

80th General Convention:
Guiding Principles for Contingency Planning Due to COVID-19

Guided by our collective commitment to the Way of Love as embodied by Jesus of Nazareth and the promises we make in our Baptismal Covenant, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, House of Deputies President Gay Clark Jennings, and the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements affirm these guiding principles as we monitor and evaluate our plans for the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, currently scheduled for July 7-14, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland:

1. Because we follow Jesus in caring for the most vulnerable, the marginalized, and the under-served and under-resourced within our church and beyond, we will first consider the impact of the 80th General Convention on the physical and mental health, well-being and morale of its workers, staff, volunteers, officers, deputies, bishops, visitors and vendors.
2. Because we are committed to moving ever closer to Beloved Community, we will consider our ability to include the voices and experiences of all deputies and bishops at the 80th General Convention, including those from beyond the United States and those who are immunosuppressed and otherwise vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.
3. Because we are a church formed by the shared governance of laypeople, clergy and bishops, we will consider the urgency of conducting, at the 80th General Convention:
 - Elections to churchwide offices, agencies and boards;
 - Budgetary processes;
 - Legislative business;
 - Consideration of other governance obligations.
4. Because we practice an incarnational faith and are formed by corporate worship, we will consider our ability to worship, enjoy fellowship, and take part in formation safely at the 80th General Convention.
5. Because we follow Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we will consider the impact of the 80th General Convention on the Diocese of Maryland, the people of the State of Maryland, the Baltimore community and other partners outside the Episcopal Church.
6. Because God calls us to be good stewards of the gifts with which we have been entrusted, we will consider the impact of the 80th General Convention on the financial resources of The Episcopal Church and its dioceses, and our ability to mitigate risk and comply with appropriate laws, regulations, standards, and ethical practices related to gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Remembering that we are a people made in the image of God and redeemed through Jesus, we look for the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is calling us to be a new church in a new time, as we consider the options for the 80th General Convention.