

# 81ST GENERAL CONVENTION

## 35 BIG DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EVERY THREE YEARS, bishops, clerics, and lay people from 109 dioceses and 22 nations and territories gather to express their resolve on topics that direct and define our church. Here are the 20 biggest developments coming from this summer’s 81st General Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky.

**TO FIND A RESOLUTION**, search the number (e.g. “A101”) at: [vbinder.net/resolutions](https://vbinder.net/resolutions)

**TO FIND LITURGIES and RESOURCES**, open: [episcopalcommonprayer.org](https://episcopalcommonprayer.org)

**TO FIND AN ENS ARTICLE**, search: [episcopalnewsservice.org](https://episcopalnewsservice.org)

### I. LITURGY

1. Broadly defining the Book of Common Prayer: “The Book of Common Prayer is understood to be those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention in accordance with this article and the Canons of this Church” — **A072**  
<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/27/81st-general-convention-adopts-constitutional-change-defining-book-of-common-prayer/>
2. Prayer Book:
  - A114** — Approving two inclusive-language Eucharistic Prayer C’s
  - A113** — Requesting Rite I Eucharistic Prayers in Rite II language
  - A115** — Providing alternate readings for Good Friday that are sensitive to antisemitism
  - A116** — A First Reading to create “Marriage 1” in BCP and add “Marriage 2” with the previously-authorized gender-neutral marriage rite
  - A160** — A First Reading to revise the BCP Catechism on marriage to say “two people”
  - A109** — Commending and expanding liturgical resources recognizing the end of slavery
  - A111** — Developing resources for online/in-person hybrid worship
  - A125** — Considering “fast days” for inclusion in “Lesser Feasts and Fasts”
3. Adding new Commemorations including The Philadelphia Eleven, Consecration of Bishop Barbara Harris, Simeon Bacchus the Ethiopian Eunuch, and St. George — **C023, A121**
4. Approving the expanded RCL daily lectionary, which follows and expands on the Sunday RCL “Track One” readings — **A112**
5. Developing a digital collection of alternative language hymn texts in cases of hymns that have colonialist, racist, white supremacist, imperialistic, or nationalistic language — **A130**
6. Developing trial use Baptismal Covenant language that is broader than the five promises we currently have, especially including Creation Care — **B001**
7. Adopting a prayer remembering Indigenous children forced into boarding schools — **C032**

**O God of Persistent Grace, you called the Philadelphia Eleven to the priesthood and granted them courage and boldness to respond, thereby opening the eyes of your church to the giftedness and equality of all: grant us so to hear, trust, and follow your Holy Spirit wherever she may lead, that the gifts of all your people may flourish throughout the earth, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### II. ELECTIONS

8. Re-electing Julia Ayala Harris as President of the House of Deputies on the first ballot after a public airing of grievances by the VPHOD who ran against her

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/25/breaking-house-of-deputies-president-julia-ayala-harris-re-elected-on-first-ballot/>

9. Electing Bishop Sean Rowe as Presiding Bishop; he wants to do things differently - “everyone wants a revolution but no one wants to do the dishes”

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/26/breaking-sean-rowe-elected-28th-presiding-bishop-will-begin-nine-year-term-nov-1/>

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/28/presiding-bishop-elect-calls-the-church-to-think-differently-about-how-it-should-work-for-the-sake-of-sharing-the-gospel/>

### III. THE WIDER WORLD

10. Affirming the goal of full communion with United Methodist Church — **A049**
11. Rejecting most Israel/Palestine resolutions, rejecting the words “genocide” and “apartheid”

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/27/deputies-send-apartheid-resolution-back-to-bishops-adopt-bishops-version-of-ceasefire-resolution/>

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/28/bishops-deputies-pass-compromise-resolution-backing-palestinian-state-no-mention-of-apartheid/>

12. Repudiating the pro-slavery views of a previous President of the House of Deputies and removing the commemoration of William Porcher Dubose, an unrepentant and lifelong white supremacist — **D074, A117**
13. Establishing a Task Force to research and make recommendations on Reparations, including the creation of a Reparation Fund — **A015**
14. Commending safe gun storage; urging the United States Congress to ban, except for military and law enforcement agencies, the possession of all military-style assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines; and declaring gun violence a National Health Crisis — **B004, D011, D014**
15. Resolutions on Responsible Investing/Divesting
  - A028** — Supporting freedom to consider ethical issues in investing
  - A029** — Divesting from, and calling on all institutional investors to divest from Fossil Fuels
  - A030** — Creating and administering a “no buy list” for companies that manufacture weapons that would cause mass injury to civilians, also weapons that are chemical, nuclear, fragmentation, incendiary, blinding lasers, antipersonnel, cluster, or lethally autonomous.
  - A163** — Affirming the consideration of Ethical Issues in investing
  - D076** — Supporting reparative investment vehicles

### IV. REUNIONS

16. Granting the Episcopal Church in Navajoland to become a Missionary Diocese — **C009**
17. Reunifying Eu Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee into the Diocese of Wisconsin — **D051**
18. Ratifying the Agreement of Union between the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan, approving the juncture, and creating the diocese “of the Great Lakes” — **C025**

## V. RACIAL RECONCILIATION

19. Increasing recruitment, hiring, appointment, retention, and representation of People of Color in church positions — **A027**
20. Urging all seminaries and schools of theology to incorporate dismantling racism and achieving racial justice and healing education into their curricula — **A034**
21. Appointing a Task Force to create Model Policies for Dismantling Racism, Racial Reconciliation, and Healing — **A035**
22. Dedicating \$500,000 to support new bi-cultural and multi-cultural ministries — **A046**
23. Creating a Task Force on “Countering the Colonial Mindset”, defined as: “the living legacy of colonialism in the 21st century exemplified by the supremacy of Western/European mindsets, modes of thinking, cultural and economic systems, and bodies in former colonial states and their partners” — **A080**

## VI. “PRACTICAL GUIDANCE”

24. Offering practical guidance for inter-religious relations — **A038**
25. Offering practical guidance for Episcopal-Jewish relations — **A039**
26. Offering practical guidance for Christian-Muslim relations — **A040**

## VII. TITLE IV REFORM (DISCIPLINARY CANONS)

27. Requiring every diocese to have at least one intake officer who is not directly employed or otherwise compensated by the diocese in which the matter is pending — **A053**
28. Adding a “restorative covenant” as one possible result of conciliation — **A052**
29. Requiring vacancies on churchwide disciplinary boards to be filled within 60 days — **D053**
30. Studying how to respond when lay officers may have committed misconduct — **A147**
31. Considering 26 resolutions regarding Title IV — **A025, A026, A052, A053, A054, A055, A056, A057, A058, A104, A105, A106, A107, A139, A140, A141, A142, A143, B010, D015, D015, D025, D040, D052, D053, D064**

## VIII. STRUCTURE, ADMINISTRATION, AND MISSION

32. Approving a budget of \$143M for TEC — **A164** — <https://budget.episcopalchurch.org>
33. Diocesan assessment kept same at 15% (proposal to 10%) — **C004, C008, C019, C033**
34. Approving \$1,692,000 for planting and supporting new ministries “*that are especially committed to mission and evangelism engaging under-represented groups, including youth and young adults, disabled persons, members of LGBTQIA communities, BIPOC communities, poor and working-class people, people with high-school diploma or less, and/or people with little or no church background or involvement*” — **A045**
35. Urging the Church Pension Group to revise the pricing of the Denominational Health Plan to consider both the ability of the community to pay and the prevailing cost of comparable coverage in the area; while also ensuring that Navajoland, North Dakota and South Dakota can provide coverage for their employees — **A101**

**TO FIND A COMPLETE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS, OPEN:  
<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/32551>**