

General Convention Update for May 12

While the legislative sessions of General Convention don't officially begin until Tuesday, there was a great deal of committee activity on Monday. The Special Legislative Committee – of which Bishop O'Neill is a member – met for two sessions, during which they established norms for the group and for hearings, grouped proposed resolutions for hearings, and worked out logistics for a large hearing on Wednesday evening. Like most committees, the Special Legislative Committee will conduct several hearings over the next several days, with the last one currently scheduled for Friday morning. The first hearings on Tuesday will deal with the resolutions having that respond generally to the Windsor Report and the desire of the Episcopal Church to remain in the Anglican Communion.

In addition to the committee work, deputies and bishops were welcomed by The Most Rev. Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop, and The Very Rev. George Werner, president of the House of Deputies. Griswold spoke of the work of reconciliation, calling it “costly and demanding,” but he also said that “The animating force of reconciliation is love.” Werner focused on the stories of the church, which he called “phenomenal,” in particular the stories of the work the Episcopal Church did – along with other Christian denominations – in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters. “It has been an unbelievable privilege to see these things,” in his role as president of the House of Deputies, he said.

Colorado's deputation has begun its morning caucus meetings; the group meets around 6 every morning to share Morning Prayer, and to share reports from the previous day, and to discuss issues coming before the House of Deputies. The Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley is here to facilitate some of those discussions.

In other committee business:

- Committee on Ministry – Reviewed changes Title III made to date (2000, 2003) as well as proposed changes for 2006. They described these changes as “tweaking” changes made in 2003 rather than substantive changes. One of the primary goals of this tweaking is to create more symmetry in the processes for ordination of priests, deacons and bishops.
- Committee on Peace and Justice – Resolutions regarding Millennium Development Goals are moving through the committee; these resolutions represent a hopeful focus on the mission of the church.
- Committee on Canons – This committee is examining changes to Title IV which would change the disciplinary process for church employees based on a theology of discipline. The committee heard presentations from experts in this area. There will be a hearing on Tuesday at 2 pm about some of the Title IV changes. This committee is also responsible for some resolutions about Title III and will be working with the Committee on Ministry on Title III changes.
- Church Pension Group –Part of this committee's discussion centered on a resolution to do a health care feasibility study at the next triennium to provide a national health care plan at the next GC.

- Structure Committee – Have done a good deal of housekeeping and figuring out voting structure.
- Evangelism – Working on resolutions related to church planting, and how they can meet the goals for doubling membership of Episcopal Church by 2020.

Looking Forward

Tuesday will see the beginning of legislative sessions in the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, beginning at 10:45 am Eastern Time.

Wednesday evening will be the largest scheduled hearing of the Special Legislative Committee.

On Thursday evening, John Danforth, a former US Senator and Episcopal priest will be the key note speaker at the Presiding Bishop's Forum, titled, "Toward a Reconciled World."

Media Coverage

The Episcopal News Service has launched a news page specifically for General Convention. You can find it [here](#).

[Eric Gorski's story](#) in Monday's *Denver Post* about Colorado's deputation and the work that this diocese has done to prepare for General Convention.

The Associated Press article about General Convention.

<http://wireservice.wired.com/wired/story.asp?section=Breaking&storyId=1535589>

The Reuters article about General Convention.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=2061198>