



**INTRODUCTION  
TO  
80<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONVENTION**

To the Deputies and Bishops of the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a joy to write this letter knowing that in a few more weeks we will see each other in person. Whether you have been attending General Conventions for decades or this will be your first one, I hope you are excited and grateful to gather for our important, historic work. We have been through so much since we last gathered in Austin, from a global pandemic to devastation, from war and natural disasters to an increasing awareness of the realities and legacy of white supremacy and oppression in our Church and our communities. It will be a gift to gather to worship, learn, and to speak on the challenges of our time from the foundations of our faith.

So many of you have been hard at work already, serving on Legislative Committees, studying the Blue Book and preparing for discernment and fellowship of General Convention. It takes so much coordination and effort to make any General Convention happen – especially when it has been postponed a year and the legislative work has begun before any of us have arrived in Baltimore. The Church has been blessed with faithful, diligent leaders who have worked and continue to work tirelessly to ensure that General Convention can happen in Baltimore in July – and in a way that cares for our safety, honors our dignity, and equips us to do the work of the gathered Body of Christ. We also extend deep gratitude to the Diocese of Maryland and our partners in the City of Baltimore who have worked and reworked so many plans and logistics to ensure we can gather and experience the wonderful history and vibrant culture of Baltimore.

For many years, this document has been a “handbook” you could print out and bring with you. As we continue toward a paperless General Convention, and as things continue to evolve and change because of COVID protocols, this resource of information is online and more dynamic for 2022. Below you will find links to lots of resources. You are welcome to download this document. It largely contains links, so that you can access the most current information. These links should open with a simple click or tap from your computer or mobile device. If you are a veteran to General Convention, please know that the usual pages that provide basic information on General Convention, the legislative process and local resources are all still here, hopefully in a user-friendly and easy to navigate manner. Additionally, you'll find information about safety protocols and essential preparation before you arrive in Baltimore.

If you have a smartphone, all of this information will also be available in the General Convention app, which will be available via the General Convention website in mid-June. There's a lot of information, so please know that highlights and reminders regarding General Convention will also be included in the monthly newsletter from the General Convention Office. As bishops and deputies, you should already receive this newsletter. If you do not, or if you have additional questions, please email [gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org) so that we may assist you. Previous editions of the newsletter may be found here <https://www.generalconvention.org/news>.

I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the work of General Convention, and your willingness to serve in a leadership role that takes you away from home, ministries, and family responsibilities. Without the marvelous networks that keep things going in our home communities, our work in Baltimore would not be possible. As we pray at Compline, “grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil.” Amen!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

With my prayers and every good wish,

The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe  
Secretary of the General Convention and Executive Officer

*Notes of welcome from the Presiding Officers will be posted soon.*

## Information about General Convention

What is General Convention? <https://www.generalconvention.org/about>  
[Structure of General Convention](#)  
[Organizational Chart for General Convention](#)  
[How a Resolution Moves through Convention](#)

The official resource is [www.generalconvention.org](http://www.generalconvention.org) for everything, including updates to COVID-19 safety and policies.

Please also sign up for our newsletter here: <https://www.generalconvention.org/news>

See also:

Accessibility Guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Information from the Diocese of Maryland: <https://gceighty.org/>

Information from The Episcopal Church: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/church-governance/>

## Baltimore

For local information on the city, restaurants, things to do, resources, etc. please see the site especially created for us by Visit Baltimore: <https://baltimore.org/convention-blog/the-general-convention-of-the-episcopal-church-2022/>

## Registration

<https://www.generalconvention.org/registration>

## Events at General Convention

- Official schedule and calendars are posted on [www.generalconvention.org](http://www.generalconvention.org)
  - Official General Convention App will be available in mid-June
  - [Schedule for 2022](#) is currently a draft and will remain so until is officially adopted in Baltimore
  - Daily Calendars of Legislative Business:  
[House of Bishops](#)  
[House of Deputies](#)

## Elections

[List of elections that occur at General Convention](#)

- Information from the House of Deputies on electing a President and Vice President: <https://houseofdeputies.org/2021/12/13/electing-a-new-phod-and-vphod/>

## Legislation

- [Rosters of Legislative Committees](#)
- [When LC meetings and hearings are taking place](#)

## **Budget**

- [Here is the draft budget from Executive Council under consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance](#)

**Children's Program:** <https://www.generalconvention.org/childrens-program>

**Official Youth Presence** has been appointed and met for orientation earlier this spring.

## **Secretariat**

The Secretariat makes all the legislative work of General Convention happen. The work of the Secretariat, which operates as a combined entity supporting the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, is further divided into a variety of areas supported by an incredible team of dedicated staff from the General Convention Office and volunteers from across The Episcopal Church. If you have questions about the Secretariat or anything related to Legislation, please contact [gc.support@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gc.support@episcopalchurch.org)

## **Publications**

Blue Book (Reports to General Convention)

<https://www.generalconvention.org/publications#bluebook>

Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order -

<https://www.generalconvention.org/publications#CandC>

Journal of General Convention -

<https://www.generalconvention.org/publications#journal>

Summary of Actions -

<https://www.generalconvention.org/publications#SoA>

[Acts of Convention](#) (searchable database of Acts from previous Conventions)

## **80<sup>th</sup> General Convention Legislative Research**

- Please see this [Letter from the Archives](#) about how they are available to the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention
- <https://www.episcopalarchives.org/general-convention-resources>

## Questions?

List of GCO staff Contacts <https://www.generalconvention.org/gco-staff>

If you have a question related to General Convention and don't know who to ask, please email [gc.support@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gc.support@episcopalchurch.org) and your inquiry will be directed to the appropriate person.

## Appendices

- [List of Legislative Committees for the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention](#)
- [List of helpful terms / some frequently used acronyms](#)
- [Map of Provinces and Dioceses of The Episcopal Church](#)