



The graphic features a blue rounded rectangle with a white shield on the left containing a red cross and a blue field with white stars. To the right of the shield, the text "Session Three: GC2006!" is written in white. Below this, the text "The 75th General Convention", "June 13-21, 2006", and "Columbus, Ohio" is displayed in black. A small logo on the right says "come and grow" with "2006" in a grid below it, set against a background of green grass. At the bottom, "Session Three: GC2006f" and the number "1" are visible.

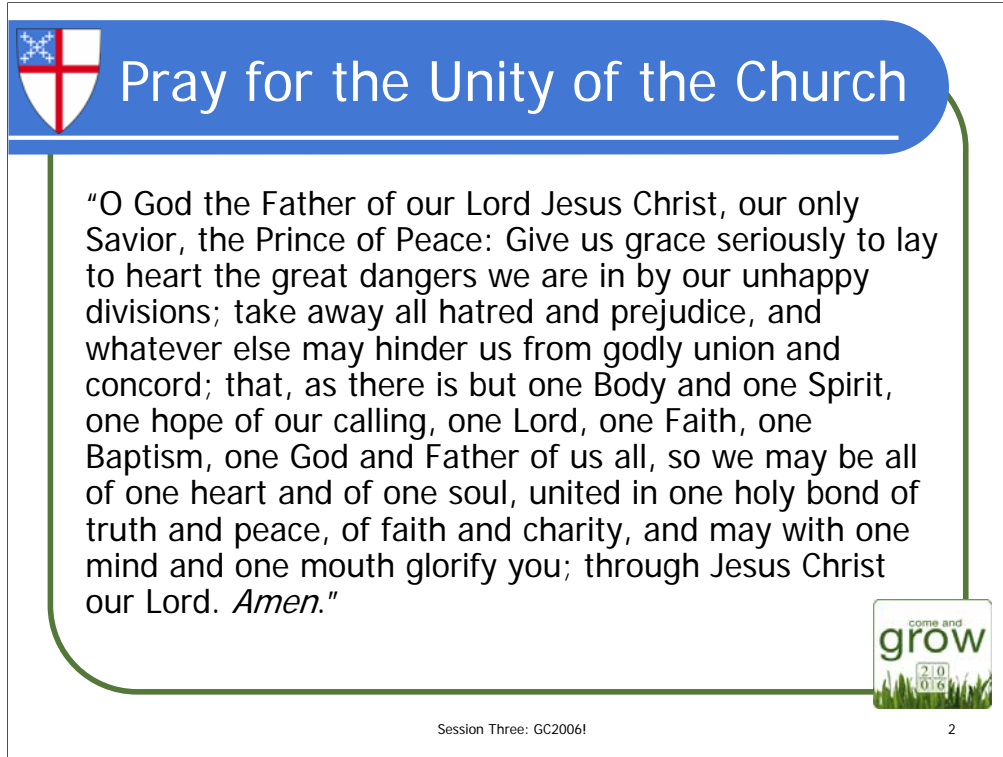
Session Three: GC2006!

The 75th General Convention
June 13-21, 2006
Columbus, Ohio

come and
grow
2006

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Each General Convention has a theme. The 75th General Convention's theme is "Come and Grow." There is the opportunity for the Church to grow in mission, for individuals to grow in faith, and for the Church and individuals to grow in relationships. And this year, for the first time in decades, the General Convention will be held in Ohio. The last time was in 1943, in Cleveland.



Pray for the Unity of the Church


"O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*"

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General Convention meets prayerfully. Each morning bishops, deputies, registered alternates, and delegates to the ECW Triennial gather for Bible study and Holy Eucharist.


Let us pray this prayer for unity as we consider the upcoming General Convention. The Church is always seeking the highest degree of unity possible – within the Episcopal Church, and with our ecumenical and interfaith partners.



Deputies and Bishops Together

The Junior House (a.k.a. the House of Bishops)

- ❖ Formed after the House of Deputies, therefore the “Junior House”
- ❖ Nearly 300 bishops eligible by virtue of his or her office as bishop
- ❖ Chaired by the Presiding Bishop




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All bishops of the Episcopal Church, active and retired, are entitled to seat, voice, and vote in the House of Bishops (unless deprived of the privilege).

“The House of Bishops is chaired by the Primate of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold, and, in his absence, by the Vice Chair, Bishop Richard S. O. Chang. They are assisted by the Secretary of the House of Bishops, Bishop Kenneth L. Price; a Parliamentarian, David Beers; and a Chair of the Committee on Dispatch, Bishop Wayne Wright.” (From *Introduction to General Convention* by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub, Executive Officer of General Convention.)




Your Bishops

- ❖ The Rt. Rev. Gary R. Lillibridge
- ❖ The Rev. David M. Reed,
Bishop Suffragan-elect



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Deputies and Bishops Together

The Senior House (a.k.a. the House of Deputies)


- ❖ First met in 1785 in Philadelphia
- ❖ Deputies are fully independent representatives, elected by their dioceses and free to vote their consciences after careful listening, reflection, consultation, and prayer.
- ❖ 8 per diocese: 4 clergy and 4 lay
- ❖ Chaired by a President elected by the deputies



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“Each of the Episcopal Church’s domestic and foreign dioceses (and the Convocation of Churches in Europe) is entitled to elect eight deputies, four lay persons and four priests and/or deacons, to the House of Deputies. (The diocesan electors of deputies are themselves elected representatives from local parishes.) Deputies are not delegates; that is, they are not elected to represent the electing dioceses. Deputies vote their conscience for the good of the church. They cannot be instructed to vote one way or another, for to do so would preclude godly debate and preempt the work of the Holy Spirit. Deputies are expected to serve on committees, if appointed, to attend forums and hearings, to read the reports to the church from its commissions, committees and appointed boards, to listen to, and if so moved, to respond to resolutions on the floor of the house.” (From *Introduction to General Convention* by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub, Executive Officer of General Convention.)



Deputies and Bishops Together

“The House of Deputies was a complete innovation when this Church was organized following the American Revolution. It gives clergy and laity an equal voice with bishops in determining policy, establishing our legal framework, and maintaining a living liturgical life.”

Dr. Pamela Chinnis, former President of the House of Deputies



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The House of Bishops and House of Deputies meet, deliberate and vote separately. To be enacted resolutions must pass both houses in the same language.

Both houses have the right to amend legislation, but the amendment must be accepted by the other house.

Resolutions presented to convention come from four sources:

1. committees, commissions, agencies and boards of the church;
2. bishops;
3. dioceses and provinces; and
4. deputies.

(From *Introduction to General Convention* by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub, Executive Officer of General Convention.




Your Deputies

Mr. Richard Mosty, St. Peter's, Kerrville

Mrs. Susan Hardaway, St. Francis, San Antonio

Mrs. Alice Ann Fischer, Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi

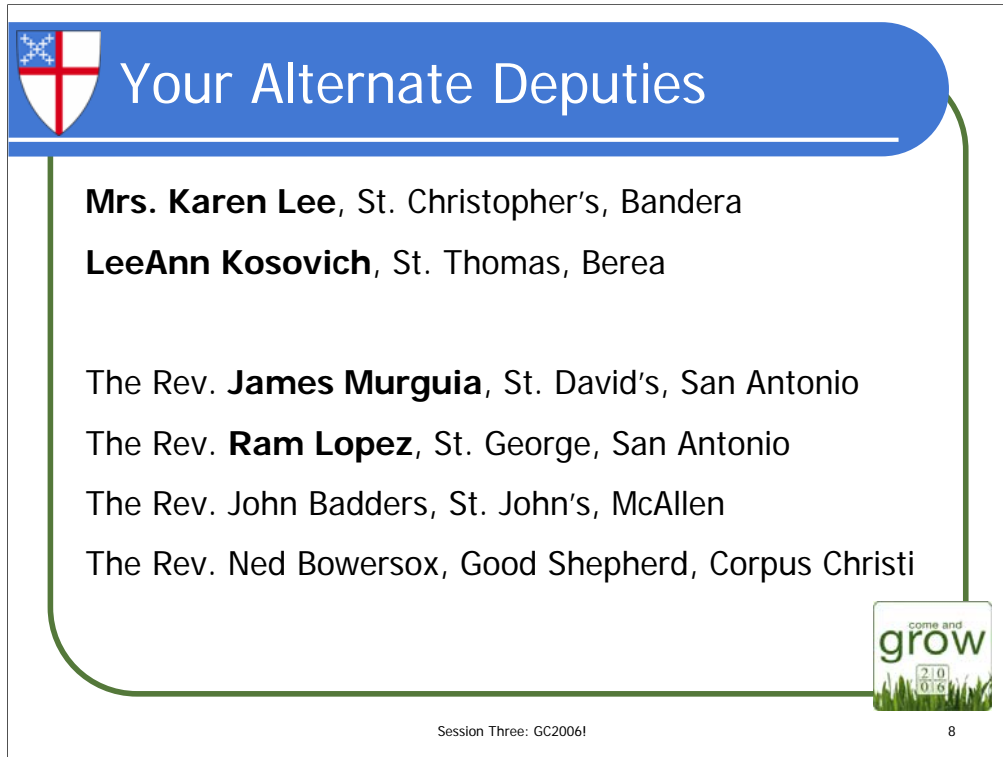
Mr. Robert Browning, Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi



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Your deputies are elected at the Diocesan Council. This year's deputies were elected at the 101st Annual Council February, 2005.



Your Alternate Deputies


Mrs. Karen Lee, St. Christopher's, Bandera
LeeAnn Kosovich, St. Thomas, Berea

The Rev. **James Murguia**, St. David's, San Antonio
The Rev. **Ram Lopez**, St. George, San Antonio
The Rev. John Badders, St. John's, McAllen
The Rev. Ned Bowersox, Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi

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Your provisional, or alternate, deputies are also elected at the Diocesan Council. One of them would serve if a deputy is unable to serve. There are normally 4 Alternate deputies in each order, however not all elected in 2005 are still able to serve.



Issues at General Convention


- ❖ Respond to the aftermath of Katrina and other storms; economic outreach, rebuilding of churches, systemic pastoral responses after disasters
- ❖ Adopt a Program and Budget for 2007-2009
- ❖ Consider revisions to the Disciplinary Canons (Title IV); last revised 10+ years ago
- ❖ Consider continuing revisions to Title III (Ministry Canons)



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Here are some of the major topics that will most probably come to bear on the Convention.




Issues at General Convention

Key Elections

- ❖ 26th Presiding Bishop
- ❖ President of the House of Deputies
- ❖ Vice-President of the House of Deputies

This is the first time in decades that all 3 elections take place at the same General Convention.



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Presiding Bishop: The Presiding Bishop, Frank T. Griswold, is completing a canonically mandated term of 9 years. There are 7 nominees for the position of Presiding Bishop.

Nominees named by the Nominating Committee include:

- Katharine Jefferts Schori (Bishop of Nevada),
- Neil Alexander (Bishop of Atlanta),
- Edwin (Ted) Gulick (Bishop of Kentucky), and
- Henry Parsley (Bishop of Alabama).

There are three nominees by petition:

- Stacy Sauls (Bishop of Lexington),
- Charles Jenkins (Bishop of Louisiana), and
- Carlos Duque (Bishop of Colombia).

Both orders must be represented by the House of Deputies officers. If the President is a lay person, the Vice President must be an ordained person, and vica versa.



Issues at General Convention

Special Committee on Inter-Anglican Relations

- ❖ Will handle all resolutions that propose the church's official response to the process set in motion by the Lambeth Commission on Communion, which issued the Windsor Report in October 2004
- ❖ Will consider resolutions that deal with "reconciliation and communion in the service of mission occasioned by differing views regarding expressions of human sexuality within the Episcopal Church and other provinces of the Anglican Communion"





Issues at General Convention

- ❖ Discuss an intercommunion agreement with the Methodist Church similar to our covenant with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- ❖ Evangelism and Church Growth—bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched; planting new congregations
- ❖ Consider various public policy issues brought forward by deputies, bishops, interim bodies, and legislative committees





Issues at General Convention

Re-commit to the Millennium Development Goals:

- ❖ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ❖ Achieve universal primary education
- ❖ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ❖ Reduce child Mortality
- ❖ Improve maternal health
- ❖ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- ❖ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ❖ Develop a global partnership for development

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Resolutions proposed for discussion at convention are referred to committees, which consider, amalgamate and perfect them before presenting them on the floor of convention. For important legislation, committees may hold hearings at which anyone can speak: deputy, alternate or interested member. These are held in convention hotels near the Convention Center. (From *Introduction to General Convention* by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub, Executive Officer of General Convention.

Legislation is not passed in a vacuum. Legislation is intended to set policy and program for the Episcopal Church including dioceses and parishes. The next few slides show how the legislation concerning the Millennium Development Goals adopted at the 2003 General Convention made its way to the Diocese of West Texas and impacted our ministry. It will help us understand what happens to a resolution from its first appearance onward.


How does a resolution work?

Let's take the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as an example...

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MDGs began as a report to GC, then submitted as a resolution.

- ❖ Reported to General Convention from the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace and Justice Concerns.
- ❖ Resolution A034 in the “Blue Book.”
 - Urges the Church to “use these goals as an effective framework in its development efforts”
 - Asks “that the US government be encouraged to provide appropriate leadership and resources toward . . . efforts to implement these goals...”
 - The “goals” mentioned are the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



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The Millennium Development Goals were first reported to General Convention from the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace and Justice Concerns.


Resolution A034 was proposed and appeared in the in the “Blue Book” to be considered at the 74th Convention. It urges the Church to “use these goals as an effective framework in its development efforts” and asks “that the US government be encouraged to provide appropriate leadership and resources toward . . . efforts to implement these goals” The “goals” mentioned are the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Then the resolution was reshaped in committee and reintroduced.


- ❖ Discussed and reshaped by the House of Deputies' Legislative Committee on National and International Concerns, at GC in 2003.
- ❖ Drawing on resolution A034 and on Resolutions passed in GC 2000 (Res. A001 and D033), it became **resolution D006**, authored by the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas of Massachusetts.





Now, resolution D006 was considered,...

- ❖ Brought forward for consideration as D006, originating in the House of Deputies:
 - New form of the resolution provides that Convention **challenge dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% to international development;**
 - Tasks national church staff, Executive Council, Episcopal Relief and Development, and SCAIPJC to educate, account for progress in meeting this goal, and report to GC 2006 on progress;
 - Tasks the Episcopal Office of Government Relations to lobby the US Government to fulfill its commitment to funding development and urge all Episcopalians to press the US government to fulfill its obligations to fund.



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...amended,...

Amended in the Legislative Committee on National and International Concerns:


- ❖ The amendment recaptures some of the original language from A034, in urging “the US government to provide leadership and resources toward...efforts to implement these goals...”
- ❖ The Episcopal Office of Government Relations is asked to “actively advocate” that the US Government fulfill its commitment.
- ❖ All Episcopalians are asked to contact their elected representatives and urge them to support the government in fulfilling its commitment.






...and passed.

- ❖ Concurred with by the House of Bishops, without further amendment, and concurred by both houses on August 7, 2003.




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Questions for reflection

- ❖ What issues that may come before General Convention are of interest to you?
- ❖ What issues might affect our parish and our diocese?



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This could be an opportunity for people to discuss in small groups these questions. After 15 minutes of small group discussion, you might want to ask people to share highlights of their conversations with the whole group. This would depend on the amount of time available for this session.




Triennial Meeting of ECW

The Episcopal Church Women hold their triennial meeting during the General Convention.

- ❖ The goal of the National Board of the Episcopal Church Women exists to support all women in their Mission and Ministry in the World, and their vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is to become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a God spark—shining and sharing the love of Christ.






Triennial Meeting of ECW

The meeting consists of worship, keynote addresses, workshops, adopting programs for mission and service, and the glorious UTO ingathering.


Attending from the Diocese of Ohio:

- ❖ Judy St. John
- ❖ Charlotte Otto
- ❖ Debbie Gardiner
- ❖ Cynthia Caruso
- ❖ Joy Herrera
- ❖ Carolyn Whitmire




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A highlight of every General Convention is its festival Eucharist at which the United Thank Offering is presented. (The United Thank Offering is taken up in parishes twice each year for the mission of the church.) For this General Convention a musical setting of the Holy Eucharist has been commissioned in honor of the Presiding Bishop, and it will have its premiere in its entirety at this service.



“General Convention is a combination of legislative assembly, bazaar of goods and services, and family reunion. It is one of the most exciting and, truth be told, one of the most awe-inspiring gatherings in the world.”

The Reverend Dr. Gregory S. Straub
Executive Officer, General Convention Office



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