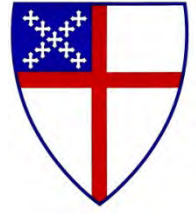




EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALASKA

1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 452-3040, 1-800-478-3043
Fax: 907-456-6552



Theme: Do not let your Hearts be Troubled

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

John 14:1 NRSV

June 29, 2026

Dear People of God,

The 51st Convention of the Diocese of Alaska is scheduled for October 3rd and October 10th, 10:00am – 3:30pm, via an online platform (Zoom). The theme for Convention this year is: "Do not let your Hearts be Troubled".

The world provides a never-ending list of things to trouble human hearts. Despite all the situations or circumstances that cause our hearts to be troubled, often at the core of our distress and worry is the fear of loss, of change, lack of control, or an overwhelming sense of powerlessness. Into this fear, Jesus speaks a word of grace: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

Jesus then grounds his invitation to belief in the context of His Father's house with many dwelling places (sometimes translated as mansions or rooms). Let not your hearts be troubled, God is present in every chance or change. God's dwelling has a haven, a home, for every human heart that struggles in distress, fear and loss.

One house, many rooms. Believing that God dwells in each and every one of those rooms is an invitation to find some rest—spiritual rest, from our troubled hearts.

Diocesan Convention this year will take place in a different type of room. As adopted by Convention in 2024, and to address the rising cost of gathering for Convention in one physical location—one large space, we will gather this year online in the virtual room of Zoom.

This is not the first time we have held our Convention online. During the Covid-19 pandemic we conducted our Diocesan Convention twice using Zoom. And while we have gotten much better at accessing and using the technology that makes online gatherings more effective, we have come to understand that online is not the same as in-person. It is different. We have also learned that a different room—an online room, requires that we do things differently and that we expect a different experience. For this reason, our agenda will be designed to meet the canonical requirements for the annual work of Convention.

As we anticipate Diocesan Convention this year, let us be at rest believing—knowing, that God will dwell with us even in this different way of gathering. God will give us wisdom together in our discernment and deliberations for the work and ministry of the Diocese. And God will gather with us and bind us as one body though we may not be in one physical space.

Don't let your hearts be troubled. God is with us in every room.

CONTINUED...

REGISTRATION

Registration is required. Enclosed is a **Convention Registration Form** and **Instructions to Committees**. We will form Diocesan Committees, and our preliminary plans are that committees will meet via telephonic/video conference at various times during the week between October 3rd and October 10th, with only a short meeting using Breakout Room during the Zoom.

You may also register online beginning June 29, 2026, at www.episcopalak.org/convention-conference/. **Send or fax completed registration to our office before the August 4, 2026 deadline.**

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Completed registration forms for each of your delegates are due by August 4th and will not be accepted after September 11, 2026. However, please submit as soon as possible. Although there will be no travel or lodging this year, we will have documents, reports and communications that will go out early so that delegates can participate more completely. The convention registration fee is \$150 per delegate registered.

Please register as soon as possible reduces the costs of holding the 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*).

The visitor and youth fees for 2026 have been waived, and they will have access to a livestream.

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

We will utilize an electronic voting system. More information will be available, and we will hold informational Zoom meetings closer to convention.

If you plan to host a convention gathering (convention watch party), please contact Lynnette Winfrey-Frank at the diocesan office so we can be aware of the gathering. Watch party guidelines will be forthcoming.

THE DEADLINE FOR PREFILED RESOLUTIONS IS August 4, 2026. At the time of this mailing, we had received no pre-file resolutions.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

There will be no clergy conference during the convention this year.

We welcome your prayers for the planning team, 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.

Enclosures (5)

- Convention Registration Form
- DRAFT Schedules/Agenda
- Committee Instructions
- Positions open for elections/appointment (5 pages)
- Nominee Profile Form