

# Call to Convention

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## 242nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware

Friday and Saturday, November 20 — 21, 2026  
Hyatt Place | 1301 Coastal Hwy. | Dewey Beach, DE 19971

### ***Discovering and Rediscovering Christ***

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.” Isaiah 12.2 (NRSV)

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#### **From the bishop:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, we are excited to announce that our annual convention will take place on Friday, November 20, 2026, and Saturday, November 21, 2026, at Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach.

Here are a few tips and important reminders:

#### **Certification & Registration:**

Certification and registration for the convention are two separate steps.

**Certification** determines eligibility to vote, while registration is required to attend.

- **Lay** delegate certification refers to the official certification of lay members authorized by the vestry to represent a parish. A warden or vestry secretary does certification. Authorized alternates are named as well. Certification determines who is allowed voice and vote on the convention floor. Every parish can elect and certify a young adult delegate who is 30 years of age or younger at the time of convention to expand its delegation. This is in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Diocese.
- **Clergy** certification is required to vote. This includes canonical clergy and non-canonically resident clergy currently serving as rector or priest-in-charge of a diocesan congregation.

Once you have completed the certification form, you can proceed to registration.

**Registration** means enrolling *every person, certified or not*, who plans to attend. Registration enables planners to accurately plan for materials, meals, convention seating, worship layout, voting, and a hundred other details. There is a registration fee, which is paid

during the registration process via credit/debit card, PayPal, or Google Pay. Both steps must be completed in order to both vote and attend convention.

### **Nominations:**

Please actively consider nominating individuals for diocesan-wide positions. Our goal is to foster greater diversity in diocesan leadership, and your participation in the nomination process is a crucial step toward achieving this objective. It's important to note that you may also nominate yourself for any of these positions. More information about the nomination process and diocesan offices open for election is provided below. You can [click here](#) to make a nomination.

### **Submitting a Resolution:**

Please submit any resolutions for Convention by **September 21, 2026**, so that delegates have time to review and discuss them within their congregations. Late submissions will only be considered with a two-thirds vote of convention. See below, *Understanding the Resolution Process*, for more information on resolutions.

### **Important Deadlines:**

Watch out for important canonical deadlines that, if missed, could result in your parish's lay representatives losing their right to seat, voice, and vote!

- Failure to certify your lay delegation 60 days before convention (Canon 2). This year, the deadline for certification is Monday, September 21, 2026.  
Failing to file a parish's last two annual audits by September 1 (Canon 14). The
- deadline for filing audits has long been set by The Episcopal Church canons (I.7.1(g)) as "not later than 30 days following the date of such report, and in no event, not later than September 1 of each year."

See *Important Deadlines* listed below.

What a profound responsibility — and a deep privilege — that our Lord has entrusted this beloved church and her powerful witness to our care. I look forward to another fantastic annual convention as we share in this ministry together.

Your brother in Christ,

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## **Certification** — Step 1 of 2

Certification determines who has seat, voice, and vote at convention. All delegations must be certified by **September 21** to be eligible to vote (Canon 2). This is certification only — registration is another step (see below).

**Click text below to certify delegation and/or clergy.**

- [Certify Delegation](#)
- [Certify Clergy](#)

### **Lay Delegates / Alternates:**

Each congregation may elect up to three lay delegates: two (2) delegates, plus one (1) additional delegate who is 30 years of age or younger at the time of convention. All have full seat, voice, and vote. Delegates are chosen by the congregation, typically the vestry.

A lay alternate should be elected for each delegate in the case that one or more delegates are unable to serve.

Delegates and alternates must be communicants in good standing, meet the canonical requirements for vestry members, and have been canonically resident in the diocese for at least three months prior to Convention.

### **Clergy:**

Clergy certification includes canonical clergy, as well as non-canonical clergy who are serving as rector or priest-in-charge of a diocesan congregation.

## **Registration** — Step 2 of 2

Registration is required for everyone attending Convention — whether certified as a delegate or not. **Certification alone does not register you.**

Registering ensures accurate planning for seating, meals, worship, and voting. A registration fee is due at the time of registration. A discounted Early Bird offering will be available until October 21.

**Planning to attend?** [Click here to register.](#)

## **Hotel Information** — Book Now

- Group rate: \$129/night for standard room
- Cut-off date for special rate (set by hotel): **October 23**
- Group code: G-EPIS
- [Book your room here](#) or
- Call: 1.855.556.1297 to make your reservation

## CONVENTION PROCESSES AND INFORMATION

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### **Understanding the Budget Process:**

The development of a budget for the mission and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Delaware is an ongoing twelve-month process that is reviewed and updated as information concerning revenues and expenses is collected and analyzed. The 2027 proposed budget presented at the convention in November will have been thoroughly reviewed by the Diocesan Council for their input and questions at the council's October meeting.

Convention will be asked to support the approval of the 2027 proposed budget reviewed by council. We expect the diocesan council, on behalf of the convention, will further review updates by the finance committee to the 2027 preliminary budget at their December meeting, or in early January 2027.

The development and execution of the budget is led by the treasurer and the chief operating officer in collaboration with the finance committee. This team relies on the energy and expertise of many additional sources, including the insurance committee, the personnel committee, the trustees, and the investment committee of the trustees. The bishop offers direction and advice, as do various diocesan ministries and organizations.

Shortly after the October council meeting, the 2027 proposed budget will be made available to all through the convention website for review. In early November there will be an online presentation of the budget for all delegates and other interested parties. This will include time for input and questions. The presentation of the budget before convention will provide convention attendees sufficient information to make an informed decision concerning the 2027 preliminary budget.

## **Understanding the Nominations Process:**

Leadership in the Episcopal Church in Delaware is shared by all of us. Across our parishes and diocesan ministries, faithful individuals offer their time and gifts to guide our common life. Our witness is strengthened when our leadership reflects the breadth, diversity, and energy of our community.

To that end, we invite nominations of individuals from across all three Delaware counties to serve in diocesan leadership roles.

A list of open positions is available [here](#). Terms of office begin on the first day of the second month following Convention (for the November Convention, January 1, 2027).

Any active Episcopalian in good standing in the Episcopal Church in Delaware may submit a nomination, including self-nominations. Please consider, prayerfully, who may be called to serve at the diocesan level.

The deadline for nominations is **October 21, 2026**. Submitting by this date ensures nominees are included in convention materials and diocesan communications.

If you have questions, please contact Cynde Bimbi at [cbimbi@delaware.church](mailto:cbimbi@delaware.church). Use the Nomination Form below to submit a nomination.

### *About the Nominations Committee and Process*

This year, we've refined the nominations process: a larger committee, a simpler nomination form, and a more active role in encouraging a full and diverse slate. Committee members are talking with people across the diocese — meeting, listening, and inviting those called to serve — so that our leadership reflects the breadth of our community.

### *Nominations Committee Members*

Jordan Kinsey, Jim Evitts, the Rev. Michael Giansiracusa, Sheridan Kingsberry, Rick Harra, Bruce Vrana, Kathleen Hiltner, Herb Quick, Susan DeGraff, Arnie Morris, Chris Miller-Marcin, Shirley Biddle, Cana Hartman, Stan Diver, Peter Cornell, and Cynde Bimbi.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A NOMINATION](#)

## **Understanding the Resolutions Process:**

All resolutions are not the same. The Rules of Order of Diocesan Convention (RODC) note two main types:

- **Debatable Resolutions** – The most common type, open for discussion at convention.
- **Courtesy Resolutions** – Not debated; express the unanimous voice of convention.

*(Resolutions from General Convention are generated outside our annual convention and are not covered here.)*

### *Who may submit a resolution? —*

Any voting member of the clergy or a lay delegate—or someone speaking on behalf of a diocesan congregation or the St. Andrew's School Chapel Organization—may submit a resolution. Self-submissions are welcome. Use the [Resolution Form](#) to submit.

### *Resolution Deadlines —*

- **Debatable resolutions:** Due **Monday, September 21, 2026** (60 days before convention). Submitting by this deadline ensures that delegates have adequate time to review the proposed resolutions and discuss them within their congregations prior to convention. It will also ensure inclusion in pre-convention publications and allow further study and discussion at the pre-convention presentaton on November 11 (see below). Late “floor resolutions” may only be introduced at convention with a two-thirds supermajority vote.
- **Courtesy resolutions:** Same deadline, though the president of convention may accept submissions up to ten days before convention.

### *Convention Preview —*

Submitted resolutions will be presented at the *Convention Preview* on November 11 at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

During this gathering:

- Resolution proposers are expected to present their resolutions.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to listen, ask questions, and engage in conversation. Members of the resolutions committee will also attend to capture input that might inform their work when they gather formally at convention.

This shared time of presentation and discussion is designed to:

- Encourage broader understanding and thoughtful engagement ahead of convention
- Reduce the amount of time needed for explanation and clarification during the Convention itself

#### *Resolutions Open Hearing at Convention —*

The resolutions open hearing will be held following the **first business session on November 20**. With the input of convention delegates during this open hearing, the resolutions committee is tasked with considering, clarifying, and perfecting resolutions before they are voted upon by the convention in the **second business session on November 21**.

#### [Tips and Samples for Writing an Effective Resolution](#)

#### **A Few Specifics:**

- 242nd Annual Convention: Friday and Saturday, November 20 – 21; Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach; 1301 Coastal Hwy.
- This year's theme will be **Discovering and Rediscovering Christ** "*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.*" *Isaiah 12.2 (NRSV)*
- The *Convention Guidebook – Pre-Convention Edition* (digital) will be distributed by late October to all those registered for convention. It will include the list of nominees for election, resolutions submitted by deadline, financial information, final agenda, and more convention information.
- *Convention Preview*: A resolution and budget preview will be held via Zoom on November 11, 4:30 p.m.
- Convention check-in opens at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20, 2026, and concludes by 2:30 p.m. on Saturday November 21, 2026.
- The bishop will host a thirty minute orientation for new delegates on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. It is open to all.
- Agenda items include: Two business sessions, elections, resolutions, bishop's address, ministry reports, finance report, workshops (to be announced), Meet the Candidates social, Friday night dinner and social, worship, and Saturday breakfast and lunch.
- If weather or other unforeseen circumstances require a postponement of convention, the alternate date is Saturday, December 5, 2026 at St. Anne's School in Middletown, for a single-day on-line convention. Rely upon <http://www.delaware.church> as the official source for any postponement announcements.

**Important Deadlines:**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Closes</b>	<b>Link</b>
Audit of Parish Financials	September 1	<a href="#">Link</a>
Clergy Certification	September 21	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delegation Certification	September 21	<a href="#">Link</a>
Resolution Submission	September 21	<a href="#">Link</a>
Nominations for Diocesan Office	October 21	<a href="#">Link</a>
Registration - EARLY BIRD Registration - FINAL	October 21 November 6	<a href="#">Link</a>
Hotel Reservation — Hyatt Place, Dewey	October 23	<a href="#">Link (G-EPIS)</a>

**Convention Team:**

Secretary of Convention:

Jon Barrett

Convention Manager:

Cynde Bimbi

Convention Administrative Assistant:

Samantha Parfitt-Simpson

Bishop's Executive Assistant

Kathleen Moore