

Diocese of Olympia
Overview – Nominations for 2021 General Convention

The General Convention, the bicameral governing body of the Episcopal Church, is held every three years. It is comprised of the House of Bishops, with upwards of 200 active and retired bishops participating, and the House of Deputies, with clergy and lay deputies elected from the 109 dioceses and three regional areas of the Church, numbering more than 800 members. The 80th General Convention is scheduled for **June 30-July 9, 2021, in Baltimore, Maryland**. Each diocese is entitled to seat eight representatives in the House of Deputies, four clergy and four lay. These deputies must be elected not less than twelve months before the next meeting of General Convention, and, as we don't hold our diocesan convention until the fall of each year, we must elect our deputies even earlier.

The General Convention is a legislative body—some say the largest in the world—and it should not be surprising that it acts in large part like the Congress of the United States as many of its drafters were the same as those who designed the U.S. Constitution. It acts together to enact legislation and frequently seems submerged in paperwork (though folks are working to reduce the

load). Much of its work is actually done in committees before the legislation reaches the floor and committee assignments are avidly sought, for this is where legislation can best be influenced, amended or even cancelled. Our diocese has been blessed over the years with many committee assignments.

Although the deputies are expected to vote independently (and, by rule of the House, every deputy is required to be seated and voting), the deputation gets much out of caucusing and open discussion, both at the time of convention, and before. There will be a number of meetings during 2020 and 2021 where issues can and will be raised and, once the official convention publication is out, specific items of legislation discussed. It is expected that all elected deputies and alternates will attend and participate.

Our diocese sets aside money in the diocesan budget to provide funds for all eight deputies and two alternates (one in each order) to attend General Convention. Although funding is provided, it is not always adequate to cover all costs and those elected should anticipate some individual cost for attending the 2021 General Convention.

Nominations will take place at the 2019 Diocesan Convention, just prior to the first ballot. The process is as follows:

1. Each person to be nominated must have a sponsor prepared to make the nomination on the floor of Convention, as well as a "seconded." No speeches will be allowed; the name will simply be placed in nomination by the sponsors.
2. Each person to be nominated should complete a nomination form and return it to the Nominations Committee as indicated, by September 25, 2019, so that biographical information and photo may be communicated prior to the Convention.
3. Information regarding nominees will be published with other material prior to the Convention.
4. If information on a nominee is not received in time for publication in the official nominations report or to be added to the convention App, the person may still be nominated, however no information will be distributed.
5. No promotional materials may be distributed on the convention floor.
6. It is desirable for nominees to be present at the Convention so that they may be introduced; which occurs on Friday afternoon.
7. Deputies and alternates to General Convention will be elected pursuant to Article XII of the Constitution of the Diocese of Olympia.
8. Positions to be filled:
 - 4 clerical and 4 lay deputies*
 - 4 clerical and 4 lay alternates*