



The [United Episcopal Church](#) (UEC) held its General Convention in Waynesboro, Virginia at Good Shepherd Church from October 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Convention opened with prayer and reports from delegates, both clergy and lay, on the size and health of their congregations.

According to delegates from across the country, the UEC is holding steady or modestly growing everywhere it has a presence.

Some of this growth has come from Millennial converts, including a number of clergy and two seminarians present that day.

Discussion moved to the revision of the UEC's Constitution and Canons, and ended with Evening Prayer and a meeting of the House of Bishops.

The bulk of business, including further changes to the Constitution and Canons and a review of the denomination’s budget, was conducted on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> after the services of Morning Prayer and Communion (as well as the confirmation of two new church members of St. Timothy’, Poquoson).

Official business began with the Presiding Bishop’s Charge. In this address, the Most Rev. Peter Robinson, who hosted the convention, acknowledged delegates’ disappointment at the secularization of their culture, encouraged church unity and reminded audience members to be proactive in their faith.

Specifically, Robinson encouraged parishes to found classical schools “as the culture slides further into vacuousness.” Parochial schooling has become the universal response of socially-conservative Christians to the increasingly-divisive [gender politics](#) that have roiled public schools nationwide.

“We need to live out our lives in the service of Christ and the service of others,” Robinson said.

He held out as an example the efforts of the Rev. Dr. John Brantley in developing [All Saints Christian Academy](#) in Cameron, North Carolina. Brantley has long been deeply involved in [Latimer Theological Institute](#), which trains UEC clergymen – and schoolteachers.

Further changes to the UEC Constitution and Canons passed with little dissent. Major changes included regulations on the ornaments of ministers and procedures related to lay deaconesses.

More importantly, a canon was submitted that permits congregations of the former [Evangelical and Reformed Church](#) (E & R), to join the UEC without completely giving up their independence. The motion passed with enthusiasm.



Historically a highly-liturgical denomination with presbyterian governance and German immigrant heritage, the E & R traditionally used a Communion service similar to the one contained in the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*.

Mergers of this kind were a major goal of American churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Episcopal priest and educator [William Augustus Muhlenberg](#) (1796-1897), himself the son of a prominent Lutheran pastor, was a driving force behind the movement.

The convention concluded early with Evening Prayer on the fifth, but Morning Prayer was still offered on the sixth.

The next UEC General Convention will take place in 2026.



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