

Sunday, June 11, 2006

We started arriving today from across the continental United States and beyond to prepare for the beginning of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Our West Tennessee deputation came in throughout the day. Some of us had driven in on Saturday and the rest, Jeannie and I included, arrived on Sunday. Following Bill Murray's and Eyleen Farmer's ordinations on Saturday, Jeannie and I drove just north of Louisville, Kentucky and spent the night at a Hampton Inn near the I-65. The drive to Columbus took a bit longer than we had hoped this morning, but we made it safely and ready to check in to the Drury Inn where our deputation is staying. The Convention Center is one of the largest I have seen. The walking for the Convention will be significant. The mechanics of convention registration, self-led orientations to the area, an informational meeting with all legislative chairpersons, checking into our hotel rooms and discovering some place to eat before heading off for a good night's sleep in anticipation of a busy day tomorrow filled our first full day in Columbus. These are the means by which we arrive in mind and body. A family reunion atmosphere prevails on this day of arrivals. It lightens our spirits with a positive anticipation. Seeing long-time friends and renewing acquaintances puts us in the mood for spending time together as Christ's body in action. The machinery slowly begins to turn, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Convention appears to be starting to come into being. Tomorrow we begin Committee meetings and the final pre-Convention planning. For now, the evening draws to a close. Keep us in your prayers as we begin this journey into the heart of God.

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