

SPECIAL CONVENTION EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

“THEN WERE WE LIKE THOSE WHO DREAM”

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022, 10:00 A.M.
(WITH OPTIONAL PROGRAM ON FRIDAY NIGHT)**

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

Dear Members of the Clergy and Lay Orders of the Convention,

This is a consolidated mailing with information about the Special Convention. Everything in this letter is available [on the website of the Diocese](#). **All clergy and lay delegates and alternates are urged to subscribe to *Please Note***, the weekly emails from Diocesan House. Use [this form to subscribe](#). Further communications about the Special Convention will be sent by email. Promptly report any change in your email address to (for clergy) [Ms. Elizabeth Dawkins](#) or (for lay delegates) [the delegate registrar](#).

BIG NEWS!

We will meet in-person for the first time since the 204th Annual Convention in November 2019. Be assured that the safety of members of the Special Convention is very much on the minds of the diocesan leadership. Accordingly, pandemic protocols will be in effect. Watch for more information in *Please Note*.

The Special Convention will include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Those Members of Convention who opt not to attend the Special Convention in-person are invited to watch the public livestream over the Internet. Unlike the online 206th Annual Convention in November 2021, the Special Convention will not use Zoom or Election Runner.

WHO ATTENDS?

All Members of Convention who were credentialed for the online 206th Annual Convention in November 2021 will be credentialed automatically for the Special Convention. Churches do not elect new delegates for a Special Convention. The rolls of voting clergy and lay delegates will be carried forward as of the moment when the 206th Annual Convention adjourned. **Any changes in lay delegation that were submitted for the 206th Annual Convention, whether prior to the Convention or on the day of**

Convention, remain in effect for the Special Convention. Any loss of voting rights at the 206th Annual Convention because of Rule III or the Constitution provisions for payment of Fair Share also remain in effect for the Special Convention.

A church may submit a [Change in Delegation form](#) electronically until approximately one week prior to the Special Convention. **This is the process to use if a delegate originally elected in the summer of 2021 was replaced by an alternate at the 206th Annual Convention but now wishes to resume the role of delegate at the Special Convention.** A specific deadline for submitting the Change in Delegation form electronically will be announced in *Please Note*. After the deadline, a printed and duly signed Change in Delegation form may be brought to the Special Convention. Or, the form may be completed onsite with the required signature.

The website of the Diocese will have the roll of lay delegates, the roll of clergy who are entitled to vote, and the roll of clergy who are entitled to only seat and voice. Clergy who have been ordained recently, who have moved their canonical residence into the Diocese recently, or whose eligibility to vote has changed recently should contact [Ms. Elizabeth Dawkins](#) about inclusion in the clergy roll as a voting member.

FRIDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

We are planning an exciting program for Friday night, March 4. As in prior years, the Friday night program will be related to, but (strictly speaking) not part of, the Special Convention. Watch for more information in *Please Note*.

REGISTRATION

[Online registration](#) for the Special Convention is now available for Members of Convention, lay alternates not serving, spouses or partners of clergy and lay delegates, laity of the Diocese, and the general public. The registration fee is \$50 per person and includes breakfast and lunch at the Benton Center.

Online registration will close on a date to be announced in *Please Note*. Anyone wishing to register after online registration closes may do so at the Special Convention. However, **we ask that as far as possible, you register online in advance because the meal count that we provide the Benton Center is based on the number of online registrants.**

When you first arrive at Convention, go to the registration table and check in. Onsite registration will open at 8:00 am Saturday. For the convenience of those attending the Friday night program, onsite registration will be available 7:00-7:45 pm Friday.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The Diocese has arranged a block of hotel rooms at the Marriott near the Benton Center for Friday night, March 4. We do not have rooms at the Embassy Suites or the Hampton Inn. The block of Marriott rooms is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to [reserve rooms](#) is February 11, if any rooms are still available that late. Our contract with the hotel requires us to release any unreserved rooms 30 days prior to Convention. Persons missing the deadline must make their own hotel reservations at market prices.

PREPARATION

Familiarization with the proposed Mission Strategy of the Diocese is essential to the Special Convention. Congregations are encouraged to get to know the work already happening in their parishes and missions. As you build your snapshot, take a look at the mission priorities -- see yourself in them, because you are there. Celebrate that, and dream of where you might like to go next. You don't have to do it all -- just find those one or two places God is calling you to be.

If you haven't yet gotten familiar with the mission strategy, watch the [preview of the work done to date](#).

Otherwise, there will be no handbook, pre-recorded webinar, or New Member Q&A for the Special Convention.

CREDENTIALS

Because of the limited agenda of the Special Convention, **there will be no separate table for Credentials**. No ballot vouchers or green and red cards will be distributed. The quorum for the Special Convention will be calculated on the basis of registration check-ins for lay delegates and clergy with voting rights.

EXHIBITORS

We will not have exhibitors at the Special Convention. However, we are offering to make exhibitors' electronic materials available to members of Convention by means of the Yapp application for smart phones and tablets. Those exhibitors wishing to do so should contact [Mr. Paul Broughton](#) of BSPEC, the company that assists the Diocese in organizing Convention.

SEATING

A seating chart of tables for parochial clergy, lay delegates, and non-parochial clergy with voting rights will be posted in the Convention hall. **Other persons will sit in the designated Visitor's Section.**

RESOLUTIONS, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, AND ELECTIONS

In accordance with the call of the Special Convention by Bishop Rodman, **the only resolution admitted into consideration will be on the adoption of a mission strategy for the Diocese**. No other item of official business may be brought before the Special Convention except by unanimous consent. Therefore, legislative committees are not needed for the Special Convention.

The next elections in the Diocese will be at the 207th Annual Convention in November 2022.

REPORTS

No reports are to be filed for the Special Convention unless specifically requested by the Secretary.

AGENDA, LITURGIES, AND DOCUMENTS

The Special Convention will use as little paper as possible. The agenda, liturgical texts, reports, etc will be available for download (and printing at your home or office, if you wish) from the website of the Diocese. Convention materials will be made available through Yapp.

TRANSLATION INTO SPANISH

Material for the Special Convention will be available in Spanish. Real-time translation of the proceedings of the Special Convention into and from Spanish will also be provided.

SPOUSE/PARTNER ACTIVITIES AND CHILDCARE

The 204th Annual Convention invited Diocesan Council to consider providing spouse/partner activities and childcare at future Conventions. Diocesan Council has deferred consideration of these items until the pandemic has ended.

I look forward to seeing you at the Special Convention!

Yours in Christ,

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