

Transcript of Rev. Tammy Lee's Report from the 81st General Convention (GC81): Day Two

Good evening, my brothers and sisters in Eastern North Carolina. I'm Tammy Lee, I'm the rector at Saint Paul's in Beaufort and part of your elected deputation from Eastern North Carolina to General Convention. It's been an interesting day of legislation. This is my second General Convention, and, I have to tell you, I'm learning something every minute of every day.

This year, I've been able to serve on a legislative committee and, actually, the most active of our legislative committees with the most resolutions on our plate, dealing with Title IV, which is our disciplinary canons in the church. So, we've been up at 7 a.m. every morning, hammering out these details, and then we go into a full day of legislative business.

I have to kind of tell you a secret. Up until I came to eastern North Carolina, I was not necessarily a fan of big conventions. I'd bring activities and things to do while I was there, because I had a hard time paying attention. But the truth of the matter is, I find this infinitely fascinating to watch our church in motion and how our decisions get made, and how it translates when we are at home. And, I'm standing before my people and having to give voice for the hope that is within me, or the frustration about something that we've done or left undone. But what's also been wonderful is that we had an amazing dinner with our delegation last night, and we're able to, kind of, take a breather for a minute and break bread together and be with one another.

What's before us in the coming days are the election of the President of the House of Deputies (PHoD), contested for the first time in recent memory. Our last President of the House of Deputies served three terms. And also, by consequence, the vice presidency is also up for reelection. Again, something that doesn't happen with much frequency. Also before us is the election of the Presiding Bishop, which we as delegates or deputies simply affirm or deny based upon, the voice of the House. So we await the bishops' decision about that, and then we either confirm or deny it, and that's happening later this week. But I just wanted to check in with you. I'll be sending a few other videos for folks to look at, voices from our deputation as well.

I just wanted to show you one thing. These are our credentials [Tammy shows her credentials badge, which has buttons and swag on the sides of it]. This is how we get in. They don't let us past the sentinels at the door unless they can see that we're a deputy. On the back are our voting credentials, which allow us to log in and cast our vote. And then we go to the exhibits hall, where everybody in The Episcopal Church that has an organization, practically, is peddling their wares.

One of the things that's really important to me is preaching, so this [button] says 'preaching matters.' This [button] is the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. Another one [button] is 'be

green.' and those of us that live on the coast are all about taking care of our environment. And then, of course, there's [a button with] Saint Nicholas: who doesn't love Saint Nicholas? And then another favorite [button] is from Kentucky: Wendell Berry, the poet who's famous, for one of his poems that calls us to practice resurrection.

So, I'll leave you with that: practice resurrection today, and thank you for the privilege of being here.