

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 81ST GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By the Rev. Hau'oli Tomoso, Deputy

6/28/24

From PB-elect Sean Rowe's Homily at the Eucharist this last day of the 81st GC:

"We are standing firm in the face of those. We're holding fast to our promise to uphold the full inclusion of LGBTQI+ persons as children of God. We're proclaiming and investing in our longing to become a Beloved Community. We're committing to caring for God's creation and respecting the dignity of every human being.

And we are not backing down in our proclamation of the Gospel just because other people who understand it differently are bigger or think they're more powerful or louder or have a vision that denies humanity."

Diocesan mergers, updates: On the final legislative day, General Convention approved the mergers of three Wisconsin dioceses (**Resolution D051**) and two Michigan dioceses (**C025**), and a much anticipated change in status to missionary diocese for the Episcopal Church in Navajoland (**C009**). Earlier it **approved** the expansion of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii to include Guam and Saipan, which formerly comprised the Episcopal Church in Micronesia.

C023 HD Committee #10 Report #61

House of Deputies Committee 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music presents its Report #61 on Resolution C023 (Commemorating The Philadelphia Eleven in the Church Calendar) and moves:

Concur

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring,

Concerning the following "first reading" commemorations received from the church,

... and be it further

Resolved, concerning the following "first reading" commemorations received from the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music,

(4) That the commemoration of Lili'uokalani of Hawai'i (January 29) be authorized for trial use under Article X.b for the triennium 2024-2027; and that this General Convention authorize for trial use the propers for this feast as presented in the 2024 Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, page 47; and ...

6/27/24

Legislative update: Work continued in both houses throughout the day and included adoption of the proposed **2025-2027 churchwide budget**. The House of Deputies elected the Rev. Steve Pankey of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky as its vice president. **Read press release about the election**. The Official Youth Presence, whose 18 members have seat and voice in the House of Deputies, made a presentation in the house.

6/26/24

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe elected 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church

The House of Bishops met in executive session Wednesday morning at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral and elected Bishop Sean Rowe of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York as the church's next presiding bishop. The election was then confirmed by the House of Deputies during its afternoon session.

Legislative update: Work continued in both houses, with an evening session scheduled for the House of Deputies. Elections were held in the House of Deputies for members of Executive Council, trustees of the Church Pension Fund, members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Court of Review, and the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, as well as the treasurer of General Convention.

D056: Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza
passed by the House of Deputies and in concurrence with the House of Bishops Resolution
Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza

6/25/24

Legislative committee meetings took place this morning:

- 11 - Formation & Discipleship (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M107
- 02 - Constitution & Canons (Open Hearing) : Kentucky International Convention Center M104
- 06 - Social Justice & International Policies (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M111
- 08 - Congregational Vitality & Data-Driven Initiatives (Deliberation Only) : Marriott Louisville Downtown Marriott VII & VIII
- 05 - Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing (Open Hearing) : Marriott Louisville Downtown Marriott IX&X
- 014 - Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations (Open Hearing) : Marriott Louisville Downtown Marriott III&IV
- 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music (Open Hearing) : Hyatt Regency Louisville Regency South
- 19 - Title III Ministry (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M107

- 06 - Social Justice & International Policy (on Only): Kentucky International Convention Center M107

B006 – Approved this Resolution that includes the Episcopal Church and School of St. John's ,on Guam, as well as the Preaching Station on Saipan into the Diocese of Hawai'i, thus making the Episcopal Church in Micronesia a part of the Diocese of Hawai'i.

06/24/24

Seven legislative committee meetings are taking place this morning, starting at 7 am.

03 - Governance & Structure (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M107

02 - Constitution & Canons (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M104

18 - Title IV Disciplinary Canons (Deliberation Only) : Hyatt Regency Louisville Regency North

05 - Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M108

13 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing(Deliberation Only) : Marriott Louisville Downtown Marriott IX&X

06 - Social Justice & International Policy (Deliberation Only) : Kentucky International Convention Center M111

08 - Congregational Vitality & Data-Driven Initiatives (Open Hearing) : Marriott Louisville Downtown Kentucky ABCD

From PB Curry's Remarks on the 2025-2027 TEC Budget:

The new process assigns both budget creation and budget management to the Executive Council, eliminating the former Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance. Accordingly, the [Joint Budget Committee](#) of Executive Council has drafted [a budget, approved by Executive Council](#) in January, for General Convention to consider. The Joint Budget Committee will hold [two hearings](#)—one on May 16 via Zoom and one on June 22 at General Convention—to solicit feedback on the draft, and we will meet in joint session on June 24, the second day of convention, to hear the committee's presentation of the budget.

In summary, the new budget process includes the following steps for General Convention:

- Hearings with the Executive Council Joint Budget Committee on May 16 and June 24
- A special order of business in each house for budget amendments

- Amendments published in advance for review
- The opportunity to submit resolutions that propose new initiatives for Executive Council to fund these changes may prompt questions, and we hope that you will let the Parliamentarian of your House or either of our Chancellors know if you would like to know more. Although this new budget process will require some adjustments, especially on the part of General Convention veterans, our hope is that the new system will bolster budget clarity, improve budget management, and reduce the frustration of unfunded mandates. We hope that you will participate in the upcoming budget hearings and provide us with your feedback as we work to implement this new budget process.

06/23/24

From PB Curry's Opening Remarks: "Now I have to say, this will be my last time addressing the General Convention of The Episcopal Church as presiding bishop. My term comes to a conclusion, effective November 1st, when our new presiding bishop takes office officially. And I've been mindful of that—November 1st, I assume the canons were thinking that's the Feast of All Saints, which makes sense.

But I don't know that the canonists were aware that while it is meet and right, so to do that the new presiding bishop should take office on the feast of All Saints, November 1st, that the retiring presiding bishop would leave on October 31st, which is known as All Hallows Eve. But ask any 5-year-old, and they'll tell you it is Halloween. Now I know there's got to be a message in that somewhere, but I don't know what it is. But this will be my last time to address you as a General Convention. And I do want to say to this entire body and to this church, it has been a great privilege. It has been an honor. I thank God that I have been able to serve as presiding bishop of this church, and I thank God."

From HoD President Julia Ayala-Harris's Opening Remarks:

"You have all also embarked on this journey with me, and during this time there were moments in which I learned a lot about lessons in leadership; I learned how to navigate through a difficult Title IV process; and I learned that you sometimes have to chew through some really tough stuff before you can smile freely. I also learned that when your presiding bishop, your partner in leadership, sometimes partner in crime, is facing their own battles, that you have to tap into—and I had to tap into—my unshakable foundation of faith, strength, and resilience, and that carried me through—even if it meant flying solo for a little while. During this time and in these moments what I learned and what I realized is that we are all still works in progress, navigating this beautiful, messy journey together, forever anchored in our unwavering love of Jesus.

Over two years, we grappled with the consequences of a global pandemic; we cried out for justice through racial reckoning; we fought as the basic human rights of our LGBTQ+ community have been eroded; we lived through ever increasing political polarization and grappled with an uncertain economic situation in the U.S. In our own body, we have navigated and will continue to navigate and address some uncomfortable truth-telling, big questions around our Title IV processes and our relationship with residential Indigenous boarding schools. And through it all, we held vigil for our beloved presiding bishop as he faced serious health challenges, always with courage, grace, and love. “