

**REPORT OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION TO THE
239TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**

The General Convention

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church — the highest legislative body of the denomination — meets every three years to do the business of the church. It meets as two Houses: The House of Bishops, consisting of all active and retired bishops, and the House of Deputies, consisting of priests, deacons, and lay people elected by their dioceses. Every diocese can elect four lay and four clergy deputies and up to four lay and four clergy alternate deputies. Each House sits and deliberates and votes separately, although there can be joint sessions for informational purposes. Voting is by passing or rejecting Resolutions, which can state church policy, amend the Constitution or Canons of the church, or direct actions to be taken. Resolutions can only be acted upon if passed in the exact same language by each House prior to the adjournment of the Convention. Because of the volume of proposed Resolutions to be considered, much of the work of each House is done by Legislative Committees on specific subjects, whose reports on Resolutions are submitted to their House for action.

The 80th General Convention - 2022

Although the expectation is that General Conventions meet every three years, the 80th Convention was postponed from 2021 to 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, in an effort to reduce possible contagion, (a) Legislative Committee hearings and deliberations were held by Zoom meeting for several months prior to the opening of the Convention, with only minimal meetings held during Convention, (b) Convention was reduced from ten legislative days to four, and (c) attendance was limited to bishops and four clergy and four lay Deputies plus one Alternate Deputy in each order, plus necessary volunteers and staff. All attendees were required to be vaccinated and boosted and masked and to self-administer daily COVID tests. Accommodations were made for those who had to quarantine or isolate. Attendance by Youth representatives and the Episcopal Church Women's triennial meeting were canceled.

This year, the General Convention met from July 8 through July 11 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Those attending from the Diocese of New Jersey were:

- The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey
- Ms. Susan Stokes, Volunteer
- The Reverend Canon Valerie L. Balling, First Clergy Deputy and Deputation Chair
- The Reverend Trisha Thorne, Deacon, Second Clergy Deputy
- The Reverend Gail Bennett, Deacon, Third Clergy Deputy
- The Reverend Emily A. Mellott, Fourth Clergy Deputy
- The Reverend Benjamin B. Maddison, First Clergy Alternate
- Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach, First Lay Deputy and Deputation Vice-Chair
- Canon Noreen Duncan, Second Lay Deputy
- Canon Wendy V. Blackman, Third Lay Deputy
- Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Fourth Lay Deputy and Deputation Logistics Coordinator
- Canon Annette L. Buchanan, First Lay Alternate
- Dr. Karen G. Bemis, Third Lay Alternate and Deputation Secretary and GC Volunteer
- Ms. Catherine Ambos, Volunteer

Those elected to the Deputation who were able to follow the Convention only on livestream were:

The Reverend Allen M. Wakabayashi, Second Clergy Alternate
The Reverend D. Scott Russell, Third Clergy Alternate and Deputation Chaplain
The Reverend Canon Theodore E. Moore, Deacon, Fourth Clergy Alternate
Mr. Marcus A. Gales, Second Lay Alternate
Captain Louis Cavaliere, Fourth Lay Alternate

Many members of the Deputation served on legislative committees active before, during, and some following the legislative sessions: Bishop Stokes chaired the House of Bishops Committee on Social Justice and United States Policy, and Ms. Catherine Ambos assisted as an informal secretary to that committee. In the House of Deputies, Deputy Balling was Secretary to the Committee on Governance and Structure, Deputy Mellott was Vice-Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, Deputy Bach served on the Committee on Committees and Commissions, Deputy Duncan served on the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Deputy Blackman served on the Committee on Social Justice and International Policy, and Deputy Ambos served on and was acting secretary to the Committee on Certification of Minutes.

This last summer's Convention acted on over 400 Resolutions. Notable accomplishments included the adoption of a \$100.5 million budget for the next two years, including new funding for resolutions proposed by the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth-Telling, Reckoning and Healing, including a new Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice. Numerous constitutional amendments were passed on a first or second reading, and many canons were amended as well. All of the final General Convention Resolutions can be found on the Virtual Binder here: <https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions?house=hd&lang=en>. The following Resolutions may be of significant interest to members of the Diocese of New Jersey as originating in the Diocese or in Province II.

Resolution C051 — Include the name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar

This Resolution was proposed to the General Convention by Diocese of New Jersey Resolution 2022-2 — one of sixteen Resolutions proposed to commemorate Bishop Harris. The Legislative Committee on Prayer Book Liturgy & Music incorporated the text of the New Jersey proposal into one made by the Diocese of North Carolina and further amended it, and it was passed by the House of Deputies and concurred in the House of Bishops as [Resolution C023](#). Consequently, no further action was taken on the New Jersey proposal or the other fourteen.

Resolution D055 — Amend Canon I.9.1 to add the Diocese of Cuba

The Diocese of New Jersey is a member of the Second Province of The Episcopal Church – The International Atlantic Province. Provinces are geographic associations of Dioceses formed for purposes of collaboration, communication, and advocacy of Diocesan and TEC goals. Up until 2018, Province II consisted of the Dioceses within the states of New York and New Jersey, the Dioceses of Haiti and the Virgin Islands, and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. In that year the General Convention authorized the reunification of the Anglican Church of Cuba as a Diocese of The Episcopal Church, effective upon completion of revisions to its Constitution and

Canons, and accepted its request to join Province II. That process was completed in 2019, and [Resolution D055](#) directs that it be added to the canonical list of member Dioceses of the Province. Under TEC's canons, canonical changes such as this one become effective on the January 1 following the adopting Convention.

Resolution C021 — Amend Canon I.9.1 to change the Diocese of Puerto Rico to Province II

The Diocese of Puerto Rico had been a member of Province IX but requested a transfer to Province II. Following approval of the change by the Synods of both Provinces, [Resolution C021](#) also approves the transfer and authorizes amendment of the canon.

Resolution C059 — Proposed Resolution for Provincial Synods/Councils

The 2022 Synod of Province II passed four Resolutions for submission to the General Convention. [Resolution C059](#) proposed to have TEC allocate \$10,000 per province per year to help support Provincial activities over the next two years. This proposal was rejected by the House of Bishops.

Resolution C062 — Commend Gay Clark Jennings

The Reverend Gay Clark Jennings completed at the close of the 80th General Convention her third term as President of the House of Deputies. [Resolution C062](#), also proposed by Province II, thanked her for her service through difficult times, and it was one of the few "Privilege and Courtesy" Resolutions of this Convention not passed on the Consent Calendar and virtually the last legislation passed by both Houses.

Resolution C063 — Participate in Thursdays in Black

Province II's [Resolution C063](#) was passed, encouraging churchwide participation in the World Council of Churches' call to wear black on Thursdays as a reminder to act against gender-based violence. An article explaining the movement is [here](#).

Resolution C064 — Break the Silence Sunday

The final Province II submission, [Resolution C064](#), designates the Sunday closest to November 25, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as "Break the Silence Sunday" also to combat violence against women.

Elections to Episcopal Church Offices from the Diocese of New Jersey

Canon Annette Buchanan was elected to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, to serve until the 2027 General Convention

Canon Noreen Duncan was elected to the Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, to serve until the 2024 General Convention

Resolutions Referred to Dioceses by the Secretary of the General Convention

For every General Convention, the Secretary of the General Convention (a) prepares a Summary of Actions listing the disposition of each Resolution brought before the Convention, (b) issues a notice to Dioceses and to Secretaries of Diocesan Conventions of proposed amendments to the

Book of Common Prayer or to the Constitution, and (c) refers selected Resolutions to Diocese (i) for action or (ii) for their consideration.

The Summary of Actions is available in pdf format for downloading [here](#).

The three proposed amendments to the Episcopal Church Constitution are covered in the Report of the Secretary of the Convention, Document 8 for this Diocesan Convention. Secretaries of Convention throughout the church are required to read or otherwise make known any such proposed amendments to their Diocesan Conventions and certify back that this has been done as a condition for such proposed amendments to be eligible for a second reading for final passage.

In addition, each Diocese is required to report back to the General Convention Office what response, if any, it has made to the Resolutions referred for action or for consideration. Accordingly, these listings are included in this Report, with links to the final version of each Resolution..

Resolutions Referred for Action

- [A003](#) Uniform Paid Family Leave Policy
- [A016](#) Adopt, Study, and Promote Guiding Principles for World Mission & Initiate Global Mission Advocate Program
- [A021](#) Support for the United Nations
- [A028](#) Join, Participate, and Fund The Global Episcopal Mission Network
- [A050](#) Support collaborative efforts with Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to place historical markers
- [A053](#) Ensure the vital role of the Episcopal HBCUs in building The Beloved Community
- [A062](#) Requiring Dioceses to Create a Plan to Narrow Gender Gaps
- [A068](#) Safe Church Training
- [A073](#) Encouraging Faithful, Ethical, and Responsible Investing
- [A078](#) Imagining a Church Grounded in Social Justice as Christian Ministry
- [A087](#) Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030
- [A088](#) Commit to the Pressing Work of Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice
- [A090](#) Allies for Recovery in the Episcopal Church
- [A095](#) Celebrate and Support the Planting of New Episcopal Communities
- [A107](#) Ministry with People with Mental Illness and Their Families
- [A109](#) Developing Curriculum and Required Training for Clergy in Mental Health Pastoral Care
- [A131](#) Resolution Regarding Language
- [A140](#) Urge The Episcopal Church and Constituents to Designate Indigenous Peoples' Day
- [A161](#) Addressing the Burden of Medical Debt
- [B003](#) Regulating Ghost Guns and 3D Printed Guns
- [B004](#) Establishing Religious Life Sunday
- [B006](#) Investing in State-Level Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy
- [B007](#) Investment in Community Violence Intervention to Prevent Gun Violence
- [C009](#) Mandates Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation Training for the House of Deputies
- [C033](#) Encourage Sacred Ground Curriculum
- [C054](#) Address the issue of Voter Suppression
- [C063](#) Participate in Thursdays in Black

- [C064](#) Break the Silence Sunday
- [C072](#) Land Acknowledgment
- [D023](#) Support for Care Workers
- [D029](#) Affirming Non-Binary Access and Leadership
- [D046](#) Supporting Child Welfare Systems and Foster Care
- [D048](#) Supporting Public Investment in Post-High School Education and Training
- [D064](#) Endorse and Encourage Green Deal Legislation
- [D066](#) Addressing restrictions on access to gender affirming care
- [D070](#) Addressing Inequities in the Quality of Life of Native Peoples
- [D072](#) Resolution on Gender and Sexuality Training
- [D090](#) The Church's Teaching on Racism
- [D091](#) Defining Equal Place in the Life of the Church
- [D093](#) Broad Representation in Discernment Processes
- [D094](#) Reaffirming the Role of Ethnic Ministries
- [D098](#) The Promotion of Public Health

Resolutions Referred for Consideration

- [A020](#) Support Decade of Action to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals
- [A032](#) Amend Canon III.11.9.b to Correct an Oversight in a 2018 Canonical Amendment
- [A040](#) Specify Electronic Transmission of Certain Documents and Records
- [A042](#) Permitting Sending Required Notices and Other Papers by Electronic Means
- [A044](#) Amend Canon IV.14.4 Provisions for Notices of Accords
- [A045](#) Amend Canon I.19.2.b to Update a Word
- [A048](#) Amend Canons and Rules of Order to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Budget Process
- [A055](#) Receive and Study Proposal of Ecumenical Dialogue with Presbyterians (PCUSA)
- [A060](#) Endorse Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language
- [A061](#) Amend Canon I.4.6.j to include data regarding gender
- [A075](#) Resolution Amending Canon IV.5.4 Provision for the Court of Review
- [A076](#) Resolution Amending Canon IV.15.2 Provision to serve Notice of Appeal
- [A077](#) Resolution Amending Canon IV.15.3 Provision to serve Notice of Appeal by Bishop Diocesan
- [A081](#) Amend Canon III.11.1a regarding Standing Committee's Role in Episcopal Elections
- [A082](#) Amend Various Canons Regarding Preparation of Medical and Psychological Evaluation in the Ordination, Episcopal Election, and Reception Processes
- [A092](#) Churches Beyond Borders
- [A093](#) The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Church Dialogue
- [A094](#) Affirm Ongoing Work and Dialogue with Ecumenical Partners
- [A096](#) Develop Sustainable Congregational Revitalization Ministries
- [A103](#) Describing a Christian Life of Faith in the Episcopal Tradition
- [A116](#) Amend Canon III.10.2 to Correct Inadvertent Omission on Clergy Ordained in Churches in Full Communion
- [A117](#) Amend Canons III.10, III.12.1, III.12.5.b.3, and III.13.1 to Clarify Language on the Reception of Bishops
- [A118](#) Amend Canon IV.5.4 on the Election of Members of the Court of Review

- [A119](#) Amend Canon IV.17.3 and .4 on the Term of Office for the Disciplinary Board for Bishops
- [A120](#) Amend Canon IV.17.8 on Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops
- [A125](#) A Resolution Extending and Furthering the Beloved Community
- [A133](#) Amend Joint Rule of Order III.12 to modify the method of showing additions or amendments to facilitate translation
- [A135](#) Amend Joint Rule of Order VII.22 to Streamline the Procedure for Obtaining a Background Check, if Required, before a Nomination from the House Floor
- [A137](#) Church of Sweden - Full Communion Relationship
- [A144](#) Add Updated Editions of NRSV and New Jerusalem Bible to Canon II.2
- [A145](#) Amend Constitution Article X [Book of Common Prayer Supplementary Text--Second Reading]
- [A146](#) Amend Constitution Articles VI and VIII [Regarding Full Communion--Second Reading]
- [A147](#) Amend Article IX [Court of Trial for Bishops--Second Reading]
- [A148](#) Amend Constitution Article I.2 [House of Bishops--Second Reading]
- [A149](#) Amend Constitution Article II.4-8 [Bishops Suffragan--Second Reading]
- [A150](#) Amend Constitution Article III [Bishops Consecrated for Foreign Lands--Second Reading]
- [A151](#) Amend Constitution Article IV [Standing Committees--Second Reading]
- [A152](#) Amend Constitution Article 5.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]
- [A153](#) Amend Constitution Article IX [For the Trial of Presbyters and Deacons--Second Reading]
- [B002](#) Let there be sight! - Proposal for Episcopal Church Assistance in Yemen and funding for an Ophthalmologist Medical Director at the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in Aden
- [C004](#) Inclusion of June 19th, "Juneteenth" in the Church's Liturgical Calendar in Recognition of the End of Slavery in the United States
- [C007](#) Designate March 10 as the Date to Commemorate Harriet Ross Tubman
- [C023](#) On Commemorating the Rt Rev Barbara Harris
- [C070](#) Amend Canon III.9.5.d
- [D050](#) Reunion of the Dioceses of The Episcopal Church in North Texas with The Episcopal Dioceses of Texas
- [D052](#) Amending Canon III.11.8 regarding Objections to Episcopal Elections
- [D056](#) Amend Canon III.11.9.a to correct cross-reference
- [D063](#) Support for Truth to Confront Misinformation and Violence
- [D083](#) Addressing the erosion of reproductive rights and autonomy

The Next General Convention

The 81st General Convention is currently scheduled to meet in Louisville, Kentucky from June 23 to June 28, 2024, although meetings and orientation sessions will precede the first scheduled legislative session. Deputies from the Diocese of New Jersey were elected at the 238th Diocesan Convention in March 2022, and Alternates will be elected at the 239th Convention this year.

A couple of Deputies from the Diocese of New Jersey have already been appointed to serve on Interim Bodies of the Church — those Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces that carry on their mandates between General Convention and typically (a) have referred to them Resolutions from the prior General Convention for further review and consideration or (b) produce new proposed Resolutions within their fields of competence. Since the close of the 80th General Convention, Canon Valerie Balling has been appointed to serve on the Standing Commission on

Governance, Structure, Constitution and Canons, and Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach has been appointed to serve on the Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism. Emily A. Mellott had served during the 80th General Convention as Vice-Chair of the House of Deputies Legislative Committee on Dispatch of Business and is slated to serve as Chair of that Committee for the 81st.

Those of us from the 80th General Convention are thankful for having had the opportunity to serve The Episcopal Church in this capacity, and we welcome the input from the Deputation to the 81st.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Valerie L. Balling, First Clergy Deputy & Chair
The Reverend Trisha Thorne, Deacon, Second Clergy Deputy
The Reverend Gail Bennett, Deacon, Third Clergy Deputy
The Reverend Emily A. Mellott, Fourth Clergy Deputy
The Reverend Benjamin B. Maddison, First Clergy Alternate
The Reverend Allen M. Wakabayashi, Second Clergy Alternate
The Reverend D. Scott Russell, Third Clergy Alternate
The Reverend Canon Theodore E. Moore, Deacon, Fourth Clergy Alternate
Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach, First Lay Deputy & Vice-Chair Canon
Noreen Duncan, Second Lay Deputy
Canon Wendy V. Blackman, Third Lay Deputy
Canon Paul Ambos, Fourth Lay Deputy & Logistics Coordinator
Canon Annette L. Buchanan, First Lay Alternate
Mr. Marcus A Gales, Second Lay Alternate
Dr. Karen G. Bemis, Third Lay Alternate & Secretary
Captain Louis Cavaliere, Fourth Lay Alternate