



LOOKING TOWARDS THE 81ST GENERAL CONVENTION

General Convention Overview

General Convention is the national legislative body of The Episcopal Church. The General Convention sets policy for our denomination, including in worship, discipline, mission, finance, and vision. It consists of a House of Bishops (HoB), which includes all active and retired bishops, and a House of

Deputies (HoD), which includes four lay persons and four clergy from each diocese, each area mission, and the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe. General Convention operates as a senatorial system, hence each diocese and area mission has the same number of delegates regardless of size and membership.

The Convention typically meets every three years, though due to a postponement of the 2021 General Convention to 2022, there was only a two-year period before this meeting. The Houses meet and act separately, and both must concur to adopt legislation. The General Convention alone has authority to amend the Prayer Book and the

Deputation of the Diocese of East Carolina to the 81st General Convention

The deputation from our diocese consists of lay and clergy deputies who were elected at our 140th Annual Diocesan Convention in February 2023. As representatives of our diocese, they will work in the House of Deputies at the legislation and governance business on the schedule. Bishop Skirving represents our diocese in the House of Bishops. The 81st General Convention will take place June 23 - 28, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky. Most deputies will arrive one or two days prior, as the Presiding Bishop nominees will be presented, and legislative committees and hearings will take place prior to the official start of General Convention.

church's Constitution, to amend the canons (laws) of the church, and to determine the program and budget of the General Convention and the programs it authorizes. The General Convention also elects twenty of the forty members of the Executive Council, which administers policy and program between General Conventions.



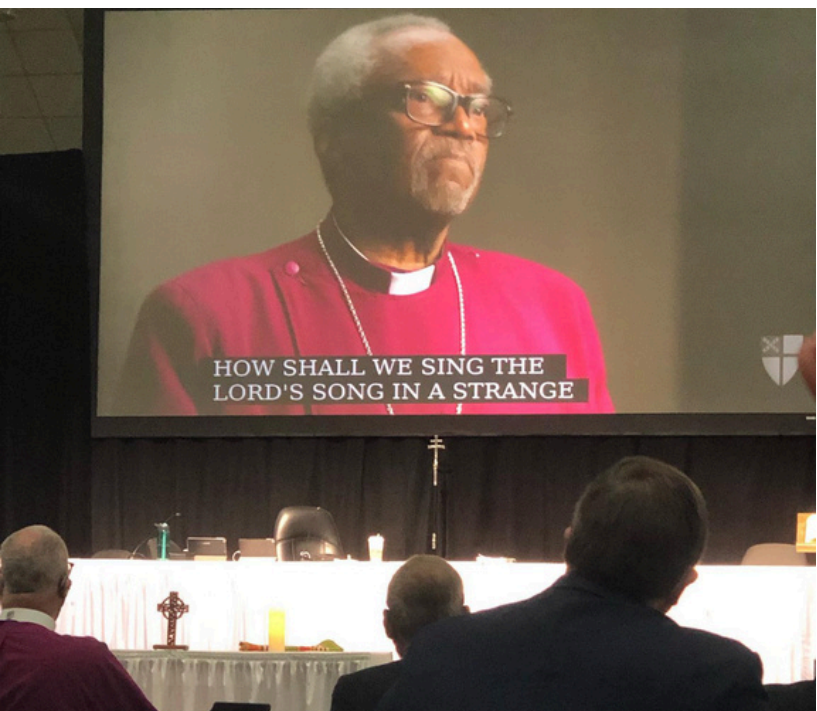
Our deputation is as follows:

Clergy Deputies: Paul Canady (Christ Church, New Bern); Tammy Lee (St. Paul's, Beaufort); Robert M. Alves (St. John's, Fayetteville); Caleb Lee (St. Paul's, Wilmington)

Clergy Deputy Alternates: Richard G. Elliott (St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington) and Anne Abdy (Holy Cross, Wilmington)

Lay Deputies: Tess Judge (All Saints, Southern Shores); Hannah Hutchens (St. Paul's, Greenville); Joan Geiszler-Ludlum (Church of the Servant, Wilmington); Tom Tully (St. James, Wilmington)

Lay Deputy Alternates: Barbara Crumbacker (St. Mary's, Kinston) and Karen Phillips Smith (St. Paul's, Wilmington)





MEET OUR DEPUTIES

Below our clergy and lay deputies are pictured, with the bottom row of deputies being our alternates. East Carolina's deputation was voted in at our 140th Annual Diocesan Convention in February 2023, and we are grateful to them all for serving as representatives of our diocese in the House of Deputies!

Clergy Deputies



Paul Canady



Tambria Lee



Robert Alves



Caleb Lee

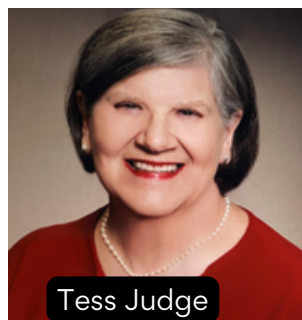


Richard Elliot



Anne Abdy

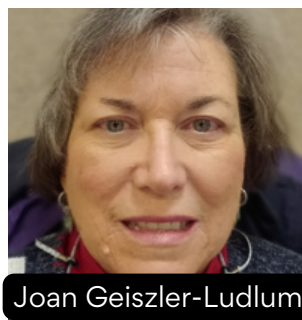
Lay Deputies



Tess Judge



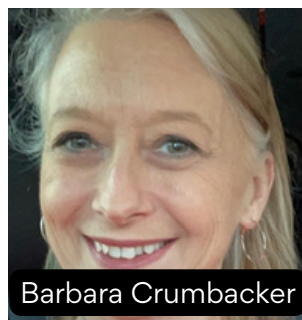
Hannah Hutchens



Joan Geiszler-Ludlum



Tom Tully



Barbara Crumbacker



Karen Phillips Smith



Preparing for General Convention

Leading up to the General Convention, dioceses and provinces within the Episcopal Church submit resolutions and proposals for consideration. These resolutions address various topics such as theology, governance, social justice, and mission. Committees are formed to review and refine these resolutions, ensuring they are well-informed and align with the church's principles and values.

For East Carolina, a number of deputies and our bishop are serving on committees:

- Bishop Skirving is Chair of Legislative Committee 11 - Formation & Discipleship (HoB) (pictured above is a meeting of this committee)
- The Rev. Paul Canady is Assistant Secretary for Legislative Committee 20 - Confirmation of the Election of the Presiding Bishop (HoD)
- Tess Judge is Chair of Legislative Committee 20 - Confirmation of the Election of the Presiding Bishop (HoD)

- The Rev. Tambria Lee is serving as a member of Legislative Committee 18 - Title IV: Disciplinary Canons (HoD)
- The Rev. Robert Alves is serving as a member of Legislative Committee 12 - Agencies & Boards (HoD)

Descriptions of each committee's responsibilities can be found on the House of Deputies website.

Legislative Process

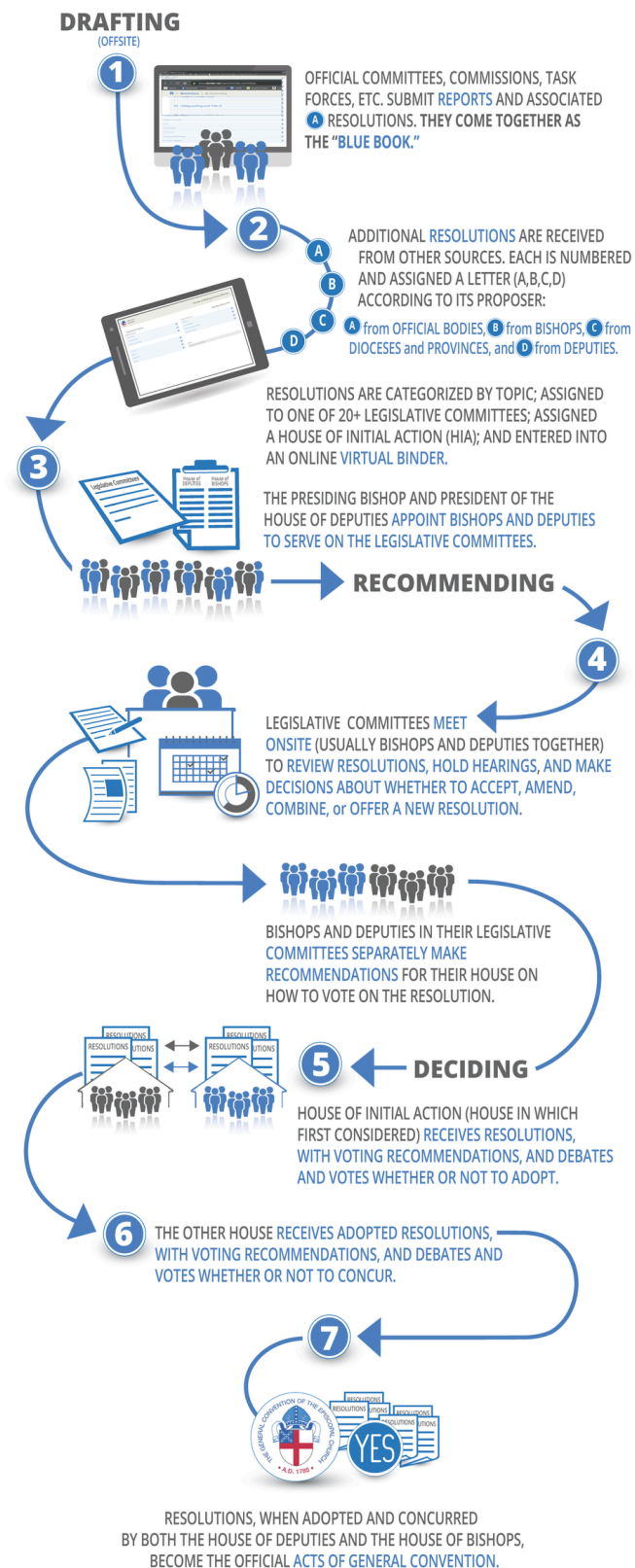
During the General Convention, both houses meet separately to discuss and vote on proposed resolutions. Each resolution undergoes a process of debate, amendment, and voting. In the House of Deputies, decisions are made by a simple majority vote. In the House of Bishops, each bishop has one vote, and decisions are also made by a simple majority.

For a resolution to become an official act of the General Convention, it must pass in both the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. If a resolution passes in one house but not the other, it may be sent back for further discussion or amendments. Once a resolution is approved by both houses, it becomes part of the official record of the General Convention and is implemented as church law or policy.



HOW RESOLUTIONS MOVE THROUGH GENERAL CONVENTION

When our bishops and deputies (elected lay persons, priests, and deacons) gather at General Convention they pray, worship, and take counsel together through a legislative process. The legislative process begins when resolutions are proposed by authorized committees, commissions, and task forces that meet between sessions of General Convention, and by Deputies, Bishops, Provinces, or Dioceses of The Episcopal Church.





East Carolina at General Convention (2022)

Our deputies and bishop enjoyed a meal together during the 80th General Convention in Baltimore in 2022.



28th Presiding Bishop Nominees



**SCOTT
BARKER**



**DEDE
DUNCAN-PROBE**



**DANIEL
GUTIEREZ**



**SEAN
ROWE**



**ROB
WRIGHT**

What to Watch for at GC81

The 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church promises to be a significant event. The Presiding Bishop election is likely the most momentous act that will take place at GC81. Current Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will serve until the incumbent 28th Presiding Bishop succeeds him on November 1st. There are five nominated candidates: The Rt. Rev. Scott Barker (Diocese of Nebraska), The Rt. Rev. Dede Duncan-Probe (Diocese of Central New York),

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez (Diocese of Pennsylvania), The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe (Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Diocese of Western New York), and The Rt. Rev. Rob Wright (Diocese of Atlanta).

All of the nominees' bios, video messages, and information from the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop can be found on the General Convention's website.



**TOGETHER
IN LOVE**

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



**LOUIS
VILLE
KY '24**



Candidates for President of the House of Deputies



JULIA AYALA HARRIS



RACHEL TABER-HAMILTON

Another election of note will be the election for the President of the House of Deputies (PHoD), which is a position that is voted on at each General Convention, as the position's term runs from the adjournment of the General Convention at which they were elected and continuing until the adjournment of the following General Convention. This year, there is a first in recent history: the election of the President of the House of Deputies is contested. The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, current Vice President of the House of Deputies will be running against the current PHoD, Julia Ayala-Harris. You can read more about this contested election via the Episcopal News Service (ENS).

We'll be sharing reporting and highlights from GC81, and you will find all of this reporting on our Reporting from General Convention 81 (2024) page on our website. We'll also share highlights via our social media and our newsletter News & Notes, so stay tuned for more!

Impact of General Convention

The decisions made at General Convention have a significant impact on the life and mission of The Episcopal Church and reflect the diverse voices within the Church. General Convention is a vital gathering that brings together clergy and lay leaders to discern and enact the church's



mission and ministry. Through a collaborative and democratic legislative process, the convention addresses important issues facing the church and guides its actions in service to God and the world.

Please keep all of our deputies and Bishop Skirving in prayer during this time of preparing for General Convention and during their work at GC81 this June.