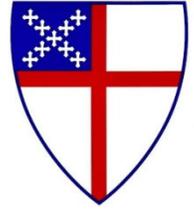




EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALASKA

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*Theme: Bringing Our Weariness and Burdens to Jesus.
Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV*

July 8, 2022

Dear People of God,

The 47th Convention of the Diocese of Alaska is scheduled for September 29th and October 1st and will be held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa, 401 East 6th Ave, Anchorage AK 99501. The theme for Convention this year is: “Bringing Our Weariness and Burdens to Jesus” (Matthew 11:28-30).

We are excited to anticipate an in-person Convention this year after a very long two plus years of restrictions necessary to protect the public health. And these last few years have been filled with challenges and struggles even beyond a global pandemic. We have witnessed social and racial unrest; violent and tragic outbursts across the nation; political polarization and civil strife; and an increasing mistrust of institutions. Many are feeling vulnerable, disaffected, and lost. These are times when people of faith have looked for solace, hope, and grounding in Christian fellowship and the traditions of the Church, and, yet, these have been limited or only available in new or unconventional ways (online). Adding to the weight of it all is the concern that our congregations and fellowship have lost people who will not return. The past two years has placed a heavy burden on our hearts and on our spirits, and our bodies have been carrying this load.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Yes, now more than ever we need to hear and remember these most comfortable words of Jesus, and to come together to share our burdens in prayer and fellowship, to put them down together at the feet of Jesus, and to find rest. This is the vision for Diocesan Convention this year: to come together in fellowship and prayer, to share our burdens in love and support as the body of Christ and with the body of Christ, to be renewed and restored in Jesus’ promise of rest, healing, reconciliation, and the hope of new life.

In order to mitigate some of the abiding public health concerns associated with large gatherings, Convention this year will not be hosted by a congregation. Instead, we will be gathering and staying at a hotel. While this is not anticipated to be a permanent change to the structure of our Diocesan Conventions—we will return to congregation hosted Diocesan Conventions, public health precautions still warrant requiring some structural adaptations and attendance expectations this year. Although, we will not require proof of vaccination, we urge all who attend to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (consult with your health care provider for which vaccinations are right for you). A decision on whether we will require masks will be made as we get closer to the dates of Convention. We are currently exploring the possibility of livestreaming and will make a determination when we have more information.

REGISTRATION

Registration is required. Enclosed is a **Convention Registration, Clergy Conference Registration, and Instructions to Committees.** Only clergy (priest/deacons) complete Clergy Conference form.

You may also register online beginning July 11, 2022, at www.episcopalak.org/convention-conference/. **Send or fax completed registration to our office before the July 30, 2022, deadline.**

CONTINUED...

Out-of-town (not living in the Anchorage area) delegates will be housed in the hotel: Check-in is September 29, Check-out October 2, 2022. Any extended stay will be the delegates' responsibility and expense (unless authorized due to unavoidable travel arrangements). Hotel accommodations can NOT be guaranteed for ANY registration received after September 2, 2022.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Completed registration forms for each of your delegates are due by July 30th and will not be accepted after September 16, 2022. Hotel lodging cannot be guaranteed for any registration received after September 2, 2022, and lodging may become the individuals responsibility. Please submit your registration as soon as possible so that travel arrangements can be made early. Your timely or early registration saves on the cost of transportation. The convention registration fee is \$500 per delegate registered and paid on or before 8/19/2022. Late fee is \$575 for registrations postmarked after 8/19/2022.

Please: registering as soon as possible reduces the costs of holding Convention and greatly reduces the workload for your diocesan staff. I would consider it a personal favor and a blessing if you were to register now. Thank you, Mark.

Reminder: Each congregation is entitled to at least (2) delegates: the Rector/Vicar or Clergy-in-Charge and one other delegate (clergy or lay) for each 100 members or fraction thereof. If a congregation has no Rector/Vicar or Clergy-in-Charge, or if their clergy leader is unable to attend, the congregation is entitled to send a second delegate, clergy or lay, in place of the clergy leader (*For example: a congregation without clergy leadership may send 2 lay delegates*). Furthermore, a congregation is entitled to an additional delegate for each one hundred communicants in good standing, or fraction thereof, beyond the first 100 as listed in the congregation's parochial report (*For example: a congregation with 106 members in good standing reported on their Parochial Report would be entitled to send 3 Delegates: a clergy delegate (or substitute lay or ordained if there is no clergy leader assigned), a delegate for the first 100 members in good standing, and a third delegate (lay or ordained) for the fraction (in this example, 6) of the next 100 members in Good Standing as reported on the congregation's Parochial Report*).

Visitor and youth charge is \$75.00, which covers food and materials only: travel and housing arrangements are the responsibility of the individuals. Visitors and youth are not included in the group reservations and must make their own reservations and/or arrangements.

Please note a registration form for every person attending Convention is required.

THE DEADLINE FOR PREFILED RESOLUTIONS IS July 30, 2022. At the time of this mailing, we have received one pre-file resolution, which is enclosed.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

Clergy Conference fee is \$75 per person. If you are coming to Diocesan Convention as a delegate, your housing will be arranged at the hotel and your travel cost to Anchorage will be paid. If you are not a delegate, you are responsible for your own travel. Housing at the hotel will be provide for one night, September 28, 2022, only; any extended stay will be the individuals own responsibility and expense.

We are looking forward to our time together in Anchorage, Alaska. Please keep the convention in your prayers as we plan and prepare.

Enclosures (7)

- Convention Registration Form
- Clergy Conference Registration Form
- DRAFT Schedules/Agenda: Convention & Clergy Conference
- Committee Instructions
- Positions open for elections/appointment (5 pages)
- Nominee Profile Form
- Pre-filed Resolution 2022-01