

Greetings from Columbus, from the members of Colorado's deputation to the General Convention.

Following the remarkable events of yesterday, we wanted to be in touch with all of you about those events and all the work we have been doing in the House of Deputies.

You have probably seen by now Bishop O'Neill's statement about the election of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. We appreciated Bishop O'Neill's statement, and we commend it to you.

In the House of Deputies yesterday afternoon, the announcement of the new presiding bishop was greeted with a range of emotions including surprise, wonder, joy and concern. There was a clear sense that we all were witnesses to an historic moment. After the House of Bishops elected Jefferts Schori on the fifth ballot, the House of Deputies was asked to consent to her election. We all stand ready to serve with her and affirm her as our new Presiding Bishop, although we as a deputation were not of one mind about that consent for a variety of reasons. Many received this news with great joy. At the same time, many acknowledge that her election presents challenges going forward. Our deputation includes both perspectives.

What you may not know is that the House of Deputies has also elected a new generation of leaders in its new president Bonnie Anderson, a lay person from the Diocese of Michigan, and a new vice president, the Rev. Brian Prior, from the Diocese of Spokane. Many of us have worked closely with either Bonnie or Brian for many years, and we look forward to serving with them in the leadership of the Episcopal Church.

The Special Legislative Committee, of which Bishop O'Neill is a member, is now nearing the completion of its work. Please keep us in your prayers today as we consider the key resolutions from that group – the resolutions regarding regret, moratoria, and the Anglican Covenant. At this writing, the deputies on that committee are preparing to present those resolutions on the floor this afternoon.

But while we have much work to do, and our days have been very full, we are also attentive to worship and community. Each day we begin at 6 A.M. with devotions, breakfast and conversation, and after the close of legislative hearings and work on the floor, evenings are devoted to fellowship, food and exploring what Columbus has to offer. These gatherings are full of laughter, serious and contemplative discussion, review of the days' events and other lively conversation, often into the late hours of the evening. We are enjoying each other's company.

Thank you for all of your prayers during this General Convention. We need them.

Faithfully,

The Members of the Colorado Deputation