

# THE RESCHEDULED 205TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

October 21, 2020

To Clergy and Senior Wardens of the Diocese:

Notice is hereby given that the 205th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina is rescheduled for **Saturday, March 6, 2021** at the M.C. Benton, Jr. Convention and Civic Center, 301 West 5th Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Meanwhile, please pay attention to:

1. Some churches' Certificates of Election are still missing, even though the deadline to submit them was August 3. We need this information **no later than October 30, 2020** to prepare for *Behold, I am Doing a New Thing*, the diocesan teleconference event on November 21, 2020. Email the certificates to [DELEGATES@EPISDIONC.ORG](mailto:DELEGATES@EPISDIONC.ORG).
2. Clergy should be certain that the Diocese has their **current** email addresses. Please see to this **no later than October 30**. Again, we need this information for *Behold, I am Doing a New Thing*. Email your updates to [ELIZABETH.DAWKINS@EPISDIONC.ORG](mailto:ELIZABETH.DAWKINS@EPISDIONC.ORG).
3. Verify that all members of Convention (i.e., both clergy and lay delegates) **have subscribed to Please Note**. Convention will differ from last year in many ways. Please Note, the weekly email newsletter of the Diocese, keeps you informed.
4. Report changes in lay delegation on a Certification of Change in Delegation form that is available on the diocesan website. These forms cannot be submitted electronically, so print and mail them to Diocesan House.

*Behold, I am Doing a New Thing* is **not** the 205th Convention. Rather, it is a complementary event that Bishop Rodman and Bishop Hodges-Copple urge all members of Convention to attend.

A revised timeline for Convention is available on the diocesan website. In December, I will mail the customary packet of materials for Convention to every member of Convention.

Contingency plans are being prepared in case restrictions on public assembly prevent meeting in the Benton Center. Please mark March 6 on your calendar **regardless of COVID-19**.

"Frequently Asked Questions" about the rescheduled Convention may be found on the reverse of this letter. If you have other questions, please email me or call (919) 834-7474, enter extension 5416, and leave a voicemail. The Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, Ms. Martha Alexander, and I join our Bishops in commending you for your faithfulness and patience during this difficult and unprecedented period.

Charles L. Till,  
Secretary of the Convention  
[SECRETARY@EPISDIONC.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@EPISDIONC.ORG)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How do I subscribe to Please Note?** Go to [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/EDNC-PN](http://TINYURL.COM/EDNC-PN).

**How else can I stay informed?** Join the Diocesan leadership teleconferences each Tuesday at 8:30 am. Go to [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/EDNC-COVID-ZOOM](http://TINYURL.COM/EDNC-COVID-ZOOM). Be sure to mute your phone or your computer microphone when you join. It's your decision whether to share your video.

**Why isn't Convention being held by teleconference?** The Constitution of our Diocese doesn't permit it. Other dioceses of The Episcopal Church are in this situation, too.

**If the essential business of the Diocese can be carried on in the interim starting January 1, 2021 by the Bishops, officers, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Council, why do we need a Convention?** Annual Conventions are fundamental to our identity as a Diocese, and they serve many purposes. Furthermore, the 205th Convention will consider important legislation to revise our Constitution and Canons in light of the pandemic.

**Will Convention follow governmental and diocesan guidelines for safe indoor assembly?** Yes, management of the Benton Center is well-informed of these guidelines. If necessary, we will seat members of Convention in two ballrooms to provide sufficient spacing.

**How many do you expect to attend?** We must have a quorum – persons who are physically present – of at least 150 lay delegates and at least 92 clergy who have the right to vote. (Clergy without right to vote do not count toward the quorum in the clergy order.) We will plan to accommodate the usual size of Convention in case the pandemic ends before March.

**Will there be participation in Convention by teleconference?** We recognize that some members of Convention may feel uncomfortable about attending in-person if the pandemic has not fully ended by March. We are planning to provide participation by teleconference to the extent practicable. However, the Constitution of the Diocese currently requires that voting be limited to members of Convention who attend in-person. Also, we must attain a quorum in-person; we cannot do so if everyone chooses to participate by teleconference.

**Convention starts on Saturday, not Friday. Is this correct?** Yes, the 205th Convention will follow a one-day agenda. If you wish, stay in a Winston-Salem hotel on Friday night. There will not be a Friday evening program.

**Can we really compress Convention into a single day?** Yes, we held one-day annual Conventions in 2003 and 2013. Some items on the usual agenda of a two-day Convention will be compressed or omitted.

**Will delegates elected to serve at the November 2020 Convention serve at the March 2021 Convention?** Yes, they will. Do not file a new Certificate of Election.

**What is the outlook for the 206th Annual Convention?** We anticipate a two-day Convention in November 2021.