



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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To: Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese
From: Rachel Wildman, Secretary of Convention
Date: June 13, 2023
Re: 2023 Diocesan Convention

You are enthusiastically invited to the 238th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts! Convention 2023 will be a two-day event guided by this year's theme (*In Christ, Called to Collaborate*). Please note that Convention 2023 is the last weekend of October again this year.

The following is preliminary information. Convention materials, including the schedule, will be sent on September 29. Visit <https://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2023> for updates and materials as they become available.

Convention 2023 at a Glance:

- **When:** Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th
- **Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA
- **Schedule:**
 - Convention Friday (1:00-8:00 pm)
 - 1:00-5:00 pm: Thematic programming
 - 6:00 pm: Dinner and program
 - Convention Saturday (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)
 - Convention Eucharist
 - Bishop's Address
 - Business Sessions

Convention is open to all in the diocese. Please read further for more information about our Friday programming, as well as the important work of voting members of Convention 2023.

Other Key Dates:

The work of Convention begins well before October 27, 2023. Mark your calendars with the following dates and see further along in this email for more information on each.

- **Submission Deadline for Convention Materials:**
5:00pm on Friday, September 1.
No late submissions will be accepted after this deadline. This deadline applies to:
 - Nomination papers and nominee videos for Elected Positions
 - Applications for admission as a parish or mission of the diocese
 - Reports from diocesan committees, task forces, or networks
 - Proposed resolutions

Please do NOT submit your materials via email. Instead, all submissions must be submitted online [via this link](#).

- **Commenting on Resolution Proposals:**

- Resolution Open Comment Period: September 8-13, 2023
- Discussion of Resolutions on Zoom:
 - Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm
- Pre-Convention Forums on Zoom (attend 1):

The forums offer an important opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the Convention, including the proposed 2024 Diocesan Budget, Resolutions, and other important convention components. We recommend that you join the meeting for your region, but welcome you to participate in a different one if that is more convenient for you.

- Wednesday, October 4, 7:00-8:30 pm: Central Region
- Thursday, October 5, 7:00-8:30 pm: Northern and Western Region
- Friday, October 6, 2:00-3:30 pm, Any Region
- Tuesday, October 10, 7:00-8:30 pm, Southern Region

All attendees are asked to view the pre-recorded video reports ahead of the Pre-Convention Forums. If you'd like to watch those together, please join one of the two viewing nights, below. Otherwise, attendees may view those presentations on-demand ahead of the Pre-Convention Forums.

- Monday, October 2, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, October 5, 7:00 pm

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will there be a virtual option?

To preserve the integrity of our business procedures, voting members will be required to attend our Saturday business sessions in-person at the hotel. Our Friday program details are still being developed; there may be a virtual option offered for the Friday program.

What is the Friday afternoon program?

This year, the Friday afternoon program will begin with a panel presentation highlighting the myriad ways that collaboration can form our work as the Body of Christ. Facilitated small-group conversations that invite deeper exploration of the panel content will follow. More details about our Friday program will be forthcoming.

I am a voting member. Should I attend the Friday programs?

Neither the Friday afternoon nor evening programs include any of the business of Convention and so are optional for voting members. However, we are very excited about them and do enthusiastically encourage you to attend!

I am a visitor. Can I attend the Friday programs?

Yes!! The Friday programs (afternoon session and evening dinner program) are all intended for *everyone* in the diocese! Please do register and encourage your friends to as well!

When and how do I register?

Registration, including information about hotel accommodations for those who wish to stay the

night, will open online in mid-July. Please watch for an email from the Convention Office with registration instructions.

This is my first time as a delegate. What does being a delegate entail?

Good question! Please look at the delegate orientation guide attached to this email. If you have additional questions after reading it, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Convention Office by emailing convention@diomass.org.

Who can submit a resolution and how?

Any certified lay delegate or canonically resident clergyperson can submit a resolution. The resolutions process will again be as follows:

- Draft a resolution and submit it to the Resolutions Committee by September 1, 2023, at 5:00 pm (https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2023_resolutions_submission):
 - Submitters of resolutions with **budgetary implications** must contact the Resolutions Committee no later than the submission deadline to be put in contact with appropriate support
 - Whenever possible, resolutions should include a diversity of signatories from across the diocese
- Evaluate and refine resolutions by participating in the open comment period:
 - Offer your written feedback to resolutions via the online form
 - Participate in the discussion of submitted resolutions (date above) to learn more about each resolution and provide your feedback verbally

What positions are open this year, and how do I run for election?

All in the diocese are enthusiastically encouraged to participate in our common life by sharing their gifts and talents via elected office. A list of positions to be filled by election at this year's Convention accompanies this memo. Please look and see if there is an opening for which your passion and/or gifts are called!

Please file your nomination papers as soon as possible, but no later than September 1. Don't forget to send:

- **Nomination form (PDF)**, including 75-word descriptive statement, to be published in the handbook so members of Convention can know something about the nominees.
- **A digital headshot photo**, also to be published in the handbook.
- **A 1-minute or shorter video** describing your interest in the position and the gifts you can bring to it.

All materials must be submitted [online here](#).

Why is it important to certify my church's lay delegates?

Because Convention materials will only be sent to certified delegates currently registered in the Convention Office! Therefore, if there are any changes in your lay delegation, please communicate that to the Convention Office as soon as possible. Please also notify the Convention Office as soon as possible with email address changes for any lay delegates or clergy. If you have any question about who is certified from your church, please email the Convention Office (convention@diomass.org).

When will links to the Pre-Convention Forums and Preparatory Video Content be sent?

The on-demand video links, as well as Zoom links for the Pre-Convention Forums and viewing nights will be sent out in the fall.

When will I receive the Convention handbook and other Convention materials?

We will send out Convention materials on September 29 by email. The Convention handbook and budget book will be available online at the time of the mailing. Hard copies of each book will be available upon request. We encourage you to continue using your devices to access the documents online. If you have not done so already, please update your email address with the Convention office so that you receive all pertinent information.

Exhibitor Tables:

We are bringing back exhibitor tables again this year! Details will be shared when registration goes live. Please look for more information in mid-July.

If you have any questions, please contact the Convention Office (convention@diomass.org).

Accompanying documents ([available for download here](#)):

Positions to be filled by election at Convention 2023 (PDF)

Nomination Form (Word Doc)

Delegate Guidelines (PDF)

Resolution Committee Guidelines (PDF)

Submission links:

Resolutions (https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2023_resolutions_submission)

All other materials

(https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2023_diocesan_convention_materials)

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16