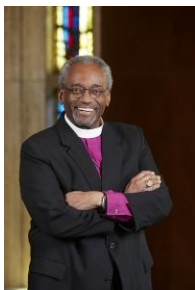




Convention theme evokes evangelism

The theme for the 2018 General Convention is *The Jesus Movement: Loving, Liberating and Life-giving*.

In his first address as presiding bishop on November 2, 2015, the Most Rev. Michael Curry made it clear where his heart, and his ministry, reside.



Michael Curry

“This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal

Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus’ movement in this world,” he said.

Curry calls himself the CEO of the church, meaning “chief evangelism officer.” He wants Episcopalians to become comfortable with the idea of actually *doing* evangelism.

“When you look at Jesus, you see one who is liberating, one who is loving, and one who is life-giving. And that is what the way of Jesus is about,” he says. The world needs to know that.

An invitation

J. Scott Mayer

I hope you will join me at the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, July 5-13, 2018, in Austin.

The theme is *The Jesus Movement: Loving, Liberating and Life-giving*. Our deputation and I will be there, of course, but everyone is welcome.

The General Convention is the governing body of our church. And before your eyes glaze over at the thought of church politics, let me add that there is much much more to General Convention than governance. While I believe that governance can be as holy a work as any, given that it provides a structural framework within which we live and move



Applauding Michael Curry’s election as presiding bishop in 2015

and have our being as Episcopalians, I know not everyone wants to spend time watching it happen.

In Austin you can not only see church policy works in action, you also can experience beautiful worship, learn about the astonishing variety of ministries going on in our church, shop, and hang out with thousands of Episcopalians.

The exhibit hall features booths showcasing the inspiring breadth and depth of ministries being carried out by Episcopalians, book sellers whose wares will feed your mind, artists who have created beautiful altar goods and vestments, clothing, jewelry, pottery, weavings, and all manner of other goods and services.

Advocacy groups also have booths that feature their church-based social justice work.

There are daily worship services with inspiring preaching. There are seminary reunions. There are meetups of folks who have gathered in online communities around some issue or project. It is a giant Episcopal family reunion.

This convention, as in 2015, the deputations of Fort Worth and

Northwest Texas will be seated next to one another. This allows for much information sharing and, occasionally, a little mischief making. Days can be long for members of convention, with committee meetings starting as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 7 p.m., with morning and afternoon legislative sessions and worship in between.

The deputations and I will meet daily, usually over a quick lunch before heading back out to afternoon legislative sessions. We will compare notes, discuss Convention matters, and hear reports from our deputies serving on various committees as well as from those who have attended other committee hearings. Michele King will be in charge of arranging these meetings and related matters for me and our deputation, which is an invaluable help in this crowded schedule.

This year the host diocese is the Diocese of Texas, who gave us our former Provisional and now Assisting Bishop Rayford High. Bishop Andy Doyle, who preached at our diocesan Convention in 2014, leads that diocese. Hosting General Convention is a great honor and a huge job, and you can help.

Volunteers are needed in areas ranging from language services to legislative committee logistical support to worship support. See detailed information on how to volunteer on the next page. ■

Come to
Austin in
July to share
in our
General

How to volunteer to help with General Convention in Austin

The easiest way to volunteer is to go to our diocesan website at edfw.org and search for “general convention deputation.” Click on that page, and a series of options will come up. One of them is “How can I volunteer.”

When you click on that option, it will open to give you instructions about where to sign up on the Diocese of Texas online site. Since the Diocese of Texas is hosting General Convention, they are responsible for staffing it.

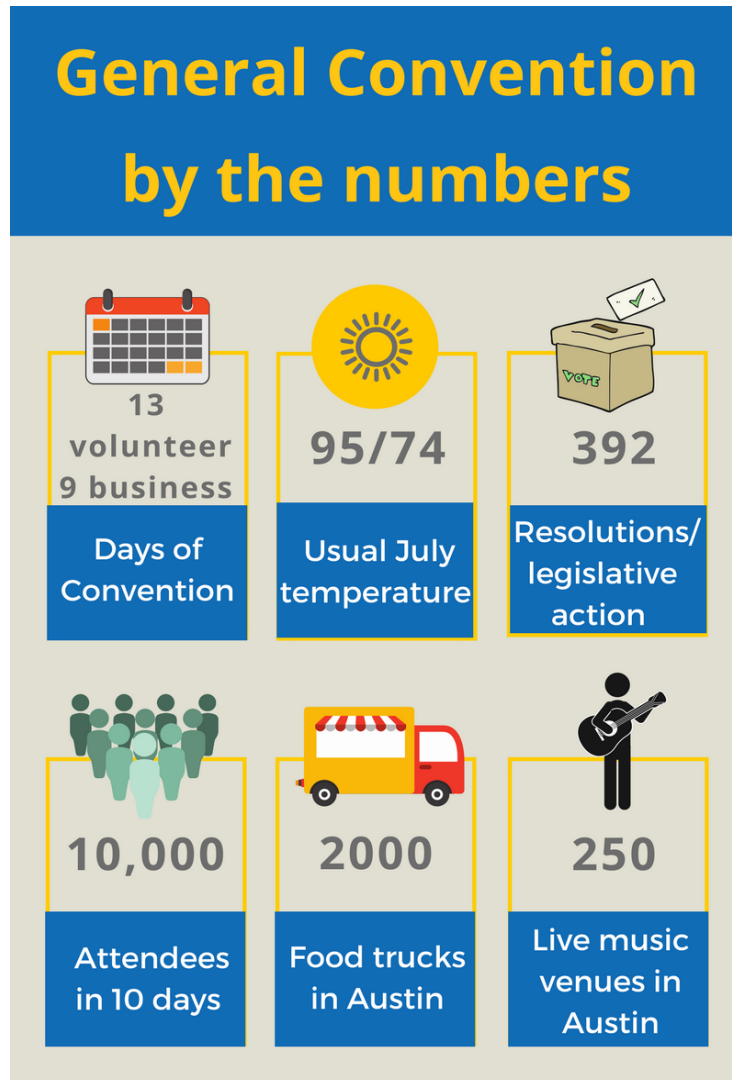
They have arranged for a special rate for volunteers at the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown. That link and other helpful information is on their Facebook site for volunteers, so you might check there often:

[facebook.com/general.convention.2018.volunteers](https://www.facebook.com/general.convention.2018.volunteers).

Why volunteer?

Because General Convention is in Austin, it makes it easy for Episcopalians in Texas to experience this gathering of 10,000 Episcopalians, something those of us in our predominately Baptist Texas rarely get to experience. Volunteering places you in the

midst of the action, and offers behind-the-scenes looks at how the governing body of your church works.



It gives you a chance to meet Episcopalians from other parts of our church, including those from parts of The Episcopal Church that are not in the United States. We have dioceses in 16 nations, and their bishops and deputies are a full part of General Convention.

If you are active in Daughters of the King or other church-wide groups, you will meet other members from across the Church. And if you are on social media, you will get to meet many cyber-friends face to face for the first time.

And then there's always lots to do in Austin, from great food to great music to great parks.. Head to Sixth Street to hear great music, watch the famous bats emerge from under the Congress Street bridge, check out the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, visit the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum (or at least get your photo taken under the giant Lone Star in front), go swimming at Barton Springs, and, of course, eat great barbecue and Mexican food. After all, it's Austin! ■

Meet your deputation



General Convention is a bi-cameral body, with a House of Deputies, which includes clergy and laity; and a House of Bishops. Bishop Scott Mayer will lead the deputation.

Deputies are not delegates. Delegates are picked to represent a higher body. Deputies are expected to vote as they individually determine is best. The 2016 diocesan convention also elected alternate deputies to step in if needed.

Deputation

Lay Deputies



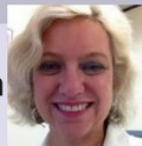
Katie Sherrod, chair, St. Luke's in the Meadow, Fort Worth

Kathleen Wells, Trinity, Fort Worth



Aiden Wright, St. Alban's, Theatre Arlington

Marti Fagley, St. Christopher, Fort Worth



Clergy Deputies



Tracie Middleton, Trinity, Fort Worth

Carlye Hughes, Trinity, Fort Worth



Amy Haynie, Trinity, Fort Worth

Scot McComas, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller



First lay alternate is Brent Walker, Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls; second is Bob Hicks, St. Christopher, Fort Worth; third is Cynthia Hill, All Saints, Fort Worth. Fourth alternate Norm Snyder, Good Shepherd, Granbury, has withdrawn.

First clergy alternate, Tony Hiatt, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Decatur, has withdrawn, which means second clergy alternate, Kevin Johnson, St. Alban's Theatre Arlington, moves up into that place, and third clergy alternate David Madison, executive director of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools, moves into the second position. They will be joined in Austin by Canon Janet Waggoner and Administrative Assistant Michele King.

The Triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women meets at the same time as General Convention. Delegates are Sandy Shockley, Cynthia Eichenberger, and Jackie Meeks. ■

How to be at General Convention if you can't be there

You will be able to follow the action at General Convention from afar in a number of ways, thanks to the Internet.

Edfw.org

Our diocesan website will once again feature news from General Convention, via a blog created for that purpose alone.

Members of our deputation, and, if things go as planned, our bishop, will regularly post photos, essays, comments, meditations and other content related to their experiences at General Convention in Austin.

Episcopal News Service

The Episcopal News Service will be featuring daily coverage of events at General Convention. You can receive these updates via email by subscribing to ENS at <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>. ENS will be deploying a large staff of reporters,

photographers, and videographers in Austin to provide coverage of the House of Deputies, the House of Bishops, and the many legislative committee hearings as well

as sermons at worship services throughout the entire session. They will also provide live streaming of most legislative sessions.

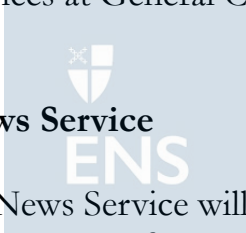
Episcopal Café

Episcopal Café has become one of the most trusted sources for news from around the church, and their coverage of General Convention will provide interesting

angles through which to view Convention. <https://www.episcopalcafe.com/>

Social media

Follow folks on Twitter and check in on the Facebook presence of the various players in Convention. Both the PB and the president of the House of Deputies are on Twitter and Facebook, as are many of our deputies. Instagram is another platform to check.



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COMMON PURPOSE

SHARING GOD'S MISSION



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