a hearing. Only registered bishops, deputies, alternates, or visitors may testify at a hearing.

- The Secretariat also provides support to the legislative committees, and to the officers of the Houses and of the General Convention.

**Ask your colleagues.**

- At the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, we will all be learning new ways of conducting our legislative business. But in both Houses, there is a depth of experience and knowledge available among seasoned bishops and deputies — as well as among volunteers and staff — who will be delighted to help you. Just ask! No question is too small.

**Make use of technical assistance.**

**Download and use the General Convention app on your smartphone or iOS and Android devices.**

**Visit the General Convention website — before, during, and after Salt Lake City.**

- Bookmark and frequent <http://generalconvention.org>.

**Visit the information booth.**

- The General Convention information booth is located in the South Foyer of the Salt Palace. Available in this area is access to legislative information, local information, lost and found items, assisted-listening devices for the House of Deputies and Bishops, and information for those with special needs.

**Visit the vendors and exhibitors in the General Convention display area.**

- A floorplan and list of exhibitors is currently available on the General Convention website, <http://www.generalconvention.org>. In addition, a list of exhibitors will be included in the GC Application.

**Ask!**

- Before and after General Convention, email [gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org) and we will assist you. During the convention, stop by the information booth or the Secretariat.

## APPENDIX 1: 78<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONVENTION DRAFT SCHEDULE (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014)

Monday, June 22		Friday, June 26 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Day)	
11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Volunteer Supervisors Gathering & Secretariat	7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
Tuesday, June 23		8:00 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Session
9:00 am	Exhibits Open	9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration for All & Deputy Certification	11:15 am – 1:00 pm	Joint Session PB Nomination & Structure Conversation
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Legislative Committee Officers & Aides Orientation	1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Legislative Committees	2:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Legislative Committees
Wednesday, June 24		5:00 pm	Resolution Filing Deadline
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Legislative Committees	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Legislative Session
7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration & Deputy Certification	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	PB&F and Other Hearings
9:00 am – 9:45 am	PB/PHoD Presentation to Convention	Saturday, June 27 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Day)	
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Orientation: Bishops & Deputies	7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Presentation of PB Nominees	7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Committees
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Legislative Committees	9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
Thursday, June 25 (1 <sup>st</sup> Day)		11:15 am – 1:00 pm	PB Election; Legislative Session
7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification	1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Session	2:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Legislative Session
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Opening Eucharist	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	PB&F and Other Hearings
11:15 am – 1:00 pm	Legislative Committees	Sunday, June 28 (4 <sup>th</sup> Day)	
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	UTO Ingathering & Eucharist
2:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Legislative Committees	1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Legislative Session	2:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Legislative Session; Provincial Caucuses
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Legislative Hearings	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Suggested Time for Provincial Gatherings

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION

Monday, June 29 (5<sup>th</sup> Day)

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Committees
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
11:00 am – 12:45 pm	Legislative Session
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Legislative Committee Chairs' Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
2:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Legislative Session
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Bishop Gathering

Tuesday, June 30 (6<sup>th</sup> Day)

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Committees
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
11:15 am – 1:00 pm	Joint Session Mission Conversation
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
2:15 pm – 7:30 pm	Legislative Session
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Suggested Time for Seminary Gatherings

Wednesday, July 1 (7<sup>th</sup> Day)

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Committees
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
11:15 am – 1:00 pm	Legislative Session
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Joint Session PB&F
3:00 pm	Exhibits Close
3:45 pm – 6:15 pm	Legislative Session
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Diocese of Utah Event

Thursday, July 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Day)

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Committees
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Community Eucharist
11:15 am – 1:00 pm	Legislative Session
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
2:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Legislative Session
6:15 pm – 9:00	Reserved for Legislative Session

Friday, July 3 (9<sup>th</sup> Day)

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Deputy Certification
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Community Eucharist
10:30 am – 1:30 pm	Legislative Session
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Deputy Certification
2:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Legislative Session
Joint Adjournment	<i>Sine Die</i>

## APPENDIX 2: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES & HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION

Legislative Committee	HIA	House of Bishops Chair	House of Deputies Chair
01 – Dispatch of Business	B/D	Wayne Wright	Jim Simons
02 – Certification of Minutes	B/D	Wayne Wright	Sally Russell
03 – Rules of Order	B/D	Wayne Wright	Byron Rushing
04 – Constitution & Canons	B	Robert O’Neill	William Cathcart
05 – Governance & Structure	D	Clifton Daniel	Sally Johnson
06 – World Mission	B	Barry Beisner	Martha Alexander
07 – Social Justice & International Policy	B	Prince Singh	Russell V. Randle
08 – Social Justice & United States Policy	D	Morris Thompson	Diane Pollard
09 – Congregational Vitality	D	Dabney Smith	JoAnn B. Jones
10 – Evangelism & Communications	D	Gregory Brewer	Dennis Blauser
11 – Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music	B	Wayne Smith	Devon Anderson
12 – Formation & Education for Ministry	D	Larry Benfield	Stephen Carpenter
13 – Church Pension Fund	B	Michael Milliken	R. Stan Runnels
14 – Stewardship and Development	D	Gary Lillibridge	Andrew Green
15 – Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations	B	Cate Waynick	J.P. Causey
16 – Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation	B	John Smylie	Ellen L. Tillotson
17 – Privilege & Courtesy	B/D	No chair designated	Margaret Evans Porter
18 – Credentials	HD only	HD only	Kathryn Dyer
19 – Confirmation of the Presiding Bishop	HD only	HD only	Lynn Schmissrauter
20 – Marriage	B	Brian Thom	Brian Baker
21 – Program, Budget & Finance	D	Stephen Lane, Vice Chair	Mally Ewing Lloyd
22 – Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse		Mark Hollingsworth	Steve Thomason
Resolution Review Committee		HD only (non-legislative)	Michael Glass
Legislative Aides		HD only (non-legislative)	Paul Burrows
A – Pastoral Letter			HB only
B – Resignation of Bishops			HB only
C – Religious Communities			HB only
D – On Nominations and Elections			HB only

## APPENDIX 3: ELECTIONS AT THE 78<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONVENTION

**Presiding Bishop:** 9-year term (Canon I.2.2); elected by the House of Bishops after nominees are presented by the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop to a special Joint Session; confirmed by the House of Deputies (Canon I.2.1(f)).

**Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop:** 3-year term (Canon I.2.1(d)). 1 clerical and 1 lay deputy from each province elected by the House of Deputies; 2 youth members appointed by the President of the House of Deputies (Canon I.2.1(a)); 1 bishop from each province elected by the House of Bishops (Canon I.2.1 (b)); 29 positions total.

**President of the House of Deputies:** 3-year term elected by House of Deputies (Canon 1.1.1(b)).

**Vice-President of the House of Deputies:** 3-year term elected by House of Deputies (Canon 1.1.1(b)).

**Vice-Chair of the House of Bishops:** 3-year term elected by the House of Bishops (HB Rules, Rule VI, p. 178).

**Secretary of the House of Bishops:** 3-year term elected by House of Bishops (HB Rules, Rule II, p. 177).

**Secretary of the House of Deputies:** 3-year term elected by the House of Deputies; upon confirmation by the House of Bishops, becomes the Secretary of General Convention (Canon I.1.2(j)); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rules VII.17).

**Treasurer of the General Convention:** 3-year term elected by concurrent action of both Houses (Canon I.1.7(a)); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rules VII.17).

**Executive Council:** 6-year staggered term for elected members (Canon I.4.2(b)); 4 bishops elected by House of Bishops and confirmed by House of Deputies; 4 priests or deacons and 12 lay persons elected by House of Deputies and confirmed by the House of Bishops (Canon I.4.2(c)). The terms of one half of each order expire every three years; 20 total elected members by General Convention; 10 members elected each triennium (Canon I.4.1(c)); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rules VII.17); [18 members elected by Provinces: 1 ordained and 1 lay person; full elected membership: 38 (Canon I.4.1(c))].

**General Board of Examining Chaplains:** 6-year staggered term: 4 bishops, 6 priests, 6 seminary faculty, and 6 lay persons elected by House of Bishops and confirmed by House of Deputies; terms expire for one half of each category every three years; 22 total members, 11 members elected each triennium (Canon III.15.1); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rule VII.17).

**Board of The Archives of the Episcopal Church:** 6-year staggered term for elected members (Canon I.5.3(b)); 3 bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop; 3 clergy and 6 lay persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; appointments confirmed by General Convention; 12 total elected members (Canon I.5.3(a)(c)).

**Board for Transition Ministry:** 6-year staggered term (Canon III.16.1(c)): 4 bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop, 4 priests or deacons, and 4 lay persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; confirmed by General Convention (Canon

III.16.1(a-b)); terms expire for one half of each order every three years (Canon III.16.1(d)); 12 total members, 6 members elected each triennium.

**Disciplinary Board for Bishops:** 6-year staggered term: 10 bishops elected at any regular meeting of the House of Bishops; 4 priests or deacons and 4 lay persons elected by the House of Deputies; terms expire for one half of each order every three years; 18 total members; 2 clerical and 2 lay members elected at General Convention (Canon IV.17.3); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rules VII.17).

**Trustees of the Church Pension Fund:** 6-year staggered term: 12 trustees elected at every General Convention (Canon I.8.2); 24 total elected members; candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rules VII.17).

**Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary:** 3-year term: 2 bishops elected by the House of Bishops; 2 priests or deacons and 2 lay persons elected by the House of Deputies (GTS Constitution); candidates presented by the Joint Committee on Nominations (Jt. Rule VII.17).

**Custodian, Book of Common Prayer:** 6-year term; nominated by the House of Bishops, confirmed by the House of Deputies (Canon II.3.7).

**Historiographer:** 3-year term by tradition; nominated by the House of Bishops, confirmed by the House of Deputies; the Registrar of General Convention serves as Historiographer unless the House of Bishops makes a separate nomination (Canon I.1.5(d)).

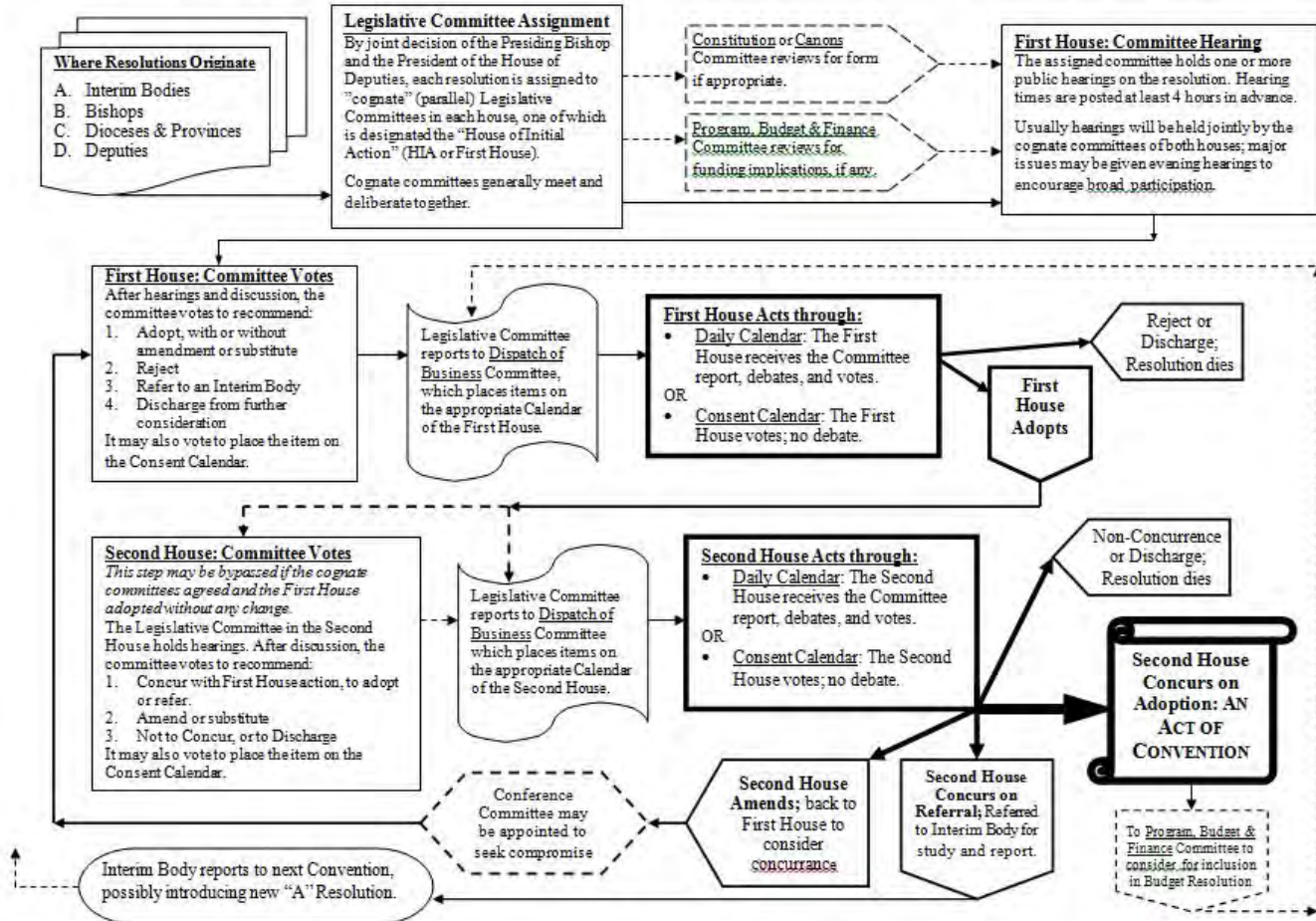
**Recorder of Ordinations:** 3-year term by tradition; nominated by House of Bishops, elected by House of Deputies (Canon I.1.6(a)).



## APPENDIX 4: LEGISLATIVE PROCESS CHART

### THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION

Resolutions introduced at General Convention must be adopted by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops to become "What the Convention Says"



## APPENDIX 5: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### **Adopt**

To approve a resolution, an amendment to a resolution, a substitute resolution, or a committee report.

### **Amend**

To make a change to a proposed resolution by deleting or adding words or phrases.

### **Calendar**

Prepared by the Committee on Dispatch of Business to set forth the resolutions which are proposed for consideration in a specific order. The Consent Calendar is used to bring matters to a vote in the House, without debate, by the appropriate legislative committee. A process exists for removing a matter from the Consent Calendar and placing it on the Calendar where debate is permitted.

### **Certification of Deputies**

Required for admission to the House of Deputies, and indicated by a deputy name tag. When a Deputy wishes to exchange status with an alternate, both persons must go to the Committee on Credentials at the designated place in the registration area of the General Convention to switch their status.

### **Chair**

The presiding officer of the House or of a committee.

### **Commission, Standing**

Interim body of General Convention, which meets during the triennium to study and make recommendations to General Convention on major subjects of continuing concern to the Church.

### **Committee of Conference**

May be appointed by the Presiding Officers if one House amends the action taken by the other House. In an effort to agree upon identical language, both Houses then consider adopting the report of the Committee of Conference.

### **Committee, Legislative**

Each House's designated legislative committees meet and act during, and with permission from the presiding officers, before General Convention. Committees that operate within each House under the same mandate usually meet and hear testimony together, but sometimes deliberate separately. They always vote separately.

### **Committee, Joint Standing**

The three Joint Standing Committees (Nominations; Planning & Arrangements; Program, Budget and Finance) mandated by the Joint Rules of Order, and the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop mandated in Canon I.2.1(a).

**Committee Report**

The means by which a legislative committee submits its recommendation for a resolution to the House. The committee can recommend that the resolution be Adopted, Adopted with amendment or substituted text, Rejected, or Referred to a CCAB. See the Rules of Order for other possible actions.

**Concur**

For one House to approve a resolution with the same text as the other House, thereby making the text an Act of Convention.

**Dispatch of Business**

Each House's Committee on Dispatch of Business schedules that House's calendars.

**Division of the House**

A request for a count of "yes" and "no" votes.

**Enacted**

Legislation has been enacted when a resolution has been adopted in identical form by both Houses. Legislation amending the Constitution or Canons, unless otherwise expressly ordered, takes effect on the first day of January in the year after the General Convention. Other legislation becomes effective when enacted. See Constitution Article XII, Canon V.1.6.

**Eucharist**

The liturgy for Holy Eucharist is offered daily at General Convention.

**Executive Council**

Elected by General Convention and the Provinces, the Executive Council carries out the programs and policies adopted by General Convention between meetings of Convention. The Executive Council also serves as the Board of Directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS), the New York corporation that serves as the legal entity of The Episcopal Church; operates The Episcopal Church Center (ECC) in New York City; and employs staff to implement the Church's programs. See Canon I.4.1.

**Exhibits**

Vendors and organizations offer services and goods for sale and provide information in the exhibit hall.

**Failed**

A resolution or motion fails when it has not received a majority of the votes cast.

**Floor**

That part of the House chambers occupied solely by bishops or elected and certified deputies.

**Forums**

Evening meetings at which general interest topics are presented and attendance is open to all.

**Hearing**

A time scheduled by the legislative committee to receive testimony on specific resolutions or memorials. Only registered bishops, deputies, alternates, or visitors may testify at a hearing.

**Hearing Schedule**

Posted daily by legislative committees to indicate times and places of hearings on specific resolutions.

**Joint Session**

The meeting of both Houses of the Convention; held in the chambers of the House of Deputies. Two Joint Sessions are mandated: (1) the presentation of the nominees for Presiding Bishop by the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, and (2) the budget presentation by PB&F. At the 78th General Convention, there will be a third joint session, a Mission Conversation.

**Memorial**

In the legislative context, a memorial is comparable to a petition: a statement about a matter of great importance that urges the General Convention to take action. A memorial should present arguments for the proposed action, and may provide evidence of widespread concern for the matter being memorialized. Memorials are referred to a legislative committee to inform their deliberations. Although not a resolution itself, a memorial informs committees as they perfect legislation. Memorials to General Convention have often been the catalyst for major initiatives or changes in the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church.

**Mind of the House**

A non-legislative expression of opinion by a majority of the members of one House.

**Minority Report**

A minority or dissenting report by legislative committee members, who constitute less than the majority, submitted with the report of the legislative committee.

**Motion**

A formal request by a member of the House that the House take a particular action. Usually commences with the words "I move that ..." A motion presented by a legislative committee does not require a second. A motion presented by an individual requires a second.

**Passed**

When a matter before the House has received the required majority of votes. A simple majority (50% + 1) is required on most matters, though some matters require a two-thirds majority (for example, to suspend the Rules of Order.)

**Platform**

The term used for those persons who manage the business of each House and who typically sit on a platform facing the membership on the floor.

**Pre-filed Resolutions**

Resolutions received by the Secretary of the General Convention prior to Convention, which are distributed to the appropriate legislative committees prior to Convention and to bishops and deputies online.

**Rejection**

A committee may recommend, with or without reasons, that a resolution be rejected.

**Re-referred**

The action of re-assigning a resolution from one legislative committee to another.

**Resolution**

The document, beginning with the word “Resolved,” which initiates legislation.

**Resolution Number**

The number that is assigned to a resolution as it moves through the legislative process. The letter attached to the number of a resolution (for example, the A in A005) identifies its source. A Resolutions are introduced by CCABs and are published in *The Blue Book*; B Resolutions are introduced by bishops; C Resolutions are introduced by entities other than those reporting through *The Blue Book* (dioceses and provinces); and D Resolutions are introduced by deputies.

**Rules of Order**

The specific procedures the General Convention uses to organize or “order” its conduct and legislative business. There are three sets of Rules of Order: one for the House of Deputies, another for the House of Bishops, and the Joint Rules of Order pertaining to both Houses

**Secretariat**

The administrative offices of the General Convention and each House of General Convention. At the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention, the Secretariats will be housed together. Secretariats’ duties include processing and tracking legislation, creating minutes, and scheduling meetings.

**Sine Die**

Adjournment of the last legislative session; from the Latin, literally, “without date” for return.

**Special Order of Business**

An action taken to consider a resolution at a specific time and/or to consider it with special rules of debate — for example, reducing the duration of debate or the time for proposing amendments.

**Substitute Resolution**

Significant revisions of a resolution are sometimes proposed by re-writing the legislation, rather than changing the existing language.

**Suspend the Rules**

Action taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the House to temporarily alter the general or special Rules of Order that are otherwise applicable. Examples include continuing debate, considering a matter out of order, or permitting the introduction of a late resolution.

**Vote by Orders**

A vote taken in the House of Deputies, at the request of the clerical or lay representation from at least three dioceses, in which the vote of each order (clerical and lay) is counted separately. Each order in each diocese casts one vote, which is determined by the majority vote of the deputies present in that order. A divided vote occurs when the order's deputies vote in a tie. See Constitution Article I.5.

## APPENDIX 6: FROM THE STANDING COMMISSION ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one of Salt Lake City's best known features because of their beautiful headquarters campus, which includes museums, music, and parks and plazas where you can sit and enjoy the peace. Not far from the center of the city is the headquarters for their outreach programs that provide work and education for people at risk, people new to this country, and others in need. Their focus is on empowering people to succeed. They provide food and clothing to help with immediate needs, and then help them find the skills they need to step out on their own.

Many of the people you will meet working in the Convention Center, the hotels, restaurants, and shops will be Mormons. Many will not. One of the largest groups of people in Salt Lake City claiming a denominational affiliation is Roman Catholic. People from just about every Christian denomination and the world's major religions are represented in Salt Lake City.

Because of their important role as founders of the city and their history, about which non-Mormons do not often hear a great deal, The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations is offering you "Mormonism 101," a document prepared by the Latter-day Saints leaders and staff for our information.

The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations offers the following information that was prepared by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for our use.

If you are curious to know more, we suggest you take time to visit Temple Square and the museum, and listen to their stories.

## About the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Note: The following was written by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the request of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.**

### Introduction

The religious experience of Church members is based on a spiritual witness from God through the Holy Spirit regarding the teachings, mission, and divinity of Jesus Christ. The Church's role is to help aid its members in their quest to follow Christ's teachings. Therefore, the Church's core doctrines strive in every instance to align with Christ's teachings as outlined in the Holy Bible and other sacred scripture, including the Book of Mormon.

President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught, "True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior." Latter-day Saints believe that the Church's scripturally based teachings change lives by motivating people to become more like the Savior.

With this understanding in mind, the following series of answers to frequently asked questions about the Church's teachings should help further illuminate what Latter-day Saints believe, clarify doctrinal distinctions and outline the commonalities shared by our respective faiths. The list of questions is not comprehensive but represents some of the most common inquiries the Church receives.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Page 33: Are Mormons Christian?  
What do Mormons believe about God? Do Mormons believe in the Trinity?  
What is the Mormon view of the purpose of life?  
Do Mormons believe in the Bible?  
What is the Book of Mormon?
- Page 34: What is a Mormon temple?  
Do Latter-day Saints believe in modern-day prophets?  
Do Latter-day Saints believe that the apostles receive revelations from God?  
Do Mormon women lead in the Church?
- Page 35: Do Latter-day Saints believe they can become "gods"?  
Do Latter-day Saints believe that they will "get their own planet"?  
Do some Latter-day Saints wear temple garments?  
Do Latter-day Saints practice polygamy?
- Page 36: What is the position of the Church regarding race relations?  
Why do you "baptize for the dead"?  
Why does the Church send out missionaries?  
Why don't Mormons smoke or drink alcohol?
- Page 37: What is the position of the Church regarding same-sex marriage?



### **Are Mormons Christian?**

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints consider themselves to be Christians. They would describe the Church as a Christian church, but one that is neither Catholic nor Protestant. Rather, Latter-day Saints consider it to be a restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ as originally established by the Savior in their interpretation of the New Testament. The Church does not subscribe to the creeds that are central to many other Christian churches.

Latter-day Saints believe God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save all mankind from death and individual sins. Jesus Christ is central to the lives of Church members. They seek to follow His example by being baptized, praying in His holy name, partaking of the sacrament, doing good to others and bearing witness of Him through both word and deed. Latter-day Saints believe that the only way to salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **What do Mormons believe about God?**

God is often referred to in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as our Heavenly Father because He is the Father of all human spirits and they are created in His image. It is an appropriate term for a God who is kind and just, all wise and all powerful. God the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost constitute the Godhead or Trinity for Mormons. Latter-day Saints believe God is embodied, though His body is perfect and glorified.

### **Do Mormons believe in the Trinity?**

Mormons most commonly use the term “Godhead” to refer to the Trinity. The first Article of Faith for Latter-day Saints reads: “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.” Latter-day Saints believe God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are one in will and purpose but are not literally the same being or substance, as conceptions of the Holy Trinity described in the creeds commonly imply.

### **What is the Mormon view of the purpose of life?**

For Latter-day Saints, mortal existence is seen in the context of a great sweep of history, from a pre- earth life where the spirits of all mankind lived with Heavenly Father to a future life in His presence where continued growth, learning and improving will take place. Life on earth is regarded as a temporary state in which men and women are tried and tested — and where they gain experiences obtainable nowhere else. They believe God knew humans would make mistakes, so He provided a Savior, His Son Jesus Christ, who would take upon Himself the sins of the world. To members of the Church, physical death on earth is not an end but the beginning of the next step in God’s plan for His children.

### **Do Mormons believe in the Bible?**

The Church reveres the Bible as the word of God, a sacred volume of scripture. Latter-day Saints cherish its teachings and engage in a lifelong study of its divine wisdom. Moreover, during worship services the Bible is pondered and discussed. Church members believe that additional books of scripture — including the Book of Mormon — strengthen and reinforce God’s teachings through additional witnesses and provide moving accounts of the personal experiences many individuals had with Jesus Christ. According to Church apostle M. Russell Ballard, “The Book of Mormon does not dilute nor diminish nor deemphasize the Bible. On the contrary, it expands, extends, and exalts it.”

### **What is the Book of Mormon?**

In addition to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, the Church teaches that the Book of Mormon is another testament, or witness, of Jesus Christ. They believe it contains the writings of ancient prophets,

giving an account of God's dealings with the peoples on the American continent. For Latter-day Saints it stands alongside the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as holy scripture.

### **What is a Mormon temple?**

Temples existed throughout Biblical times. These buildings were considered the house of the Lord. Latter-day Saint temples are likewise considered houses of the Lord by Church members.

To Latter-day Saints, temples are sacred buildings in which they are taught about their personal relationship to God and about the central role of Jesus Christ in God's plan of salvation. In temples, members of the Church make covenants (sacred promises) with God to live a virtuous and faithful life. In temples, Church members also participate in sacraments on behalf of their deceased ancestors. Mormon temples are also used to perform marriage ceremonies that promise the faithful eternal life with their families. For members of the Church, family is of paramount importance. Only church members who spiritually prepare themselves are certified by their local Bishop to enter the temple.

### **Do Latter-day Saints believe in modern-day prophets?**

Yes. The Church is governed today by apostles, reflecting the way Jesus organized His followers in Biblical times. Three apostles constitute the First Presidency, consisting of the president, or prophet, of the Church and his two counselors. Together with the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, they have responsibility for leading the Church worldwide and serving as special witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each is accepted by Church members in a prophetic role corresponding to the apostles in the Bible.

**Do Latter-day Saints believe that the apostles receive revelations from God?** Yes. When Latter-day Saints speak to God, they call it prayer. When God responds through the influence of the Holy Spirit, members refer to this as revelation. To members of the Church, revelation, in its broad meaning, is divine guidance or inspiration; it is the communication of truth and knowledge from God to His children on earth, suited to their language and understanding. The Bible illustrates different types of revelation, ranging from dramatic visions to gentle feelings — from the “burning bush” to the “still, small voice.” Mormons generally believe that divine guidance comes quietly, taking the form of impressions, thoughts and feelings carried by the Spirit of God.

Most often, revelation unfolds as an ongoing, prayerful dialogue with God: A problem arises, its dimensions are studied out, a question is asked, and if we have sufficient faith, God leads us to answers. Though ultimately a spiritual experience, Latter-day Saints believe revelation also requires careful thought, and that God expects us to seek solutions to questions and problems through prayerful searching and sound thinking.

The First Presidency and members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles receive inspiration to guide the Church as a whole. Individuals are also inspired with revelation regarding how to conduct their lives and how to help and serve others.

### **Do Mormon women lead in the Church?**

All women are daughters of a loving Heavenly Father. Women and men are equal in the sight of God. The Bible says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). In the family, a wife and a husband form an equal partnership in leading and raising a family.

Although not ordained to the priesthood, from the beginning of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, women have played an integral role in the work of the Church. Women serve as leaders,

counselors, missionaries, teachers, and in many other responsibilities. They routinely preach from the pulpit and lead congregational prayers in worship services. They serve both in the Church and in their local communities and contribute to the world as leaders in a variety of professions. Their vital and unique contribution to the raising of children is considered an important responsibility and a special privilege of equal importance to priesthood responsibilities.

**Do Latter-day Saints believe they can become “gods”?**

Latter-day Saints believe that God wants us to become like Him. But this teaching is often misrepresented by those who caricature the faith. The Latter-day Saint belief is no different than the biblical teaching, which states, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:16-17). Through following Christ's teachings, Latter-day Saints believe all people can become "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

**Do Latter-day Saints believe that they will “get their own planet”?**

No. This idea is not taught in Latter-day Saint scripture, nor is it a doctrine of the Church. This misunderstanding stems from speculative comments unreflective of scriptural doctrine. Mormons believe that we are all sons and daughters of God and that all of us have the potential to grow during and after this life to become like our Heavenly Father. The Church does not and has never purported to fully understand the specifics of Christ's statement that “in my Father's house are many mansions” (John 14:2).

**Do some Latter-day Saints wear temple garments?**

Yes. In our world of diverse religious observance, many people of faith wear special clothing as a reminder of sacred beliefs and commitments. This has been a common practice throughout history.

Today, faithful adult members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints wear temple garments. These garments are simple, white underclothing composed of two pieces: a top piece similar to a T-shirt and a bottom piece similar to shorts. Not unlike the Jewish *tallit katan* (prayer shawl), these garments are worn underneath regular clothes. Temple garments serve as a personal reminder of covenants (sacred promises) made with God to lead good, honorable, Christ-like lives. The wearing of temple garments is an outward expression of an inward commitment to follow the Savior.

Biblical scripture contains many references to the wearing of special garments. In the Old Testament the Israelites are specifically instructed to turn their garments into personal reminders of their covenants with God. Indeed, for some, religious clothing has always been an important part of integrating worship with daily living. Such practices resonate with Latter-day Saints today.

Because of the personal and religious nature of the temple garment, the Church asks all media to report on the subject with respect, treating Latter-day Saint temple garments as they would religious vestments of other faiths. Ridiculing or making light of sacred clothing is highly offensive to Latter-day Saints.

**Do Latter-day Saints practice polygamy?**

No. The practice of polygamy is strictly prohibited in the Church. The general standard of marriage in the Church has always been monogamy, as indicated in the Book of Mormon. For periods in the Bible polygamy was practiced by the patriarchs Abraham and Jacob, as well as kings David and Solomon. It was again practiced by a minority of Latter-day Saints in the early years of the Church. Polygamy was officially discontinued in 1890 — 124 years ago. Those who practice polygamy today have nothing whatsoever to do with the Church.

### **What is the position of the Church regarding race relations?**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone. The Book of Mormon states, “Black and white, bond and free, male and female; ... all are alike unto God” (2 Nephi 26:33). This is the Church’s official teaching.

People of all races have always been welcomed and baptized into the Church since its beginning. In fact, by the end of his life in 1844, Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, opposed slavery. During this time some black males were ordained to the priesthood. By 1852 the Church had stopped ordaining male members of African descent, although there were a few exceptions. Though it is not known precisely why or how this restriction began in the Church, it has long-since ended. Church leaders sought divine guidance regarding the issue and more than three decades ago extended the priesthood to all worthy male members. The Church immediately began ordaining male members to priesthood offices wherever they attended throughout the world.

The Church unequivocally condemns racism, including any and all past racism by individuals both inside and outside the Church. In 2006, then Church president Gordon B. Hinckley declared that “no man who makes disparaging remarks concerning those of another race can consider himself a true disciple of Christ. Nor can he consider himself to be in harmony with the teachings of the Church. Let us all recognize that each of us is a son or daughter of our Father in Heaven, who loves all of His children.”

### **Why do you “baptize for the dead”?**

Jesus Christ taught that “except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Proxy baptism for the deceased is a free will offering by Latter-day Saints for those who have passed on without receiving the ordinance of baptism. According to Church doctrine, a departed soul in the afterlife is completely free to accept or reject such a baptism — the offering is freely given and must be freely received. The ordinance does not force deceased persons to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, nor does the Church list deceased persons as members of the Church. In short, there is no change in the religion or heritage of the recipient or of the recipient's descendants — the notion of coerced conversion is utterly contrary to Church doctrine.

All Church members are instructed to submit names for proxy baptism only for their own deceased relatives as an offering of familial love.

### **Why does the Church send out missionaries?**

The missionary effort of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is based on the New Testament pattern of missionaries serving in pairs, teaching the gospel, and baptizing believers in the name of Jesus Christ. More than 80,000 missionaries, most of whom are under the age of 25, are serving missions for the Church at any one time. Missionary work is voluntary, with most missionaries funding their own missions. They receive their assignment from Church headquarters and are sent only to countries where governments allow the Church to operate. In some parts of the world, missionaries are sent to serve only humanitarian or other specialized missions.

### **Why don’t Mormons smoke or drink alcohol?**

The health code for Latter-day Saints is based on a teaching regarding foods that are healthy and substances that are not good for the human body. Accordingly, alcohol, tobacco, tea, coffee and illegal drugs are forbidden. A 14-year UCLA study, completed in 1997, tracked mortality rates and health practices of 10,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in California, indicating that Church members who adhered to the health code had one of the lowest death rates from cancer

and cardiovascular disease in the United States. It also found that Church members who followed the code had a life expectancy eight to 11 years longer than the general white population of the United States.

**What is the position of the Church regarding same-sex marriage?**

For Latter-day Saints, marriage between a man and a woman is sacred. The document “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” states that “marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.”

Though The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not support same-sex marriage, it firmly believes that all people are equally beloved children of God and deserve to be treated with love and respect. Furthermore, the Church has advocated for rights of same-sex couples regarding hospitalization and medical care, fair housing and employment rights, or probate rights, so long as these do not infringe on the integrity of the traditional family or the constitutional rights of churches. In Salt Lake City, for example, the Church supported ordinances aimed at protecting gay residents from discrimination in housing and employment.

**Same-Sex Attraction**

Few topics are as emotionally charged or require more sensitivity than same-sex attraction. This complex matter touches on the things we care about most: our basic humanity, our relationship to family, our identity and potential as children of God, how we treat each other, and what it means to be disciples of Christ.

The Church’s doctrinal position is clear: Sexual activity should occur only between a man and a woman who are married. However, that should never be used as justification for unkindness.

The experience of same-sex attraction is a complex reality for many people. The official stance of the Church is that the attraction itself is not a sin, but acting on it is. Even though individuals do not choose to have such attractions, they do choose how to respond to them. With love and understanding, the Church reaches out to all God’s children, including our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

The Church has created an official website to more fully address this complex issue – see [www.mormonsandgays.org](http://www.mormonsandgays.org).

A Brief Bibliography of Resources about the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Compiled by the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.

**Official LDS sources**

- [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org)
  - official, church-run site dedicated to showing who Mormon people are, through brief biographies and descriptions of beliefs and values
- [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)
  - official, church-run site focused more on the Church itself and its teachings
  - includes full texts of all four LDS scriptural books, along with study helps
- [www.mormonnewsroom.org](http://www.mormonnewsroom.org)
  - information and resources for media who report on the LDS church
- [www.deseretbook.com](http://www.deseretbook.com)
  - LDS bookstore's online store
- [www.maxwellinstitute.byu.edu](http://www.maxwellinstitute.byu.edu)
  - online home of BYU's Institute for Religious Scholarship

**Unofficial websites**

- [www.mormonbeliefs.org](http://www.mormonbeliefs.org)
  - a Mormon response to current issues facing the Church and society
- [www.zionsbest.com/best25websites.html](http://www.zionsbest.com/best25websites.html)
  - listing of numerous other Mormon websites
- [www.fairmormon.org](http://www.fairmormon.org)
  - LDS apologetics website countering anti-Mormon claims
- [www.mormonthink.com](http://www.mormonthink.com)
  - attempt to provide accurate information on misunderstood aspects of Mormonism
- [sunstonemagazine.com](http://sunstonemagazine.com)
- [www.carm.org/mormonism](http://www.carm.org/mormonism)
  - evangelical apologetics ministry explaining why Mormonism is not Christian
- [www.utlm.org](http://www.utlm.org)
  - Utah ministry challenging Mormon history and doctrine
- [www.contenderministries.org/mormonism.php](http://www.contenderministries.org/mormonism.php)
  - series of articles challenging the notion that Mormons are Christians
- [www.waltermartin.com/mormon](http://www.waltermartin.com/mormon)
  - evangelical ministry explaining how Mormon beliefs (and other new religious movements) are distinct from Christian beliefs

**Books**

- *Book of Mormon + The Doctrines and Covenants + Pearl of Great Price*
- *Mormonism: A Very Short Introduction*, by Richard Lyman Bushman
- *Mormonism for Dummies*, by Jana Reiss
- *Mormon America: The Power and the Promise*, by Richard Ostling