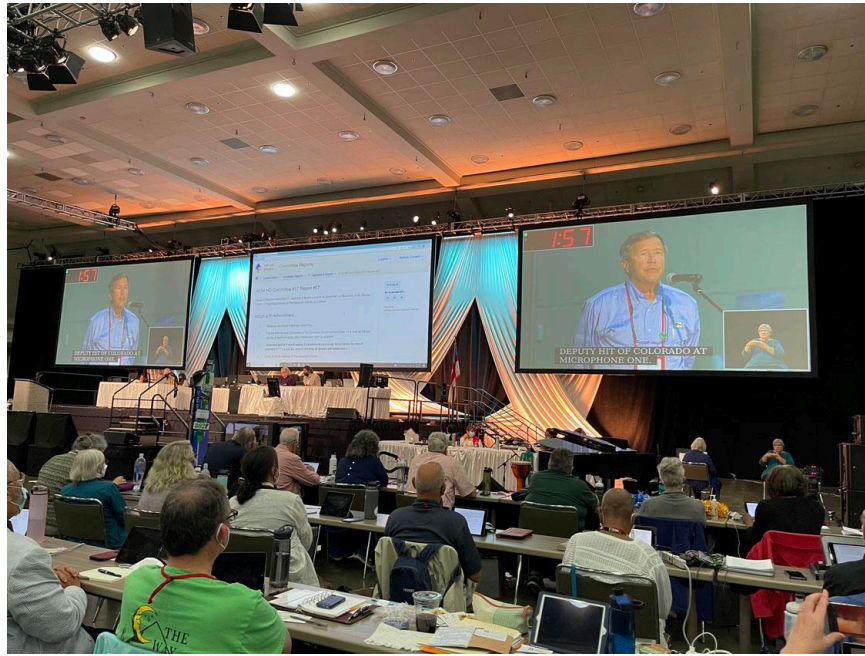




The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church Report
to the 135th Episcopal Church in Colorado Annual Convention



July 8 - 11, 2022 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland



Due to Covid, the 80th General Convention this past July in Baltimore was delayed a year and significantly reduced in size, duration, program and scope. Most of all I want to thank everyone in the Diocese for what was a genuine privilege of working so very closely with our Colorado deputation. I have no doubt that the Spirit was at work among all of us and you should all be proud of the hard working, dedicated and articulate deputies whom you sent to Baltimore. We were very supportive of one another, and I am humbled to have been part of this deputation. It was also a great honor to serve as Co-chair with the Rev. Melissa Adzima, who is an extremely gifted and caring leader. In light of the pandemic, our deputation met by Zoom several times in the two years preceding convention and we are so very grateful to the deputies and alternates who worked so closely with us and supported us, but could not join us in Baltimore. Those of us who were fortunate enough to go to Baltimore met many times during convention, almost always outdoors, to pray, caucus and discern where the Holy Spirit was leading us. We are particularly grateful that Bishop Kym met with us several times before and during General Convention, including a two hour session on the last day to process what we had all just experienced.

And what did we accomplish at this General Convention? We took some initial steps towards preparing a structure for Prayer Book revision, updating and supplementing with approved alternative liturgies. We also passed Resolution A125 which establishes a voluntary Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice among dioceses, congregations, organizations -- and individuals. And we approved a resolution with serious funding over the next two years to investigate our church's history with respect to Indigenous boarding schools.

In addition, the House of Deputies made history by electing Julia Ayala Harris, a lay person from Oklahoma, as the youngest person to serve as President of the House of Deputies. She is also the first Latina to be elected to that post. We also elected the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton of Olympia as the first ordained woman and the first Indigenous woman as Vice president of the House of Deputies. Once again, thank all of you for the opportunity to serve the church together with these wonderful people from our Diocese. - Larry Hitt

It was an honor to be a part of the 80th General Convention representing The Diocese of Colorado. The journey from fourth clergy alternate to a clergy deputy was swift and seamless thanks to the leadership and collegiality of the Colorado deputation. With 5 of the 8 delegates from Colorado speaking at the podium to address the convention, there was a faithful showing or passion and care for The Episcopal Church.

The work of the General Convention passed 417 resolutions in 4 days, passed a 100-million-dollar budget, elected two women of color to lead the House of Deputies, and we spent a good deal of time discussing important topics such as women's reproductive rights and the work of racial justice in the Church. Highly anticipate conversations around the Prayer Book revision and open Communion were tabled or sent to working groups for the 81st General Convention in 2024. – The Rev. Matt Holcombe

What I love most about General Convention is the ability to see and experience The Episcopal Church at its broadest and most representative of the breadth of the Christian Tradition. I feared that given the constraints of lingering covid and the goal to keep everyone as safe as possible (especially how old we skew) would prevent us from exactly that core experience. I was pleasantly surprised to find opportunities to connect with old friends in new ways as well as to make new friends in my own deputation and in the rest of the church. At its best, the Body of Christ calls us into deeper, transformative relationships, so that we can more fully embrace the vocations that God has given each of us as individuals and express more of God's Commonwealth of love and justice in our relationships with one another. Despite the limitations, General Convention once again fully delivered. Even as we also took steps I hope we will have the courage and wisdom to reverse, I experienced the transforming love of God in opportunities to gather with siblings in Christ and was inspired in my own vocation. – Zoe Cole

I serve on the staff of the General Convention, as a volunteer working behind the scenes with about 20 others, to support the work of the General Convention. GC 80 was my 7th in this capacity, as Coordinator, and was by far the most challenging. We did not have a space set apart for Worship, and yet, it is our common prayer that brings us together, and is the life of the church. My work was figuring out how to support worship in each house (the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies) at the same time, each day. This photo is a snapshot of our makeshift "sacristy" to prepare for Holy Communion for the 1000 or so in the House of Deputies, ready to move into place. The challenges of COVID were very real, and I pray, in future conventions, not repeated.

In the midst of challenges, the prayer in each house-for a broken world, for those who have gone before--was moving and rightly done. The sacrament received in the morning was a grace so that deputies could do the work they were and are called to do for governance, deliberation, and hope. It is a gift to be a part of this work. - The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis



This was my first General Convention and although it was atypical to be sure, I still got a taste of our style of governance and the way we try to be the Body of Christ together in the midst of it all. The highlights for me were definitely the testimonies from our Indigenous Deputies and the resolutions that affected them most; particularly about the status of Navajoland and the ongoing work our Church is doing to reckon with our history of oppression of Black and Indigenous People of Color. I and all of the deputation were moved to tears by the testimony of survivors of Native Boarding Schools, and believe that this General Convention took meaningful initial steps in the important work of repentance and reconciliation. I look forward to the continuation of such work by future General Conventions. – The Rev. Tory Moir



I have a deep love of General Convention, however, as we approached this past summer's convention, I was especially apprehensive, given the spiking COVID numbers and the restrictions we were undertaking to protect us and those around us. It was also a huge undertaking for our family; with both Br. Scott-Michael and I involved, the structure of this convention meant very long days of leaving our 3 young children with a caregiver.

While the long days were hard, having our own care giver made it possible to be fully engaged in convention, including the limited opportunities for social engagement. Our Deputation is especially wonderful. The support and love showered on us and our children helped make the week much easier. Finn became the mascot for the Colorado Deputation as the “youngest deputy” while he stayed with me on the floor of the House, and the girls joined us for many meals and some special events, such as Fireworks late one night.

These opportunities to experience the love of the Body of Christ, and for our children to experience that even in the midst of this different convention was a huge blessing. Beatrice speaks of “Baltimore” with the same enthusiasm as Walt Disney World and our Deputation was a huge part of why that is.

Choosing to serve at General Convention is more than just a duty; it's a passion, a love of something that is greater than us, and our Deputation consistently demonstrates that time and again. Once there, my apprehension melted away and the love and passion I have for serving God and the Church in this way was renewed. — Erica Pomerenk

Each General Convention seems to have its own flare, focus, and fanfare, and this 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church was no different. This one, though, had a lot to make it unique. First, it was a year later than planned, delayed due to Covid. It was shorter, 4 days instead of 8-10. We had to test for Covid each morning in our hotel rooms and wear masks; and, even with all that I tested positive on the last morning of Convention. Oh yes, I will be remembering this 80th General Convention for a while...However, my memories will be much more focused on what happened inside General Convention and our legislative sessions than what happened out...even with catching Covid.

We as a church are about changing lives. Sometimes that comes with instant gratification as we feed the hungry, advocate for someone's rights in the instance, and other times it is through digging through our past. As a church we have a lot of that to do. It is hard, but important work as we walk with all those in the past and currently whom we have not treated as Christ himself. Many resolutions focused on this lack of love and respect in our past. There were hundreds of other resolutions that passed, some on broadening our understanding of the Book of Common Prayer to more than what is in the front and back covers of the printed book. Others include many church structure items, giving area mission districts like The Episcopal Church in Navajoland more say in the calling of their own bishops, and so much on Christian formation and congregational vitality.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, starts out his sermons with the words, "In the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God..." I have started using that as well as in the four days of Convention I have come to realize that these are much more than a few words. The Episcopal Church embraces and truly lives out these words. This 80th General Convention has been one filled with love, focused on liberating people of color, our indigenous siblings, and so many more, and has been life giving for all of God's people. This Convention has been challenging for sure, but so worth the time, energy, and sacrifice. I have been honored to serve this church and represent Colorado. This deputation is remarkable, and this church is truly one that is loving, liberating and life-giving. I invite you to find your ways of liberating God's people who are still bound in many ways, to love your neighbor, and to live, pray, and act in ways that are life giving. – The Rev. Brian Winter

This summer I was privileged to serve as the chaplain to our General Convention Deputation who attended the 80th General Convention in Baltimore. My primary task was to support our deputation in prayer. Prior to General Convention I attended the deputation's meetings on zoom, and although the COVID protocols prevented me from attending in person, I kept my eye on the legislative calendar and created a daily reflection and prayer that I emailed our deputation at the beginning of each legislative day intended to support the deputation in their advocacy and discernment when voting in elections or on resolutions. As a former deputy and deputation co-chair I have a heart for this ministry, and I was honored to support our deputation in their work. – The Rev. Cn. Vanessa Strickler Glass

It is easy to ignore the process that brings fresh tomatoes to the grocery shelves week after week, until the day when there are no tomatoes (or toilet paper!). Similarly, the process of General Convention is largely irrelevant to the experience of the average worshiper in a pew on Sunday morning and simultaneously important to what makes the Episcopal Church an effective institution. Even in its restricted form, General Convention 2022 was a necessary exercise to keep the business of the church running smoothly. In advance of the legislative meeting in Baltimore we learned both the utility and the limitations of holding on-line hearings to complete most of our work. We still have more work to do to welcome wider participation from the wider church. While we had expected most of the difficult legislation to be deferred to the next meeting in 2024, the rules adapted by the deputies to streamline deliberations resulted in consideration and passage of most of the legislation that had been reviewed and recommended for adoption through that on-line hearing process.

I suspect the most significant action of this convention will turn out to be the election of Julia Ayala Harris of Oklahoma as the new President of the House of Deputies from a very strong field of candidates. The PHoD serves as an officer to the business entity that is the Episcopal Church, and vice chair of the Executive Council, the decision-making body between meetings of the General Convention. Note that at the next Convention bishops will elect a new Presiding Bishop to succeed Bishop Curry. As your deputation, we recognize that the legislation enacted at any General Convention cannot reflect the views of all congregants of the Church in Colorado. If you have questions or concerns about what you have read or heard or are just interested in more details about the work of Convention, I know that any deputy or alternate would welcome a chance to listen and respond. Our contact information is available on the diocesan website or through the office of the Bishop. – Chuck Theobald



With General Convention being postponed a year, and then modified, I wasn't sure what to expect in Baltimore. But I can share with certainty that this 80th General Convention was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit- in thought, word, and deed, and in things done and left undone. Thank you to each one of you for your prayers and joining us along the way of love. It was a joyful privilege to serve as Co-Chair with Larry Hitt, who generously shared his heart and gifts for our deputation and the church. Each member of our deputation participated fully since their election, those who were able to go to Baltimore and those who kept the lights on at home. Fully committed to their responsibilities, we worked together with gusto in prayer and conversation, and in wondering and in playing, as we heard God's call to us through the business of Convention. Even at its largest level, the work of The Episcopal Church is about the extraordinary everyday faithfulness of you and me. It's the body of Christ coming together and responding to God's presence here and now. Isolating to keep others and ourselves safe over the last several years is not our natural state of being. Being able to come together as beloved children of God in both virtual hearings and in physical presence, along with the full theological spectrum of our beliefs as a church, was a reminder that we're not alone being church; we're not alone because of our local village and we're not alone because of our global village. *Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.* (BCP 836)- The Rev. Melissa Adzima



Respectfully Submitted by the Colorado Deputation: The Rev. Melissa Adzima and Chancellor Lawrence Hitt II (Co-Chairs), Dr. L. Zoe Cole, Mr. Chuck Theobald, Ms. Erica Pomerenk, The Rev. Brian Winter, The Rev. Matt Holcombe, The Rev. Tory Moir, Br. Scott-Michael Pomerenk, BSG (Lay Alternate and Volunteer Tech), The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis and The Rev. Rhoads Hollowell (Volunteer Staff of General Convention) The Rev. Cn. Vanessa Strickler Glass (Chaplain)