

General Convention Deputy Position Description

Position Description:

Deputies and alternates are expected to give full and prayerful attention to all matters that will come before the General Convention. Responsibilities of the House of Deputies with the House of Bishops include debating and adopting resolutions that are of concern to the Church and our witness to the world; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, or the Canons of the Episcopal Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices and committees for the upcoming triennium. Deputies and Alternates should be present on the House of Deputies floor to listen to debate, vote, and track the progress of legislation. Each deputy votes his/her/their conscience. General Convention deputies and alternates are elected by Diocesan Convention every three years and serve until the next deputation is elected 2 years prior to the following General Convention (82nd General Convention in 2027).

Qualities and competencies a nominee should have: They should have a commitment to church governance and polity. Nominees should have a broad, compassionate understanding of the needs of The Episcopal Church, and a strong commitment to the Church's mission and ministry, an inquisitive spirit and willingness to collaborate across differences. We seek and strive for voices from the many key constituencies in the diocese. It is vital that each nominee have a history of working collaboratively with clergy and lay leaders. Two critical areas of need are: 1) cultural diversity/competency; and 2) a voice from the diaconate community. Deputies may also be appointed by the President of the House of Deputies to serve on a legislative committee.

Time Expectations:

To be a faithful and effective deputation member, the time commitment is substantial. The rewards of participation are immense. As ministers in Christ's church, we are called to participate and take our place in the councils of the church in accordance with our individual gifts and calling.

After the Diocesan Convention in 2022, elected deputies and alternate deputies may plan for an organizing meeting to select the chair or co-chairs for the deputation and to get acquainted with the members of the deputation. In 2023 there may be three to four meetings (usually 2 hours each). During the year of General Convention in 2024, deputies and alternate deputies are expected to attend a monthly meeting to review materials such as Blue Book reports, and to discuss legislative priorities to prepare for the General Convention which consists of 9-12 legislative days. All deputies and alternate deputies are expected to participate actively in meetings and spend the time necessary to read materials distributed in advance of meetings.

The diocese covers full travel stipends, hotel and a daily per diem for meals for all deputies and 1st alternates. The 81st General Convention will be held in Louisville, KY in the summer of 2024. The dates are yet to be determined but it is typically around end of June or early July.

Alternates Full Participation:

All deputation members, including all alternates, are expected to participate fully in the work before and after General Convention. Changes in status, residence, employment and the desire to continuously raise up and

train leaders prompts the full participation of alternates so that they are able to step into the role of deputy quickly and effectively, as needed.

After General Convention:

After General Convention, the deputation, or some members and the bishop, provide reporting sessions to the diocese and at the Diocesan Convention. Some deputies or alternates may report to congregations or convocations. The General Convention also refers all the passed resolutions to dioceses and congregations, and the deputation takes some responsibility for discussing and tracking these resolutions, including preparing appropriate resolutions for Diocesan Convention.