GENERAL CONVENTION ORIENTATION

The 78th General Convention
The Episcopal Church

June 25 - July 3, 2015
Salt Lake City, Utah

By the Rev. Canon John E. Kitagawa
Deputy

THE GENERAL CONVENTION

Some Quick Notes:
• G.C. is the policy setting body for the Episcopal Church
• G.C. sets the budget of the Episcopal Church for the triennium
• G.C. elects the leadership of the Episcopal Church, including the Presiding Bishop (2015), the President of the House of Deputies, Members of the Executive Council; and, members of a variety of boards.
• G.C. meets every three years, generally during the summer:
  Next: June 25 – July 3, 2015 Salt Lake City
  Next: July 2018, Austin, Texas
• G.C. can be called into special session during the triennium
The chart to the right shows the relationship between the General Convention and local congregations. Congregations elect delegates to Diocesan Conventions. Diocesan Conventions elect Deputies to the General Convention. They are called Deputies because they are not delegated to represent the "mind of the diocese". Each Deputy is asked to vote according to his/her conscience.

Every diocese may elect 4 clergy and 4 lay Deputies (and alternates) to The House of Deputies (Constitution Article 1, Sec. 4). General Convention has a bi-cameral governing structure. The House of Bishops is the second legislative body of the Convention.
THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

2012 Indianapolis

Gay Clark Jennings
HD President

Byron Rushing
HD V.P.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

All Bishops in good standing—active and retired—of the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. have seat and vote in the House of Bishops (Constitution Article 1, sec. 2).

The House of Bishops may only legislate when meeting at the General Convention.

<< The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate

2011, St. Philip's, Tucson
THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

NOTES ON G.C. SCHEDULE

- There are many Legislative Committee Meetings earlier in the schedule, and most mornings.
- Legislative Committee Meetings often include "Hearings" to listen to testimony about resolutions. Hearings on specific legislation is posted in advance for all to see.
- Note the centrality of worship.
- Action on legislation happens during Legislative Sessions; Bishops and Deputies meeting in their houses.
- The Exhibit Hall is open most of the Convention.
- Note the other official events on the schedule. There are many more sponsored by a variety of groups.
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF GENERAL CONVENTION

78th General Convention Schedule - DRAFT
Anaheim, 2009

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: PART I
Let us view the process in three parts.

- GCO = General Convention Executive Officer
- CCABs = Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards
- “A” resolutions come from CCABs and are published in advance of GC in the “Blue Book”.
- “B” resolutions come from Bishops and distributed at GC.
- “C” resolutions come from Diocesan Conventions or Provincial Synods and distributed at GC.
- “D” resolutions come from Deputies and distributed at GC.
LEGISLATION

Filed Prior to Convention by CCAEs

At Convention: Bishops, Deputies, Dioceses

2015 is advertized to be paperless, so these may be historical relics.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: PART II
**LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: PART III**

(Arrow on the left takes the process back to Part II)

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**REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

In order to become church policy, a resolution must:

- Be considered by House of Bishops (HB) and House of Deputies (HD) Legislative Committees, which normally meet together.
- "Hearings" are held by Legislative Committees on matters to be legislated. Bishops, Deputies and guests may testify for or against a measure.
- Resolutions are assigned a House of Initial Action, where after committee process, the resolution is acted upon first.
- Resolutions must be passed in the exact same language by HB and HD in order to become policy.
- The HB cannot legislate policy on its own at its annual meetings.
VOTING IN THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

- Some matters are determined by majority "voice" votes.
- Some matters, like elections, are determined by electronic ballots.
- The most significant matters are determined by a vote by orders. To pass, a resolution must have a majority of "yes" votes from the dioceses voting as laity, and also as clergy. To be counted as one "yes" vote, out of 4 lay diocesan deputies, 3 or 4 must vote yes. The same is true for diocesan clergy deputies. Of 4, 3 or 4 must vote yes. A 2 to 2 vote, is effectively a no vote. The lay and clergy orders of a diocese do not have to agree with each other.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

- Publication: The Journal of the 77th General Convention
- On Line: www.episcopaldigitalnetwork.com
- On Line: www.episcopalcouncil.com
- Web Site: www.episcopalchurch.org/ec click on General Convention, then 2015 General Convention

Smith, Kilgore, Snook, Mowland, Castilian, Conley, Thompson, Johnson - 2012 Indianapolis
2015 DEPUTIES

**Clerical Order**
- The Rev. Bruce Jackson
- The Rev. Susan Snook
- The Rev. Canon Timothy Dambek
- The Rev. Canon John Kitagawa

**Lay Order**
- Mr. Daniel Packard
- Ms. Adriana Gonzalez-Bonilla
- Canon Judith Conley
- Mr. Miguel Carmona

**Alternate Clergy**
- The Rev. Irineo Martin Vasquez
- The Rev. Debra Asis
- The Rev. James Fitzsimmons
- The Rev. Stephen Keplinger

**Alternate Lay**
- Canon Clarke Gregor
- Ms. Barbara Harber
- Canon Jack Hanstein
- Mr. James Rottuck

www.generalconvention.org/go/deputations?diocese_id=77

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**TASK FORCE for REIMAGINING the EPISCOPAL CHURCH governance administration**

[www.reimagineec.org](http://www.reimagineec.org)

- About TREC
  - Including enabling resolution
  - How to contact information
- News & Reports
  - Including Study Papers
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  - Spanish translation
- Church Wide Meeting
  - Including the webcast of the Churchwide Meeting, 10.02.14

[www.episcopalcafe.com](http://www.episcopalcafe.com)

- Blogs & commentary