

Legislative Committee #6 – Structure

Guidelines for Deputies, Alternate Deputies, Bishops, Experts, Invited Guests, Staff, and Visitors who wish to testify and be present during Committee #6 Meetings

Welcome! We believe you are gifts to Committee #6 and that you represent the Church in its diversity. We are grateful for your presence and participation with us. We hope you will give us the benefit of your knowledge and experience. All are welcome, and all are respected.

In order that Committee #6 may perform the tasks assigned to it by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, these guidelines will assist you in knowing when and how to give us your testimony, counsel, and advice. These guidelines will also help Committee #6 by ensuring that input from a variety of sources is obtained in a form and manner that will best serve the General Convention, while also offering those who wish to speak the freedom to express their views as time and good order permit.

Meeting Information

There are three types of committee meetings:

- 1) **Open Meeting** – Committee #6 will normally meet in open session with the public and representative of the media permitted to be present. Upon recognition by the presiding chair, any one may be permitted to speak.
- 2) **Conference Meeting** – The presiding chair can declare a Conference meeting during which only members of the committee may speak. Conference meetings are open to the public.
- 3) **Executive Session** – By a two-thirds vote of committee members present, the committee may go into Executive Session provided that the matter has been subject to a public hearing in open session. Only members of the committee are permitted to be present during an Executive Session.

Agenda

The agenda of meetings may vary as circumstances demand. A typical meeting includes opening prayer, subcommittee reports, hearings on pending resolutions, and committee consultation and debate leading to voting on how particular resolutions will be reported to the respective Houses.

Bishops, Deputies, Alternate Deputies, Experts, Invited Guests, Staff, and Visitors

Everyone present are encouraged to join in worship with Committee #6 and, if properly registered with the Legislative Aide as a witness, to speak to the committee during hearings. Consultation and debate, however, are reserved for committee members. Visitors may speak in committee or subcommittee meetings only if recognized by the presiding chair.

If a visitor has a question regarding any matter to come before the committee, or a question about committee procedures, please speak to one of the chairs, vice chairs, or the secretary. Such questions can normally be entertained before or after a committee meeting.

Testifying Before Committee #6

Under the Rules of Order of both Houses, no matter can be considered by a committee unless due notice of at least four hours is posted of the committee's intention to conduct a hearing. A notice board, accessible to the public and posting all committee meetings with hearings, is maintained by the General Convention Secretariat.

Those wishing to testify or invited to testify before the committee must register with a legislative aide by signing the Witness Registration Form before the hearing begins.

The presiding chair will recognize witnesses related to the resolution in which they have indicated interest when the committee has that resolution under consideration. To the extent practicable, the presiding Chair will endeavor to recognize witnesses in favor of the resolution alternating with those opposed.

Each witness will be given two minutes to speak unless, with advance notice, it becomes necessary to reduce this time in order to hear from more witnesses at a specific hearing. Witnesses are asked to address the presiding chair, confining their remarks to the resolution under discussion.

When invited to do so by the presiding chair, the witness should stand at the designated microphone, address the presiding chair, and within the time limits set, present his or her testimony. After the witness has finished speaking, the presiding chair may invite members of the committee to ask questions of the witness for the purpose of clarification. Debate involving witnesses and committee members is not appropriate.

HOD Chair	The Rev. Gay C. Jennings (Ohio)
HOD Vice Chair	Mr. Vincent Currie, Jr. (Central Gulf Coast)
HOD Secretary	Mr. Thomas Little (Vermont)
HOB Chair	The Rt. Rev. S. Johnson Howard (Florida)
HOB Vice Chair	The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle (Texas)
Legislative Aides	The Rev. Butch Gamarra and Mr. Michael Heller