

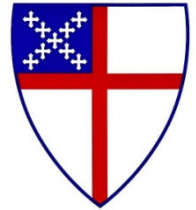


## EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALASKA

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*Theme: United with Christ in the Interest of Others*

*"Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians: 2:4 NIV*

July 1, 2020

Dear People of God,

The 45th Convention of the Diocese of Alaska is scheduled for October 3 and October 10, times to be determined, via a virtual (on-line) platform. The theme for Convention this year is "United with Christ in the Interest of Others".

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. As we grow weary of this sacrifice, many may wonder if we are allowing ourselves to be driven by fear--surely God is greater than COVID-19. While it is assuredly true that God is greater than this disease, it is also true that humans are not. Like hunger, fear, injustice and all other maladies of the human condition, God is greater than these and calls us to be the instruments of God's divine healing strength through the love of Christ Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God calls us to put the interests of others ahead of our own.

In this year--this season, of sacrificing our usual ways and our traditional practices, the Diocese of Alaska has made the difficult decision to plan a unique format for Diocesan Convention. Although the plans and details are being developed, due to the abiding risks of COVID-19 to the most vulnerable among us, Diocesan Convention will not be a public in-person gathering this year. Instead it will be some version of an online video/teleconference event.

Being well aware of the wide range of access--or lack of access, to internet, computer, and telecommunications resources throughout the Diocese, the planning process will have as the top priority creating a structure that will provide, to the best of our ability, participation by all. This decision also means that the usual patterns and expectations of Diocesan Convention as a "family reunion" will likely be missed this year and the agenda will be limited to only the canonically required business of Convention and a form of online worship.

### REGISTRATION

Registration is required. Enclosed is a **Convention Registration Form** and **Instructions to Committees**. We will form Diocesan Committees and our preliminary plans are committees will meet via telephonic/video conference at various times during the week between October 3 and October 10.

You may also register online beginning July 9, 2020 at

[www.episcopalak.org/convention-conference/](http://www.episcopalak.org/convention-conference/). **Send or fax completed registration to our office before the August 4, 2020 deadline.**

### DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Completed registration forms for each of your delegates are due by August 4th. 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 for 2020 has been waived.

Reminder: Each congregation is entitled to at least (2) delegates; its Rector/Vicar or Clergy in Charge and one other delegate (clergy or lay) for each one hundred, or fraction thereof, communicants in good standing. If there is no Rector/Vicar or Clergy in Charge or the clergy is unable to attend, the congregation shall be entitled to send a delegate, clergy or lay, in the clergy delegate place. For example, if the congregation currently does not have a Clergy in Charge or Rector/Vicar and they have reported on their Parochial Report 106 Communicants in Good Standing (members in good standing); They are entitled to 3 delegates (clergy or lay). One delegate as their clergy (since they don't have a Rector/Vicar or Clergy in Charge they may

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send a substitute, clergy or lay), and two additional delegates, one for the first hundred communicants and one for the fraction (06) of the next hundred communicants. Communicants are reported on the annual Parochial Reports.

A decision on visitors' attendance has not yet been made. We are asking anyone who would like to be a visitor to please complete a registration form so that we have an idea of a count and a way to contact you.

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

**THE DEADLINE FOR PREFILED RESOLUTIONS IS August 4, 2020.**

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)

- Registration Form
- DRAFT Schedule/Agenda
- Committee Instructions
- Positions open for elections/appointment (3 pages)
- Nominee Profile Form