

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

IMPORTANT DETAILS & INSTRUCTIONS

KEY LOCATIONS & ADDRESSES

Omni Hotel Richmond

100 South 12th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Derbyshire Baptist Church

8800 Derbyshire Rd.
Richmond, VA 23229

St. Jude's Anglican Church (only for the Central States Synod attendees)

8102 Ridge Rd.
Richmond, VA 23229

HOTEL PARKING

If you are staying at the hotel and made your reservation using our event code, please use the valet parking option at the hotel. It will be cheaper than their self-parking. Our cost is \$32/nt and will have unlimited in and out access. If you self-park with the hotel, you will pay every time you come in and out, and it will be a more expensive daily rate.

There is city parking directly across the street from the hotel entrance and on a few of the adjacent streets. The James Center parking costs \$25 per day with no in/out privileges (i.e., you will pay twice if you leave and then return again). Some of the other garages may be a little cheaper, but availability, costs, and security cannot be guaranteed. The hotel is in the financial district of downtown and many of those garages fill up with employee parking.

If you are a local resident, driving to General Council, or staying at another hotel – please use this link to the hotel's website to read their posted directions, parking instructions, and other transportation information.

[Downtown Richmond Hotels | Directions To Omni Richmond](#)

HOTEL SHUTTLE

The Omni hotel and airport are about 8 miles apart (15 min drive). Unfortunately, the hotel does not offer a shuttle to/from the airport. If you are arriving at Richmond Airport and not renting a vehicle, you can Uber from the airport which should only be about \$20-\$30 each way. The hotel website mentions that a taxi would be about the same cost.

The hotel does offer a free shuttle within a 5-mile radius from 7am to 5pm each day, which covers most of the downtown area. You will have to coordinate directly with the hotel if you use the free shuttle for any local destinations.

CHARTER BUSES FOR WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Charter busses are available on Wednesday morning to take you to/from the church and the hotel. There will be two busses available. They both will begin loading at 7:30am and depart the hotel at 7:45a. We will NOT track who has or has not loaded in time. If you are not there on time, the bus will leave without you and you will have to find an alternate way to get to the Church or miss the opening worship service.

There will be signs as to where you can wait and load the busses. It will be on the first floor in the larger atrium area of the hotel lobby.

After the worship service, we will take a group photograph. Clergy will then immediately change out of their vestments. If you rode the bus, you should make sure to be back on the bus to return to the hotel as soon as you are changed. The estimated departure time will be 11:30am. Again, we will not count heads to ensure everyone is on the bus. If you are late, you will be left behind and you will have to find another way back to the hotel.

You must have pre-purchased a ticket to ride the bus during registration. Your badge will indicate if you did or did not. We based the number of busses needed on those who pre-purchased a seat. If you did not pre-purchase a bus ticket, please do not try to come on the busses. You will be stealing a seat from someone else. Again – your badge will say whether you should be on the bus or not.

TOLLS ON ROADWAYS

Richmond utilizes a toll system on some of their roadways. If you are driving to/from the church and hotel on Wednesday, you may encounter tolls. If you rented a vehicle, it likely has an ez-pass toll tag built into it. Your car rental company will charge you for the tolls you incur.

If you are driving your personal vehicle, they have implemented a “Pay-By-Plate” system. You will get a bill in the mail that you will have to pay. Some tollways have cash lanes, but there is no guarantee.

If you do not wish to pay any tolls, be sure to tell your GPS system that you wish to “avoid tolls”. Please leave additional travel time as you will not be taking the most direct highway route between the two locations.

DINNER ON THURSDAY

Everyone will be free to eat where you wish on Thursday evening. There are several local establishments within walking distance. Note that many of the fast-food restaurants in the financial district will close earlier since they cater to employees during work hours. However, there are other places like Jimmy Johns (fast and cheap), a Mexican restaurant, an Irish pub, a steak/seafood/pasta restaurant (directly across from the hotel), Asian cuisine, a tap house, a seafood restaurant, and others. You may also choose to take a stroll along the Canal Walk. I believe there is a Pizza and Mexican place there.

GENERAL COUNCIL REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Registration check-in will be available at the special registration desk in the hotel at the following times. Please note this is NOT the main registration desk where you check in. It is a specially designated area outside of the conference rooms on the second floor. The hotel staff and signs can direct you to the location.

- Central States attendees only: During Synod on Tuesday afternoon at St. Jude’s
- Tuesday evening 7pm to 9pm
- Wednesday @ Noon: Upon returning from worship
- Wednesday: 6:15pm – for those only coming to the banquet dinner

We encourage you to check in on Tuesday evening to help limit the line on Wednesday. At check-in you will receive your badge and a welcome bag (full General Council attendees only).

YOUR ALL-IMPORTANT BADGE & LANYARD!

Your badge and lanyard at General Council are extremely important. You should wear them at all meals and during all sessions. Aside from people being able to see your name quickly, these things help us verify certain information very quickly.

You will receive a lanyard which indicates whether you are a clergy voting member (red) or a lay voting member (blue). If you are an observer or guest of the Council, you will receive a white lanyard. This will help us identify individuals that are permitted to speak from the floor or vote during business sessions.

The back of your badge will provide a few key schedule times for you. It will also indicate what meal tickets you have purchased, as well as your lunch selection for Friday, and whether you purchased a bus ticket for the charter buses.

Finally, included on your badge is a QR code that you can scan to visit the mobile-friendly General Council webpage. That page will have much of this information, quick access to reports during business, and a button to make your worship offerings online. Please scan with your phone and check it out!

Important: Our sandwich orders on Friday are based on what your badge says. Do NOT take a sandwich that is different from what your badge indicates. If you take a different sandwich than that which is indicated, you will be stealing someone else's lunch. Likewise, if you go through a buffet line for a meal that you did not purchase, we have the potential of running out of food before everyone is served. We also book the charter busses based on the number of people who purchased a bus ticket during registration. If you ride the bus without having purchased a ticket, you will be stealing someone else's seat. *Why do I have to include this? Because these things all happened in Charleston in 2023. Let's not have a repeat in 2026.* 😊

CLERGY VESTING FOR WORSHIP

All clergy and deaconesses are invited to vest and process for the **Wednesday morning Communion service**.

- Bishops - rochet and chimere with red stole
- Other Clergy - cassock/surplice with red stole
- Deaconesses - blue cassock.

You should arrive at Derbyshire Baptist Church by 8:15a for vesting and instruction. Clergy and deaconesses will vest in the choir rooms. Bishops will gather and vest in the Parlor. Immediately following the service, we ask that you remain vested so we can take a group photo in the sanctuary.

At all other services, only the participating clergy and worship participants will vest. A separate and direct communication will be made from Fr. Kasey Gage to those participating in those services.

WORSHIP OFFERINGS

We will receive an offering at each of the three morning worship services. The offerings received will be designated for the support of Reformed Episcopal ministries and projects. The Council of Bishops and General Committee have approved the General Council offerings to be evenly split between REC100, the Board of Foreign Missions, and the 2026 Women's Day Project.

We will “pass the plate” during each of the morning services. If you would like to donate by check, we would ask that you make checks payable to “Diocese of the Central States”. Their financial team will be responsible for processing the offerings and distributing them according to their purpose.



If you would like to donate electronically, you can do so with the QR code. It is included here but it will also be included in the bulletin each day. A button will also be available in the General Council web page (you’ll see it after getting your badge). Electronic donations will be processed using the Diocese of Mid-America’s paypal donation account. The Diocese will account for these electronic offerings and will disburse them according to their purpose after General Council is finished.

EXPECTED DRESS CODES

For Breakfast – casual (but appropriate for public)

For Wed/Thu Worship and Sessions – Sunday worship attire

For Wednesday Banquet – Sunday worship attire

For Friday session – you can dress more casually for travel (but be respectful that we will still worship on Friday morning and have business meetings)

REPORT PACKET

We will distribute reports electronically via email and on our website. These will also be available on the General Council site during our event. Digital availability of reports and emails is scheduled to begin May 20th.

We have learned from recent General Councils that we can significantly reduce our time in business sessions and devote ourselves to ministry and fellowship when everyone has read the reports and formed their questions in advance.

Please make sure you **READ THESE REPORTS BEFORE GENERAL COUNCIL!** We will entertain motions to file many of the reports without presenting them orally. If you have questions that could be answered in advance, feel free to email me (J2Grote@rechurch.org) and I might be able to provide you with answers. Otherwise, note them and ask when the time comes during the business sessions.

The primary reports being orally presented at General Council will be our Presiding Bishop exhortation and other reports pertaining to ministry and mission of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC100, Board of Foreign Missions, Women of the Church, etc). We will also hear those reports pertaining to the governance and financial aspects of the Church (Sustentation Fund, Pensions/Relief, Constitution & Canons, etc). Diocesan summaries and other non-elected committees that do not have recommendations will be filed. The expectation is that you will have already read them and be prepared for such action.

While many reports are listed in the Order of Business, some of them will not actually have reports because there was nothing to report.

Please have your report packets available on your electronic devices or in print (if desired) during the meetings. It is best if you download your reports to your device prior to your arrival and/or in your hotel room. There is no guarantee of adequate wi-fi connections in the conference room.

Presiding Bishop Report – Note that the Presiding Bishop report is divided into two parts. The first part is included with your report packet. This part contains pertinent information regarding his activities since that last General Council. This portion will not be read at General Council. The second part of the

report is his exhortation. This is NOT in your report packet. Bishop Sutton will deliver his report orally after lunch on Wednesday. It will then be provided to the secretary for inclusion in the Journal.

Journal – It is not necessary to have the Journal of the 57th General Council (2023) printed or available at this Council, unless you so desire. The chair will entertain a motion to dispense with the reading of these minutes and to simply approve them. If you note any changes that need to be made in the Journal, please have them ready to announce to the Secretary, Dss. Annette Johnson, or email her in advance (dssaj@rechurch.org) .

DISPLAY TABLES

We have several display tables set up around the conference room and exhibitor hallways. We encourage you to visit these tables and to learn about many different ministries and missions during our scheduled breaks and/or mealtimes. The tables that should be present are as follows:

- Episcopal Recorder Publications
- Anglican School Association & Alfred Rex Publications
- St. Andrew's Academy & College
- Cranmer Theological House Seminary
- Cummins Theological Seminary
- Reformed Episcopal Seminary
- REC Board of Foreign Missions
- New Wineskins
- Society of Anglican Missionaries & Senders (SAMS)
- Anglican Frontier Mission
- Anglican Way Institute
- Deaconess Association / Vergers

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need additional help at any time, you may contact Bishop Jason Grote via text at (832) 264-3483. You may also email him at J2Grote@rechurch.org.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

6:30a – 7:30a	Breakfast at hotel (for those who purchased)
7:30a –	Busses load (if purchased) Busses will depart for Church at 7:45a sharp!
8:00a – 8:45a	Clergy arrival and vesting (@ Derbyshire)
9:00a – 11:15a	Holy Communion service (@ Derbyshire) <i>Bp. Jason Grote installation as Ordinary - The Diocese of the Central States</i> <i>Bp. Peter Manto, preaching</i>
11:30a – Noon	Return to Omni Hotel (busses will leave at 11:30a sharp!)
Noon – 1:30p	Lunch & Women of the Church Mtg
1:45p – 3:15p	Business Session #1
3:15p – 3:30p	Break
3:30p – 4:30p	Business Session #2 – Mission Greetings & Board of Foreign Missions
4:30p – 6:30p	Break to get ready for Banquet (<i>clear room so they can reset</i>)
6:30p – 7:00p	Reception hour (<i>cash bar available</i>)
7:00p – 9:30p	Banquet Dinner (@ Hotel)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

7:00a – 8:00a	Breakfast at hotel (<i>for those who purchased</i>)
9:00a – 9:45a	Morning Prayer (@ Hotel)
9:45a – 10:45a	Teaching Presentation – The Rev. Canon Michael Vinson
10:45a – 11:00a	Break
11:00a – 11:45a	Business Session #3 – REC100 (USA)
12:00p – 1:15p	Lunch (@ hotel)
1:15p – 2:00p	REC100-Europe! Greetings
2:00p – 2:45p	Business Session #4
2:45p – 3:00p	Break
3:00p – 3:30p	Other Greetings & Updates
3:30p – 4:15p	Business Session #5
4:15p – 4:30p	Break
4:30p – 5:00p	Evensong
5:00p –	Adjourn for the day (Dinner on your own)

The Anglican School Association (ASA) dinner and presentation will be held in the Magnolia Room at 6:00pm on Thursday. This is only for those who registered and purchased the dinner in advance through the ASA.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

7:00a – 8:00a	Breakfast at hotel (for those who purchased)
9:00a – 9:45a	Morning Prayer (@ Hotel)
9:45a – 10:45a	Teaching Presentation – The Rev. Canon Tony Melton
10:45a – 11:00a	Break
11:00a – 11:15a	Greetings from Cuba
11:15a – Noon	Business Session #6
Noon – 1:00p	Lunch (@ hotel)
1:00p – 3:00p	Final Business Session (only if needed)
<i>When done</i>	Adjourn (absolutely no later than 3pm)

Note: Adjournment will occur after all business has been completed. This may be earlier or later than scheduled depending on the Business Sessions.

DETAILED SCHEDULED WITH EXPLANATIONS

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 10

- **Breakfast Buffet – 6:30am** – James River Ballroom at the Omni hotel – only for those who purchased (your badge will indicate yes or no). Breakfast is only served from 6:30am to 7:30am. Note this breakfast time is earlier than the other days to accommodate travel time to the Church.
- **Bus Transportation – 7:30am** – Those taking the charter bus to the church should be in the secondary lobby of the hotel at 7:30am to begin boarding. Your badge will indicate if you purchased a bus ticket or not. Busses will load and will leave at 7:45am. We will not count or check names for this. If you are late, you will miss the bus and will have to Uber to the church or miss the church service.
- **Holy Communion Worship @ 9:00am** – at Derbyshire Baptist Church. It will take about 30 minutes to drive to/from the hotel and the Church. Clergy should arrive between 8:00a and 8:15a to vest (see instructions above). All others should arrive by 8:30-ish to park and get settled. Following worship, we will remain in the church for a group photo. Clergy will then change and we will return to the hotel for lunch. The bus will leave Derbyshire at 11:30am. We will not count our check names. If you do not get on the bus on time, you will have to Uber back to the hotel.
- **Lunch & Women’s Day – Noon** - The Women of the Church will receive their lunch outside the Potomac Room at the Omni Hotel and then meet in the Potomac Room during lunch. The men will receive and eat their lunches in the James River Ballroom.
- **Afternoon Sessions – 1:45pm.** All business sessions will be in the James River Ballroom at the Omni Hotel. We will end our sessions by 4:30p and leave the conference room such that the hotel staff can set the room for the banquet dinner. You are free to fellowship and freshen up during this two-hour break.
- **Wednesday evening banquet – 6:30pm** – James River Ballroom at the Omni Hotel. A bar (credit cards only) will be available for the reception time beginning at 6:30pm. The doors will open for the dinner and buffet at 7:00pm. There will be a special presentation during the dessert time of the meal.

THURSDAY – JUNE 11

- **Breakfast Buffet – 7:00am** – James River Ballroom at the Omni hotel – only for those who purchased (your badge will indicate yes or no). Breakfast is served only between 7am and 8am.
- **Morning Prayer Worship @ 9:00am** – James River Ballroom. Only participating clergy will vest. In lieu of a sermon, Canon Michael Vinson will lead a teaching session immediately after worship.
- **Lunch (Noon)** (for those who purchased). Everyone will eat in the James River Ballroom. It will be a hot buffet.
- **Afternoon sessions** - all session will be in the James River Ballroom. We will adjourn our afternoon sessions at 4:15 to prepare for an Evensong service at 4:30p.
- **Dinner on Thursday** – There is no General Council sponsored dinner on Thursday evening. Everyone is free to eat on their own. The Anglican School Association (ASA) will have their dinner and presentations in the Magnolia Room just inside the hotel entrance on the first floor starting at 6:00pm. A separate registration and cost for this event is required. For more information visit:

[Banquet of the Bedes Tickets, Thursday, June 11 • 6 PM - 9 PM | Eventbrite](#)

FRIDAY – JUNE 12

- **Breakfast Buffet – 7:00am** - James River Ballroom at the Omni hotel – only for those who purchased (your badge will indicate yes or no). Breakfast is served only between 7am and 8am.
- **Morning Prayer worship @ 9am** – James River Ballroom. Only participating clergy will vest. In lieu of a sermon, Canon Tony Melton will lead a teaching session immediately after worship.
- **Business Sessions** –Following our morning worship and a short break, we will convene for our remaining business sessions. If we complete business by lunch, we will adjourn and lunch will be served at noon. If we do not complete our business, we will have lunch and then resume our final session either during a “working lunch” or immediately after lunch.
- **Lunch (Noon)** (for those who purchased). Everyone will eat in the James River Ballroom. It will be a box lunch. You are welcome to eat in the ballroom or to take your lunch with you as you depart (assuming we are done business before lunch).
- **Final session** - if we are not finished our business before lunch, we will reconvene and complete all business. The absolute latest we will adjourn is 3pm but we do anticipate it to be earlier.