

HOTEL AND REGISTRATION GUIDE

The General Convention Of The Episcopal Church



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General Convention is almost a year away and it is time for Dioceses and Groups to begin preparations for travel to Austin. The Executive Office of the General Convention and Diocese of Texas have been developing plans to ensure the 79th General Convention continues to support the governance and mission of the Episcopal Church through a loving, liberating and life giving experience. We offer the following information to assist in your planning, budgeting and preparations and look forward to welcoming you to Austin, Texas.

Convention Information:

Location: The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas

Official Convention Dates: Thursday, July 5 – Friday, July 13, 2018

Key Locations:

House of Bishops and Deputies Legislative sessions - Austin Convention Center.
Legislative Committee meetings and Hearings - the JW Marriott or Hilton Hotels.

Episcopal Church Women Triennial Meeting – Austin Convention Center.

Daily Worship – Austin Convention Center.
Convention Eucharist and UTO In-Gathering – The Palmer Center.

Diocese of Texas Event – The Palmer Center

For the draft Convention Schedule and more information, please visit the General Convention website: www.generalconvention.org

Registration Information:

Registration fees have been set as follows:

Bishops*/Deputies/Alternates:	\$600
ECW Delegates:	\$475
Visitors (Pre-registered)	\$130

*Resigned Bishops who attend convention for a short time and plan to be seated on the floor of the House of Bishops, are required to pay the full registration fee. A Visitor credential will not allow a bishop on the House floor.

Other registration options available on site for the 79th General Convention:

Visitors who register at the Convention Center	\$140	(for entire convention)
Youth Visitors 12-18	\$ 30	(for entire convention)
Visitors can register for only one day	\$ 50	(per day)
Access to visit the <u>Exhibit Area only</u>	\$ 15	(per day)

Visitor Registration fees allow access to all areas of the General Convention, including the Visitor galleries in the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, Legislative Committee rooms and hearings, the Exhibit Area and Worship.

Everyone is welcome to join any of the worship services without paying a registration fee.

- Diocesan Media and Outside Media - personnel do not pay a registration fee if they go through the Office of Public Relations and obtain media credentials.
- Volunteers – as a thank you for volunteering their time, volunteers will receive a complimentary visitor day pass to attend convention at a time of their choosing.
- Exhibitor - Our Exhibit Management Company handles this registration.

Please note:

- *On-line registration for the General Convention will open at the end of January 2018.*
- *All registrants are required to show a photo ID at the time of registration.*

Hotel Guide and Information:

General Information:

Taxes: The current taxes on each guest room is 15%, plus an additional 0.81% Texas Franchise or Recovery Tax per night.

Some religious organizations are tax exempt from paying some of these taxes. Please go to <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/96-1045.php> to find more information on who qualifies, along with an exemption application form.

Guest Room Internet: All of the negotiated room rates at the Convention Hotels include internet service. (Please note if staying at the Fairmont Hotel, guests will need to join their Presidents Club to have free internet, there is no cost to join this club)

Non-Smoking: All Hotels in Austin are smoke-free. There is no need for you to request non-smoking rooms.

Suites: We contract as many suites as the hotels have available, and always receive requests for more suites than we have. In fairness to all, we will not assign more than one suite per Diocese or Group. Regrettably, it is not possible for us to accommodate all requests.

The only hotel in Austin agreeing to remove furniture from a connecting room to make a suite is the JW Marriott. There is a one-time \$75 fee for this.

Airport: Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) serves the 33rd largest metropolitan area in the U.S. Located approximately 10 miles from the downtown Convention Center area, travel time will be about 30 minutes (pending traffic).

For more information: <http://www.austintexas.gov/airport>

Food and Beverage: A recent Business Travel News release indicated \$102 as the per diem rate for meals in Austin. This is broken down as \$16 for breakfast, \$27 for lunch and \$59 for dinner. Please note, some of our hotel rates include breakfast.

http://www.businesstravelnews.com/uploadedFiles/9_Microsites/Corporate_Travel_Index/Corporate_Travel_Index_2017/US_Diem/BTN%20US-FoodCostBreakdown2017.pdf

Well known for its variety of dining options, Austin is also one of the entertainment capitals in the USA. For more information on what is happening in Austin, and to start planning your dining options, please visit the Austin Visitor and Convention website: <http://www.austintexas.org/visit/>

Airport Transportation: Please look for more information on arrangements for airport transportation in the 3rd phase of our housing process.

Convention Hotels:

Courtyard by Marriott Austin Downtown:

300 East 4th Street:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/auscd-courtyard-austin-downtown-convention-center/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Rate: \$139.00 (\$159.85 with tax) for single or double occupancy – *Rate includes breakfast*

- Connected to the Residence Inn by a common lobby area and common corridors on two of the guest room floors. Hotel assignments may include rooms at either or both hotels.
- The Courtyard has **no** connecting rooms.
- Breakfast is included in the rate in Champions Restaurant located off the lobby of the Courtyard Hotel.
- Some rooms have refrigerators; all rooms have coffee makers. Safe deposit boxes available at the Front Desk.
- Convention attendees will receive a 10% discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages in Champions.

Fairmont Austin:

101 Red River Street:

<http://www.fairmont.com/austin/>

Rate: \$145.00 (\$166.75 with tax) for single or double occupancy

- All rooms have coffee makers and in-room safes. Mini-fridges available for a fee.
- You must join the Fairmont Presidents Club for free guest room Internet. Enrollment is free of charge.
- Six on-site dining options in the hotel.
- Walkway from the hotel connecting to the Convention Center.

Hilton Austin:

500 East 4th Street:

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-austin-AUSCVHH/index.html>

Rate: \$139.00 (\$159.85 with tax) for single or double occupancy

- All rooms have mini fridges, safes and coffee makers
- 10% discount on Food and non-alcoholic beverages in hotel restaurant and coffee shop.
- Concierge floor and lounge for certain Hilton Honors level members
- Enclosed walkway connecting to the Convention Center
- Some Legislative Committees and Hearings will be held at this hotel.

Hyatt Place Austin Downtown:

211 East 3rd Street:

<https://austindowntown.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Rate: \$144.00 (\$165.60 with tax) for single or double occupancy – *Rate includes breakfast*

- All rooms have mini fridges, in-room safes and coffee makers.
- All rooms have larger seating area with sofa that pulls out to a bed
- Breakfast is included in the room rate
- Grab and Go kiosk located in lobby

JW Marriott Austin:

110 East 2nd Street:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ausjw-jw-marriott-austin/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Rate: \$139.00 (\$159.85 with tax) for single or double occupancy

- All rooms have coffee makers and in-room safes. Mini-fridges available for a fee.
- 10% discount on Food and non-alcoholic beverages in hotel restaurants.
- Concierge lounge for certain Marriott level members.
- Some Legislative Committees and Hearings will be held at this hotel.

Residence Inn Austin Downtown:

300 East 4th Street:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ausrd-residence-inn-austin-downtown-convention-center/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Rate: \$139.00 (\$159.85 with tax) for studio room – *Rate includes breakfast*

\$169.00 (\$194.35 with tax) for one-bedroom suite - *Rate includes breakfast*

\$229.00 (\$263.35 with tax) for two-bedroom suite - *Rate includes breakfast*

- Connected to the Courtyard by Marriott by a common lobby area and common corridors on two of the guest room floors. Hotel assignments may include rooms at either or both hotels.
- The Residence Inn has **no** two-bedded rooms. All of the beds in this hotel are queen sized.

- Breakfast is included in the rate in Champions Restaurant located off the lobby of the Courtyard Hotel.
- All rooms have refrigerators, microwave ovens and coffee makers. Safe deposit boxes available at the Front Desk.
- Convention attendees will receive a 10% discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages in Champions.



Convention Center and Hotels for the 2018 General Convention in Austin, Texas

