



INTRODUCTION TO
81st GENERAL CONVENTION

Welcome to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church!

Thank you for agreeing to serve at the 81st General Convention. Your leadership is essential to the church's discernment of God's mission, and individually and collectively you are among the most distinguished leaders of The Episcopal Church.

I am the 26th Secretary of the General Convention to have served in this role since our first meeting in 1785. During those early years, our church found itself in the middle of one of the great scourges of the time – yellow fever – and an early convention was postponed because of concerns for the safety and welfare of those attending. In 2021, we followed the example of our forebears, and postponed the 80th General Convention for a year. That convention, held in the summer of 2022, was a truncated gathering, held under complicated health protocols and precautions. Two years later, we are looking forward to a larger assembly of Episcopalians and friends, taking the lessons of the past into a new, expectant future for the Church. We are excited and ready to welcome you to the beautiful city of Louisville, Kentucky in June 2024.

To host The Episcopal Church in convention requires years of planning, thousands of volunteers, and the amazing work of the staff of the General Convention Office – eleven extraordinary people whose faithful efforts have supported us through many adaptations and changes over the years. I am grateful to the wonderful people of the General Convention Office – the GCO – and to the thousands of volunteers from throughout The Episcopal Church, and especially from our hosts, the Diocese of Kentucky and the City of Louisville. I hope you will join me in expressing your gratitude to them as we meet in June.

This handbook has been prepared to give you essential information as you prepare for your role at convention. Together with the Blue Book reports, committee meetings and hearings, and other engagements, I hope this will give you the knowledge you need for the important work ahead. As always, I and my staff are ready to answer your questions and assist in other ways. Simply email gc.support@generalconvention.org and someone will be back in touch.

I look forward to seeing you in Louisville.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Barlowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe, D.D.
Secretary of the General Convention and Executive Officer
The Episcopal Church

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

[In English](#) [En Español](#)

The official resource is www.generalconvention.org

To view a page En Español, please click the red button in the upper right corner Please also sign up for our newsletter here: <https://www.generalconvention.org/news>

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

Information from the [Diocese of Kentucky](#):

Information on Governance from [The Episcopal Church](#):

Louisville

For local information on the city, restaurants, things to do, resources, etc. please see:

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/>

Registration

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

Events at General Convention

- Official schedule and calendars are posted on www.generalconvention.org
- The Official General Convention App will be available in early June.
 - [Schedule for 2024](#) is currently a draft and will remain so until is officially adopted in Louisville
 - [Episcopal Church Women events](#)
 - [Affiliated Events](#)
- Daily Calendars of Legislative Business
 - [House of Bishops](#)
 - [House of Deputies](#)

Elections

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

Presiding Bishop Election

[Information on the election of the Presiding Bishop](#)

Legislation

[Legislation](#)

[Rosters of Legislative Committees](#)

[When LC meetings and hearings are taking place](#)

Budget

[The Budget](#) is available through the Virtual Binder

Children and Youth Program

<https://generalconvention.org/attendee-resources-gc81/#childrens-program>

[Official Youth Presence](#) information is available through the Office of Youth Ministries.

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

Publications

Blue Book (Reports to General Convention)

<https://generalconvention.org/bluebook/>

Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order -

<https://generalconvention.org/constitution-and-canons/>

Journal of General Convention -

<https://generalconvention.org/journal/>

Summary of Actions -

<https://generalconvention.org/summary-of-actions/>

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

Additional Resources from the Archives

<https://www.episcopalarchives.org/general-convention>

Questions?

List of [GCO staff Contacts](#)

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

Additional Resources

List of helpful terms / some frequently used acronyms

[In English](#) [En Español](#)

[Map of Provinces and Dioceses of The Episcopal Church](#)