

# 206TH ANNUAL CONVENTION EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Rectors/Vicars/Interims/Priests-in-charge and Senior Wardens,

*Please share this letter with **all clergy and lay delegates** at your church.*

Due to concerns around gathering in the current COVID environment, as a safety precaution the 206th Annual Convention has been restructured.

Convention will meet **online** on Saturday, November 20, 2021 to conduct business including elections, consideration of resolutions, adoption of the 2022 Mission and Ministry Budget, and adoption of the 2023 Fare Share percentage.

On a weekend in late-winter or early-spring 2022 (date to be announced soon), we will gather in-person for interactive sessions as we launch the Mission Strategy and celebrate the work happening around the Diocese.

## **ABOUT THE NOVEMBER MEETING**

There will be no registration and no fee to participate. The Diocese will notify each member of the clergy and each lay delegate, **by email**, of the procedures to access Convention and to cast ballots over the Internet. All subsequent notices about Convention will be issued by email, not by U.S. Mail. Therefore it is imperative that:

- Clergy notify Ms Elizabeth Dawkins, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan, of any change in email address,
- Any change in the email addresses of your lay delegation be submitted to the Diocese at [https://episdionc.formstack.com/forms/certificate\\_of\\_change\\_in\\_lay\\_delegation\\_206th\\_annual\\_convention](https://episdionc.formstack.com/forms/certificate_of_change_in_lay_delegation_206th_annual_convention), and
- All clergy and lay delegates **read and inwardly digest the emails** you receive about Convention, and
- You take care that emails from the Diocese **are not captured by your “spam filter”**. In most cases, when we investigate failure of an email from the Diocese to arrive, it was mistakenly classified as spam.

The Supplemental Rules of Order for Use of Teleconferencing at a Convention that were adopted by the 205th “Parking Lot” Annual Convention will be in effect. To access Convention and to cast ballots, you will need either a computer connected to the Internet or a smartphone on which you install the necessary applications. There will be no “dial-in” telephone access. If you do not have such a device or reliable Internet access, please notify me no later than October 31 and we will help you think through your options.

We anticipate a morning session and an afternoon session. Pending a detailed description of the day’s agenda, we ask you to reserve your full day from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

What is **not changing**:

- Budget webinars will be held as usual.
- Convocations will meet as usual.

- Youth delegates and campus ministry delegates will be elected as usual.
- The Rule III process in regards to churches that did not file a timely parochial report or a timely audit remains the same.
- The deadline to submit nominations for Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and Trustees of the University of the South remains noon, October 11. The mechanism to submit nominations by the deadline remains the same.
- The deadline to submit resolutions remains at noon, October 11. The mechanism to submit resolutions by the deadline remains the same.
- The canonical requirement to be current on payment of Fair Share in order to retain voting rights at Convention is still in effect.
- Worship will be fundamental to Convention.
- Legislative committees will conduct hearings.
- The usual parliamentary process, such as motions to amend, will be followed.
- Convention will be live-streamed to the public at large. However, this is a non-interactive, one-way stream. Clergy and lay delegates will use a different system to enter the Convention.

At this time, no decision on “late nominations” and “late resolutions” submitted after the October 11 deadline has been reached. **We urge you to submit everything by the deadline**, including any resolutions to be submitted from our Diocese to next year’s General Convention.

### **ABOUT THE SPECIAL CONVENTION IN EARLY 2022**

The Bishop Diocesan will call a Special Convention to launch the Mission Strategy and for certain other purposes. It will be held at the Benton Center in Winston-Salem. We anticipate it will begin on Friday evening and conclude Saturday by early afternoon. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. All lay delegates elected for the 206th Convention will be credentialed for the Special Convention, except as vestries fill vacancies. Further information about the Special Convention will be sent when it becomes available.

### **SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS**

As soon as additional details are available, we will send them by email and post them to the Annual Convention page of the diocesan website. Meanwhile, I am happy to answer your questions. Please contact me by email to [secretary@episdionc.org](mailto:secretary@episdionc.org) or by calling (919) 834-7474, entering extension 5416, and leaving a voicemail.

Yours in Christ,

Charles L. Till  
[Secretary of the Convention](#)