



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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To: Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese
From: Julie Shea, Secretary of Convention
Date: June 17, 2024
Re: 2024 Diocesan Convention

You are enthusiastically invited to the 239th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Convention 2024 will be a one-day event guided by this year's theme: *"One Body in Christ; Members One of Another" – Reconciliation and Belonging in an Age of Division.*

The following is preliminary information. Convention materials, including the schedule, will be sent on September 27. Visit <https://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024> for updates and materials as they become available.

Convention 2024 at a Glance:

- **When:** Saturday, November 9, 2024
- **Where:** Marriott Boston Quincy, 1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA
- **Schedule:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Convention Eucharist
 - Bishop's Address
 - Business Sessions

Convention is open to all in the diocese. Please read further for more information about the important work of voting members of Convention 2024.

Other Key Dates:

The work of Convention begins well before November 9, 2024. Mark your calendars with the following dates and see further along in this email for more information on each.

- **Submission Deadline for Convention Materials:**
5:00 pm on Friday, September 6.
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 13-18, 2024
 - Discussion of Resolutions on Zoom:
 - Tuesday, September 17, 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. You're welcome to attend any session, or all of them if that's your preference.

- Wednesday, October 9, 7:00-8:30 pm
- Friday, October 11, 7:00-8:30 pm
- Saturday, October 12, 2:00-3:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 15, 7:00-8:30 pm

All attendees are asked to view the pre-recorded video reports ahead of the Pre-Convention Forums. These reports will be available via the diocesan YouTube account (<https://www.youtube.com/@diomass>) prior to the Pre-Convention Forums for on-demand viewing.

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 business sessions in-person at the hotel.

When and how do I register?

Registration 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 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm (https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2024_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 6. 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 October 11 by email. The Convention handbook and budget book will be available online at the time of the mailing. 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.

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

Positions to be filled by election at Convention 2024 (PDF)
Nomination Form (Word Doc)
Delegate Guidelines (PDF)
Resolution Committee Guidelines (PDF)

Submission links:

Resolutions (https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2024_resolutions_submission)
All other materials
(https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2024_diocesan_convention_materials)

*We, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.” Romans 12:5*