

Episcopal Diocese of Alaska 1205 Denali Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4178 907/452-3040 fax 907/456-6552 Memorandum

То:	Convention Registrants	Date: September 19, 2020
From:	Suzanne Krull Canon for Finance & Administration	cc: Bishop & Staff website: www.episcopalak.org

Subject: 45<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention, "United with Christ in the Interest of Others" Philippians: 2:4

Like most things this year, our 2020 Diocesan Convention will look and feel different than any previous Convention. For the first time in our history, Convention will happen online via a Zoom Meeting; not in-person, not at any one particular place but at multiple places all at one time. The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched all of us to expand our understanding of unity in Christ and what it means to sacrifice our comfort, our usual patterns of living, and our experience of community for the sake of others.

This year we are mailing the Convention Packet out early, to hopefully ensure they are received prior to October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Enclosed are the Convention Packets, mailed to all convention registrants. The following items are in the center section of the packets: The Convention Schedule, 2019 Convention Minutes, 2020 Ministry Reports, Congregational Pledge Reports and 2019 Financials.

In the front pocket of the packets are: The Committee Assignments, the Delegate Roster, Committee Instructions and Nomination Information. In the back pocket of the packets is: The Budget Report and blank note paper.

Convention will be held over two consecutive Saturdays: Saturday Oct 3, 2020 from 10:00a – 2:00p and Saturday Oct 10, 2020 10:00a – 2:00p. The Canonical participants (Delegates, Standing Committee Members, Convention Officers and Staff) of Convention will be emailed a unique Zoom Invites with individual login information. Visitors and all others may attend via a livestream. The link for the livestream will be available on the Convention & Conference Page of the Diocesan Website, <u>https://episcopalak.org/event/2020-conference-convention/</u>.

A Diocesan Wide Worship Service, <u>open to all</u>, will be held on October 10, 2020 at 2:30pm. This will be a separate Zoom Meeting and will have universal login information. A huge Thank you to St. Mary's for assisting with this Zoom worship service.

We have included a "Zoom Best Practices" for Zoom Meetings, for your convenience.

In your packet you will find the Diocesan Positions open for Election. We currently have the following Nominations from the Arctic Coast, Southeast and South Central deanery meetings.

Commission on Ministry

Arctic Coast Clergy: The Rev. Carrie Oktollik, St. Thomas, Pt. Hope

**Standing Committee** 

Seat #1 Arctic Coast Lay: Austin Swan, Sr., Epiphany Kivalina

Seat #3 Southeast Clergy: The Rev. Julie Platson, St. Peter's, Sitka

**Disciplinary Board** 

Seat D Lay: Adam Lees, St. Mary's, Anchorage

Seat G Clergy: The Rev. "Chip" Wallace Mills, St. James, Kodiak

FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment) Committee:

Seat A Lay:

Austin Swan, Sr., Epiphany, Kivalina

Albert Alvarez, Holy Spirit, Eagle River

The following seats currently do not have any nominations:

Commission on Ministry: Interior Lay

Standing Committee: Interior Clergy

Nominations from the floor of Convention must be made on the first day, October 3, 2020 and are made by delegates. Steps to Nominate from the floor:

- 1. Ask permission, prior to submitting name, from the person you want to nominate to make sure they are willing to serve.
- 2. Get the following information:
  - a. Position being nominated for
  - b. Name of nominee
  - c. Clergy or Lay
  - d. Church
  - e. Contact Information: email, contact phone number, mailing address
- 3. Submit the Nomination in the Zoom "chat" or at time allotted in the schedule

Nominations may also be made prior to convention by emailing the above information to the "Contact Form" on the diocesan website; https://episcopalak.org/contact/. Those nominations will be forwarded to the Nominations Committee.

We are aware and are anticipating some "hiccups" during Convention this year. Truth is, we have "hiccups" every year, they are often "behind the scenes" and only noticed by a few. Given we are using a platform unfamiliar to many and reliant on forces outside

our control – internet & phone connections, zoom "freezes", unstable and/or low bandwidth, no email, rarely checked email.....we have schedules an **optional Pre-Convention Informational Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 6:00p –7:00p.** 

This will be an informal "practice", allowing those less familiar with the Zoom platform to log-on and experience a virtual gathering. We will share information, such as, the budget, positions open for nomination, the schedule and more. Please join us for "Convention Rehearsal" on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 6:00p – 7:00p.

Delegate unique and individual Zoom meeting invites will be emailed no later than close of business Friday September 25, 2020. This login will be the same as the one for Convention. It is unique and individual to each delegate, please do not share with anyone else. **Please check your email.** 

Visitors and others may follow along with the livestream. Like the link for Convention, the link for the September 29<sup>th</sup> "practice", will be available on the Convention & Conference Page of the Diocesan Website, <u>https://episcopalak.org/event/2020-conference-convention/</u>.

Finally, we ask for your patience and understanding. We know the usual patterns and expectations of Diocesan Convention as a "family reunion" will likely be missed this year and the agenda is limited to only the canonically required business of Convention. It feels strange to have our visitors and delegates separated, it is unsettling to not be able to share hugs and songs, who ever heard of a "dress rehearsal" for Convention, and the list goes on.

We welcome your prayers, your positive and creative spirit of adventure that is so much a strength of Alaskans, and your spirit of joy and hope as we look forward to Diocesan Convention this year, in this brave new way.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Bishop's Office, 800-478-3043 or 452-3040 (locally). Or feel free to email me, <u>skrull@gci.net</u> or any member of the Bishop's Staff (using the email buttons on the "Contact" page on our website)

Blessings,