

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D048  
**Title:** Length of Future General Conventions  
**Proposer:** Ambos, Canon Paul  
**Topic:** General Convention

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2022-A097 Assess and Evaluate Online Adaptive Change to Structures and Governance  
2015-A103 Set the Schedule Length of the 79th General Convention  
2015-A104 On the Topic of the Length of General Convention (Rejected)  
2006-A046 On the Topic of Scheduling Future General Conventions (Rejected)  
2000-A110 On the Topic of the Reduction of General Convention Costs (Rejected)  
2000-C020 Review the Structure of General Convention  
1997-D003 Set Schedule for Future General Conventions  
1994-D094 Establish Session Dates for All Future General Conventions  
1991-A213 Amend Canon I.1.14 [Add (g): Set Date and Length of the General Convention]  
1988-A150 Approve Guidelines and Policies Relating to Meetings of General Convention

### **Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D048 - Length of Future General Conventions

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Ambos, Canon Paul

**Endorsed by:** O'Neal, Ms. Yvonne, Pollard, Ms. Diane

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Directs an Interim Body:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** No House Assigned

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** No Committee Assigned

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:**

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements schedule future General Conventions for not fewer than ten days between July 1 and August 15, to include committee meetings for up to four days prior to Convention, in accordance with the Guidelines set forth in Resolution 1988-A150.

## Explanation

This Resolution would direct planners for the 82nd and following General Conventions to follow the existing 1988 guidelines for scheduling General Conventions, refining the time frames to fit within existing public-school summer schedules.

The Covid pandemic caused a shortening of the 80th General Convention from the originally planned ten days to four, with no time allotted for legislative hearings during those four days; all legislative-committee hearings were held online in the two months before opening. The 81st is scheduled for six days, but with minimal hearing time other than a single three-hour slot the day before opening, again relying almost exclusively on preconvention online hearings.

Many of the necessary online legislative-committee hearings are held during the working day. This diminishes the voices of those who (a) are not able to sporadically take off work to attend, (b) may not have sufficient computer or smartphone facilities to enable access, and (c) may not have available or reliable internet connections. Those of us who are privileged to be able to participate in the months before Convention aren't able to appreciate the plight of those less privileged, and whose voices will not be heard before the opening gavel. When legislative hearings, or final legislative hearings, are held on-site before or during General Convention, everyone who can be present can participate in the legislative process.

The reliance on preconvention online hearings has led to draconian rules-of-order proposals that would require all D-Resolutions proposed later than three months before Convention to pass special hurdles to allow their consideration. Such a rule is deemed necessary in order to force online LC review before arrival at Convention. This is the opposite of openness and transparency.

Allowing time for complying with the Guidelines for Convention length will foster better deliberative consideration of legislation and allow for the collegiality that was so sadly missing in Baltimore and is likewise reduced in Louisville. The House of Bishops meets often between Conventions; Deputies only have a triennial Convention in which to meet and work together. Let's use the full time when we are on-site to do our work.

**Resolution Number:** 1988-A150  
**Title:** Approve Guidelines and Policies Relating to Meetings of General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended

**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That this 69th General Convention approve the guidelines as listed below as an estimate of the needs of the General Convention; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements give close attention to the ways that the mission strategy of the Episcopal Church would be furthered by attendance in the cities and dioceses that they are considering; and be it further***

***Resolved, That there be, as far as possible, a continuance in the policy of offering to the General Convention a wide choice of appropriate locations, bearing in mind costs, logistical considerations, and accessibility, and be it further***

***Resolved, That careful scrutiny be given to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies of all suppliers of services to the General Convention, including hotels, meeting areas and technological equipment. (Project Equality, of which the Episcopal Church is a member, is equipped to monitor EEO and AA policies.)***

## **GUIDELINES**

### **DATES**

Eleven days between June 15 and October 15. Convention opens on a day selected by the Committee with various committee (possibly 10) meetings for four days prior to Convention.

### **ATTENDANCE**

15,000 (possible to go as high as 25,000+)

### **HOTELS**

2,500 hotel rooms (1/2 doubles), 100 suites

### **EXHIBITS**

100,000 square feet to include area for restaurant within exhibit floor

### **MEETING ROOMS**

900 persons set tailored schoolroom daily  
80,000-100,000 sq. ft. (includes 2500 gallery theater set up or bleachers)  
500 persons set tailored schoolroom daily  
15,000-18,000 sq. ft. (includes 500 gallery theater set up or bleachers)  
250 persons set tailored schoolroom, daily  
15,000-18,000 sq. ft. (includes 700 gallery theater set up or bleachers)  
35-50 various sized committee meeting rooms accommodate 10-50 plus visitors  
8,000-12,000 persons for an opening worship service daily worship room (10,000-20,000 sq. ft.)

### **OFFICE SPACE**

press room, with interview area (two large areas)  
six offices  
computer room (600+ sq. ft.)  
print shop (3,000+ sq. ft.)  
secretariat of 30 people (2,500+ sq. ft.)  
secretariat of 15 people (1,200+ sq. ft.)  
registration area (15 counters "L" shaped)  
VIP lounge area  
volunteer/staff office area  
large area to accommodate 400 persons daily with space  
for 12 staff desks and four information counters

## **FOOD AND BEVERAGE**

**3,000-6,000 persons mid-week social function 100**

**various meal functions of 100 to 400**

**fast day is observed one day sometime midweek**



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A097  
**Title:** Assess and Evaluate Online Adaptive Change to Structures and Governance  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Presiding Officers' decision to convene legislative committees and resolution hearings in advance of the 80th General Convention be commended as an experiment that can help the Episcopal Church learn more about how to adapt its structures and governance to the post-COVID world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Executive Council conduct, with professional support from program evaluation specialists, an evaluation of the process by which legislative committees and resolution hearings convened online in advance of General Convention and of the outcomes for the church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the evaluation include assessment of the ways in which conducting legislative committee business online promoted or hindered diversity, equity and inclusion and the involvement of people in the wider church, particularly people of color, people younger than age 40, and people from dioceses outside the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Executive Council conduct this program evaluation with the intent of creating a model for evaluation of future adaptive change experiments, defined as adaptive thinking, innovative ideas, and fresh approaches to the Church's leadership, organizational thinking, and common life, recognizing that the Episcopal Church must continue to change and evolve in order to respond to God's mission in all of its contexts.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 891.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A103  
**Title:** Set the Schedule Length of the 79th General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements schedule the 79th General Convention (2018) for not more than 10 legislative days; and be it further Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church study ways to reduce the length of future General Conventions and report back to the 79th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 448.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-A104  
**Title:** On the Topic of the Length of General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance consider funding in the budget for 2016-2018 for the 79th General Convention to be at least 10 days.





**Resolution Number:** 2006-A046  
**Title:** On the Topic of Scheduling Future General Conventions  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That future General Conventions be scheduled between July 1 and August 15.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A110  
**Title:** On the Topic of the Reduction of General Convention Costs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That as evidence of our stewardship of God's resources, an *ad hoc* committee be appointed to investigate methods in which the overall cost of future General Conventions be reduced, and that a report be made to the Executive Council in the next triennium.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-C020  
**Title:** Review the Structure of General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church review the structure of General Convention, recognizing the Convention functions of worship, legislation, education, and community, to consider ways in which to establish greater efficiency, ensure diversity of representation, review the composition of Standing Commissions in relationship to legislative committees, maximize the effectiveness of the committee hearings, make full use of all available technology, and shorten the duration of Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church seek the input of the Joint Committee on Planning and Arrangements in order to prepare a comprehensive model of convention agenda and structure to be considered for implementation by the 74th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 354.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-D003  
**Title:** Set Schedule for Future General Conventions  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That for all future General Conventions, if at all possible, the schedule be set so that the first legislative session begin on or after June 15 and that the final legislation session end on or before August 15.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 265.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-D094  
**Title:** Establish Session Dates for All Future General Conventions  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That for all future General Conventions, the schedule be set so that the first legislative session begin on or after June 20 and so that the final legislative session end on or before August 15.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 309.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A213  
**Title:** Amend Canon I.1.14 [Add (g): Set Date and Length of the General Convention]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Canon I.1.14 be amended by adding the following:*

*(g). Within such guidelines as may have been established by the General Convention regarding the date and the length of future General Conventions and pursuant to the reasonable and necessary arrangements and commitments with the Dioceses and the operators of facilities in the Diocese in which the next General Convention will be held, the Joint Committee shall fix the date and the length of the next succeeding Convention, report the same to the Secretary of the General Convention and include the same in its report to the Convention. In the event of a change of circumstances indicating the necessity or advisability of changing the date or length previously fixed, the Joint Committee shall investigate and make recommendations to the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies who, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, may fix a different date or length or both.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 302.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-A150  
**Title:** Approve Guidelines and Policies Relating to Meetings of General Convention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That this 69th General Convention approve the guidelines as listed below as an estimate of the needs of the General Convention; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements give close attention to the ways that the mission strategy of the Episcopal Church would be furthered by attendance in the cities and dioceses that they are considering; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That there be, as far as possible, a continuance in the policy of offering to the General Convention a wide choice of appropriate locations, bearing in mind costs, logistical considerations, and accessibility, and be it further*  
*Resolved, That careful scrutiny be given to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies of all suppliers of services to the General Convention, including hotels, meeting areas and technological equipment. (Project Equality, of which the Episcopal Church is a member, is equipped to monitor EEO and AA policies.)*

**GUIDELINES**

<b>DATES</b>	Eleven days between June 15 and October 15. Convention opens on a day selected by the Committee with various committee (possibly 10) meetings for four days prior to Convention.
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	15,000 (possible to go as high as 25,000+)
<b>HOTELS</b>	2,500 hotel rooms (1/2 doubles), 100 suites
<b>EXHIBITS</b>	100,000 square feet to include area for restaurant within exhibit floor
<b>MEETING ROOMS</b>	900 persons set tailored schoolroom daily 80,000-100,000 sq. ft. (includes 2500 gallery theater set up or bleachers) 500 persons set tailored schoolroom daily 15,000-18,000 sq. ft. (includes 500 gallery theater set up or bleachers) 250 persons set tailored schoolroom, daily 15,000-18,000 sq. ft. (includes 700 gallery theater set up or bleachers) 35-50 various sized committee meeting rooms accommodate 10-50 plus visitors 8,000-12,000 persons for an opening worship service daily worship room (10,000-20,000 sq. ft.)

## **OFFICE SPACE**

**press room, with interview area (two large areas)**

**six offices**

**computer room (600+ sq. ft.)**

**print shop (3,000+ sq. ft.)**

**secretariat of 30 people (2,500+ sq. ft.)**

**secretariat of 15 people (1,200+ sq. ft.)**

**registration area (15 counters "L" shaped)**

**VIP lounge area**

**volunteer/staff office area**

**large area to accommodate 400 persons**

**daily with space**

**for 12 staff desks and four information**

**counters**

**3,000-6,000 persons mid-week social function 100**

**various meal functions of 100 to 400**

**fast day is observed one day sometime**

**midweek**

## **FOOD AND BEVERAGE**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 318.