



The Good News From the Office of the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 8th Bishop of Alaska

September 2017

Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 ~ www.episcopalak.org ~ alaskcopalians@gci.net

The House of Bishops is Coming to Fairbanks

An historic event happens this September. The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church will meet September 21st through 26th in Fairbanks. The House of Bishops is the title given to a full gathering of the bishops of the Episcopal Church. It includes both active and retired bishops; Diocesan Bishops; Bishops Suffragan; and Assisting Bishops. There are 109 dioceses in the Episcopal Church: 99 dioceses in the United States and 10 more throughout the world, each with its own Diocesan Bishop. However, given the number of Bishops Suffragan and retired bishops, a full House of Bishops gathering could be close to 300 individuals.

It is rare, if ever, that all the bishops entitled to participate are in attendance for a House of Bishops meeting. As of now, there are 128 bishops registered for the 6 day event in Fairbanks. In addition, 78 spouses will be attending.

“Like the governing body of the United States, the governing body of the Episcopal Church (called “the General Convention”) is comprised of two Houses: the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. They meet and act separately, and both Houses must concur to adopt legislation. General Convention meets every three years, and the House of Bishops meets twice a year between conventions in a non-legislative capacity (*from the Episcopal Church Webpage*).”

The gathering in Alaska is one of these regular non-legislative meetings. However, the Bishops will be engaged in the work of the Church: praying; studying; discussing how to grow into becoming “Beloved Community;” and planning and preparing for General Convention in 2018. The Presiding Bishop and a Planning Committee set the agenda for House of Bishop meetings.

As this is the first House of Bishops meeting ever to occur in Alaska, it also represents an opportunity for the bishops to see and experience the context of ministry in the Diocese of Alaska. Of course, the bishops will only be getting a small sample of the Diocese of Alaska, but it will be an important experience. At the opening session of the meeting, Thursday, September 21, the House of Bishops will be welcomed to the land by Alaska Native representatives Will Mayo, Steve Ginnis, The Rev. Luke Titus, and The Rev. Anna Frank.

Episcopal Bishops to Bless the Land, Water, People of Alaska September 23 @ 2 o'clock

One of the Themes for the House of Bishops meeting in Fairbanks is Environmental Justice and Care of Creation. The bishops are aware of the significant changes to the climate in Alaska and the concerns that have been expressed by Alaska Natives over diminishing wildlife populations, and growing economic pressures that put traditional culture and food security at risk. On Saturday, September 23, the House of Bishops will travel to locations throughout the Interior to “walk on the land” with the people and to offer a blessing of the land, the water, the wildlife, and the people.

Small groups of bishops will fly to: Eagle; Ft. Yukon; Venetie; Arctic Village; Beaver; Tanana; Allakaket; and Huslia. Their chartered flights will arrive in the villages around 11am. At 2 o'clock, in every location, the bishops will lead a prayer service and offer a blessing for the land, the water, the animals, and the people. The bishops will return to Fairbanks after the Blessing ceremony. A large group of bishops, around 70, will offer the same blessing on the foot bridge over the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks. Additionally, a group of bishops will be traveling to Chatanika to say a blessing at the site of the derelict gold dredge there. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in these Blessing events. The bishops in Fairbanks will begin a procession to the foot bridge from St. Matthew's at 1:45.

Every Community is Encouraged to Join The House of Bishops in the Blessing of the Land

The liturgy for the Blessing used by the Episcopal Bishops will be posted on the Diocesan Webpage and Facebook page. Every parish and community is encouraged to share in the Blessing by using the liturgy locally. At 2 o'clock Saturday, September 23, let us send up to God prayers and blessings throughout this Diocese and land. All are welcome to join in the prayer. The liturgy may be officiated by Licensed Worship leaders or elders. Take pictures and we will post them on the Diocesan Facebook page.

Bishops to attend Sunday Worship in North Pole, Fairbanks, and Nenana September 24

Sunday, September 24, groups of bishops will be attending worship at three local parishes. A group of 50 will attend worship at St. Jude's, North Pole; 60 will travel to St. Mark's, Nenana; and around 70 will attend worship at St. Matthew's, Fairbanks. The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will preach at St. Matthew's at 10:30. Bishop Lattime will celebrate.

Diocesan Convention: September 28-30, Fairbanks

The Diocese of Alaska's Annual Convention is hosted by St. Matthew's, Fairbanks this year. Every congregation and community is entitled (and expected) to send at least one Delegate. As defined by Diocesan Canons, some parishes are entitled to send more than one delegate. However, this year, the budget was developed to **FULLY FUND** one delegate from every community. This decision was made to remove any financial barrier to participation. Registration materials are available on the Diocesan Webpage. The Theme for Diocesan Convention is: "Becoming Beloved Community."

Drawing on the work and vision introduced by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church, the focus of "Becoming Beloved Community" is on how we, as followers of Jesus, may grow individually and as communities as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers.

"You're not looking at a set of programs," Presiding Bishop Curry explained. "You're looking at a path for how we, as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, can more fully and prayerfully embody the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus in our relationships with each other. Look at the scriptures, at Christian history. There is no doubt that Beloved Community, healing, justice and reconciliation are at the heart of Jesus' movement in this world."

The Presiding Bishop's Canon for Reconciliation, Evangelism, and Creation-Care, The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, will be our guest and Keynote Speaker. Canon Spellers will be guiding us in exercises intended to help us along the life-long journey of becoming Beloved Community. You are encouraged to download and read the full text of "Becoming Beloved Community" here: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/becoming_beloved_community_commitment_and_plan_1.pdf

Ginia Love, Bishop's Assistant and Diocesan Secretary Resigns

For the past 7 years, Ginia Love has been the voice of the Diocese of Alaska. When you called the office, more often than not, it was Ginia who answered your call with a warm and cheerful greeting. Over her term serving the Diocese, Ginia has come to know our communities and our people. She has worked tirelessly to help get clergy to villages to officiate funerals and marriages. She has sent out countless requests for prayers. She has provided comfort and direction to people in need. She has joyfully and always with good humor kept the bishop organized, coordinated his itineraries, and managed his travel. And in it all, she has done so with a light spirit and a generous heart.

Ginia now leaves the Diocese and Alaska to move to Nevada where she and her husband, Bryan, and their 3 grandchildren will be closer to family. We hate to see Ginia leave, but we all share in thanksgiving for the ministry we have received from her and we all join in prayers she will go forward in joy into this next chapter of her life. THANK YOU GINIA.

The Office will work with a Temporary Service to meet our immediate needs. The weight and business of the coming season make it impractical for us to engage in an appropriate search for a permanent replacement at this time. Our goal is to make a permanent hire in the new year. Until then, we are grateful for your patience and understanding as we work to cover all the bases. Thank you, especially to Lynnette Winfrey-Frank for all the extra work and effort she has given to cover many of Ginia's tasks during this interim period.

Revised Diocesan Canons to be Considered at Diocesan Convention

At Diocesan Convention last year in Sitka, the Committee on Constitution and Canons presented a fully revised version of the Canons for the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska. This revision was the product of many years of hard work by the Committee, which was tasked with thoroughly reviewing the canons and offering revisions that, in some cases, clarified the canons that brought the canons into line with the current practices of the Diocese and the Episcopal Church.

Since Convention last year, the proposed canonical revisions were distributed and posted on the Diocesan Webpage. They were made available at each Deanery meeting and discussion of the changes and any feedback from those Deanery discussions was communicated to the Committee. The final form of the revisions, which is not substantially different from what was presented last year, will be included in the Diocesan Convention packet. The final form of the revision to be voted on at this year's Convention will be available on the Diocesan Webpage. A link will be posted on our Facebook page.

The Committee on Constitution and Canons will move consideration of the Revised Canons and recommends that they be adopted.

Members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons are: Gordon Blue, Mary Norton, Dawn Allen-Herron, Kacei Conyers, Rashmika Nancy Paton, Nicholas Ramsey, Amy Petit-Ruby, and Laura Bender.



Convention Corner – From Canon Suzanne Krull

42nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

Becoming Beloved Community to Bless the World, "I will bless you so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Hosted by: St. Matthew's, Fairbanks AK on September 28- October 1, 2017

Convention is a time to gather, worship, pray, learn, grow and enjoy each other's company and stories. It is also a time to attend to some business, such as pass a budget, elect/appoint persons to diocesan committees, and select the place and date for next year's convention (**is your congregation being called to host convention?**), etc.

We are excited to welcome The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation as our keynote speaker. She will share with us, how we can become and how we already are a part of the Jesus Movement: evangelism, reconciliation and creation care. Let's celebrate becoming beloved communities to bless the world.

This year, there are no pre-filed resolutions. We will be addressing the proposed canonical changes presented at the 2016 Convention. Copies of the proposed canonical changes, the proposed 2018 Budget, positions open for nomination/election with deanery nominations, the Convention schedule and the Clergy Conference schedule all are on-line at the diocesan web-site, www.episcopalak.org.

Summary of positions on diocesan committees open for election this year:

Commission on Ministry:

Arctic Coast Lay (elected, fill vacancy)

Standing Committee:

Seat #1 Arctic Coast Lay

Seat #2 Interior Clergy

Seat #3 Southeast Clergy

Disciplinary Board:

Seat A Clergy (any deanery)

Seat G Clergy (any deanery, fill vacancy)

Seat F Lay (any deanery)

FIT Committee (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment):

Seat B Clergy (any deanery, elected)

Convention Delegate's Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I book my travel?

Once your registration form has been received by the Bishop's staff and delegate fees have been paid, travel authorization will be sent to our travel agent, Janelle Raker at CMT. Delegates contact the travel agent directly to book their travel. Janelle's contact: direct line: 374-5337; toll free: 1 800-622-6449; email: janelle.raker@travelctm.com

Where will I be staying? How do I make my lodging arrangements?

The host congregation, St. Matthew's, provides for delegate lodging. Members of St. Matthew's open their homes as host families. When you arrive, St. Matthew's will have a lodging list and introduce you to your host family. You may make your own arrangements at a local hotel at your own cost; you will also be responsible for transportation to/from hotel & St. Matthew's.

How will I get to St. Matthew's from the airport?

St. Matthew's will provide transportation to/from the airport. The Bishop's staff will provide arrival/departure date/times of flights to St. Matthew's based on the travel agents bookings. If you have travel changes, in route, please contact St. Matthew's at is 907-456-5235.

Will I have to pay for my meals?

Meals will be provided by the host congregation per the schedule. The registration fee covers cost of meals, host provided housing, airfare & ground transportation to/from the airport. Meals while in route are your responsibility.

What committee will I be on?

Committee assignments are made by the Bishop and his staff. Every attempt is made to follow the choices indicated on your registration form. The Committee assignments will be part of the delegate packets that are distributed at Convention Registration.

Worship Leader & Eucharistic Visitor Training—Fairbanks, October 12-15-2017

Registration is now open for the Second Regional Training Event in 2017!

This is a weekend training event for those interested and committed to regularly leading worship in their communities, and those seeking or already licensed to be Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Visitors. The training will be held at the Pikes Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks. For more information, including registration forms and draft schedule, please go to the diocesan web-site www.episcopalak.org or the diocesan Facebook Page (Episcopal Diocese of Alaska).

Our first regional training event in 2017 was held in Kotzebue, July 27-30, 2017. It was a wonderful time filled with learning, fellowship and fun among faithful and committed ministers of the Arctic Coast communities of Pt. Hope, Kivalina and Kotzebue. Check out Bishop Mark's Facebook Page (Mark Lattime) to see some great pictures and posts.

If you have any questions please contact Canon Suzanne Krull, 907-452-3040 or 800-478-3043 or skrull@gci.net.

The Good News is available on our website: www.episcopalak.org If you have something you would like published in The Good News, please submit it to the Diocese office. If you would like to receive an email from our office letting you know when new additions are available as well as website update notifications and prayers From the Office of the Bishop, please send an email to; alaskopalians@gci.net asking to be added to our email list. To insure that you receive emails from us, please make sure to add us to your email contact/address list.