

General Convention Update for Friday, June 16, and Saturday Morning, June 17

On Thursday at General Convention, the resolutions in response to the Windsor Report made some progress through the legislative process while the members of the Special Legislative Committee continue to work to shape the remaining resolutions. That committee held its last scheduled hearing on Friday morning, on a group of resolutions that have been assigned to that committee since the beginning of General Convention. The House of Bishops also heard a presentation from The Rev. Canon Kenneth Kearon, the Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), who acknowledged the time that the Episcopal Church has spent responding to the Windsor Report, and offered them a hopeful image for the state of the Anglican Communion, and the bishops' role in it.

The Special Legislative Committee has sent three resolutions out of committee to date. Yesterday, the House of Bishops passed A159, which affirms the Episcopal Church's commitment to the Windsor Report, but with amendment, so that resolution will now go back to the House of Deputies. Resolution A165, which commends the Windsor Report and commits the Episcopal Church to an ongoing listening process was also passed by the House of Bishops on Thursday, and will likely be heard in the House of Deputies on Friday. Resolution A166, which outlines the Episcopal Church's willingness to participate in the development of an Anglican Covenant, will also likely be heard in the House of Deputies on Friday as well. The Special Legislative Committee continues its work, and is hoping to send at least one more resolution out of committee on Friday.

In his address to the House of Bishops, Kearon brought greetings from the worldwide Anglican Communion, and talked to the House about the four parts of the Windsor Process for which his office is responsible – the Panel of Reference, the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates, the listening process, and the Anglican Covenant. He went on to tell a story about the AIDS quilt – a quilt constructed to represent victims of HIV-AIDS – which was on display in the office building in which he worked, and the woman who was tasked each night to get up on a ladder, and stitch together or mend the parts of the quilt that had become stressed during the day. Kearon remarked that he was very mindful of the fact that the metaphor of fabric was often used to describe the Anglican Communion – tears in the fabric, straining at the seams. He remarked, “You as Bishops and I as the Secretary General find ourselves like that woman. We are concerned with and we see all of the stresses and strains ... on the tapestry of our communion,” But, he went on that, “Sometimes we all need to stand back from our communion as most people do,” to see the richness and wonder of the quilt. For more coverage of Kearon's address, go to http://www.episcopalchurch.org/75383_76072_ENG_HTM.htm.

In other business, the House of Deputies concurred with a resolution (A077) passed earlier in the week by the House of Bishops which directs that the Revised Common Lectionary will “be the lectionary of this Church ... effective the first Sunday of Advent, 2007.” The House of Bishops consented to five bishops – Marc H. Andrus, Bishop-elect of California; the Ven. Dena Harrison as suffragan bishop-elect of Texas, the Very Rev.

Canon William H. Love as bishop coadjutor-elect of Albany; the Rev. Stephen Todd Ousely as bishop coadjutor-elect of Eastern Michigan, and the Rev. David Mitchell Reed as suffragan bishop-elect of West Texas. The Committee on Consecration of Bishops has also recommended the consent to the ordination of the Rev. Barry Beisner as bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Northern California, but a minority report will be attached to that recommendation. Some have questioned Beisner's nomination because he has been divorced twice and married three times.

Looking Ahead:

On Sunday, the House of Bishops will elect the new Presiding Bishop.

Media Coverage of General Convention

Coverage in *The Living Church*

<http://www.livingchurch.org/publishertlc/viewarticle.asp?ID=2176>

Coverage in the Associated Press

<http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EPISCOPALIANS?SITE=NJVIN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>

Update from the Young Adult Festival

http://www.coloradodiocese.org/06_newsandevents/PDFs/gc_ya_rpt_6-16.pdf.