

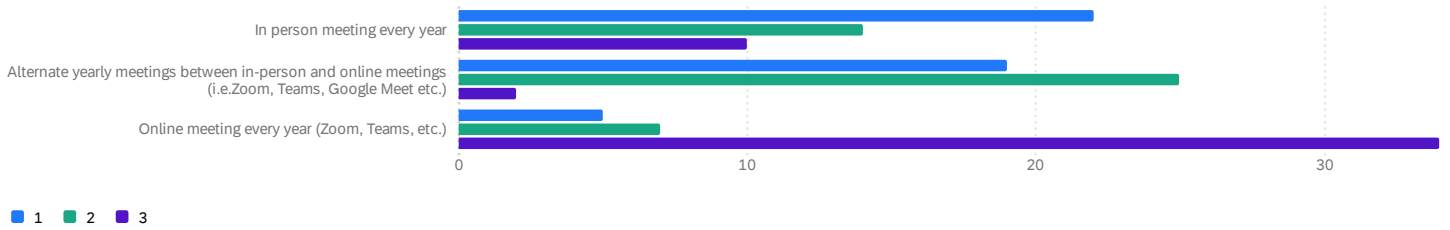
**Future Convention Conversation  
Data – Stats, Survey Results &  
Comments November 2023**

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Episcopal Diocese of Alaska  
Attendance Statistics  
2014 - 2023

Year	Location	Congregations		# of Delegates					% of Possible Delegates				
		#	%	Arctic Coast	Interior	South Central	South east	Total	Arctic Coast	Interior	South Central	Southeast	Total
2014	Juneau	29	59%	6	12	25	17	60	46%	20%	63%	89%	45%
2015	Anchorage	35	73%	7	18	29	15	69	54%	30%	74%	100%	54%
2016	Sitka	36	75%	7	21	29	13	70	54%	35%	74%	87%	55%
2017	Fairbanks (HOB)	37	77%	6	23	25	13	67	46%	38%	66%	81%	52%
2018	Kotzebue	35	73%	6	23	23	11	63	50%	38%	55%	52%	47%
2019	Anchorage	33	69%	5	17	27	11	60	45%	28%	75%	69%	48%
2020	Zoom	35	73%	2	18	29	11	60	18%	30%	81%	69%	48%
2021	Zoom	36	75%	5	16	28	10	59	42%	27%	78%	63%	48%
2022	Anchorage	31	65%	4	16	25	8	53	33%	29%	69%	50%	44%
2023	Juneau	31	65%	1	15	26	12	54	8%	27%	72%	80%	46%

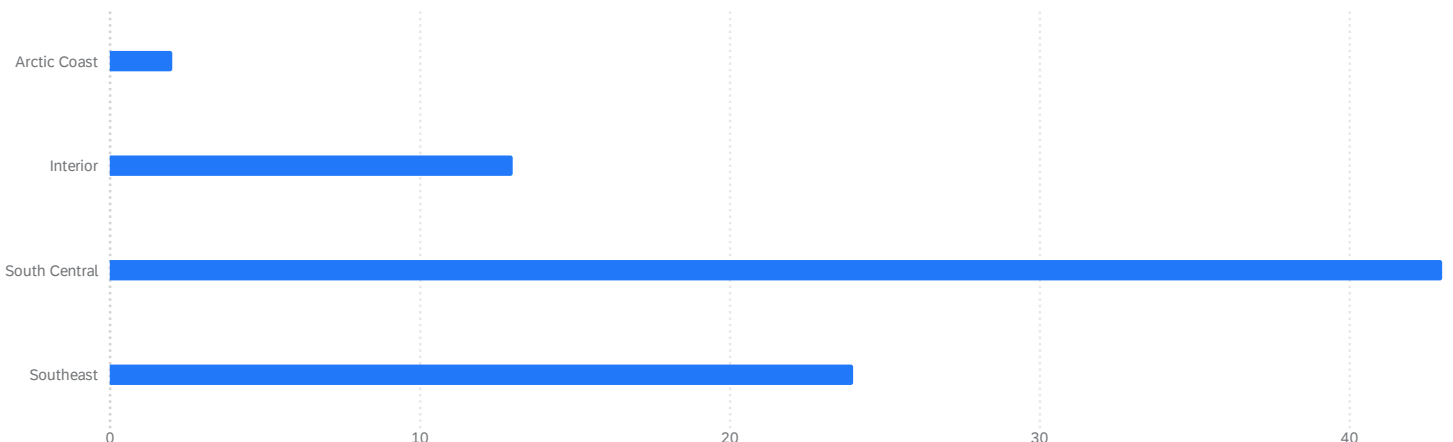
The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska's administration team and Standing Committee have been looking forward to future Diocesan Convention meetings and we are preparing for the financial needs of these convenings in the coming years. Our convention meetings have historically been held in-person and have rotated to communities around the state. In prior years, we have been able to make this happen financially by having a number of delegates stay in the homes of the local congregation members. This helped off-set the cost of travel and meeting locations. In recent years, this practice has not been an option and we do not anticipate being able to return to using host homes given the changing nature of our public health needs and the make-up of our congregations. We are examining the following options to help continue meeting in the most meaningful and consistent way possible. Given the options below, please indicate which of the following would be your ranking for a meeting schedule with your first choice being #1 and your last choice #3 (drag and drop your top option to the top of the list, followed by your second and third options): 46 ⓘ



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The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska's administration team and Standing Committee...	1	2	3
In person meeting every year	22	14	10
Alternate yearly meetings between in-person and online meetings (i.e. Zoom, Teams, Google Meet etc.)	19	25	2
Online meeting every year (Zoom, Teams, etc.)	5	7	34

What is your Deanery? 82 ⓘ



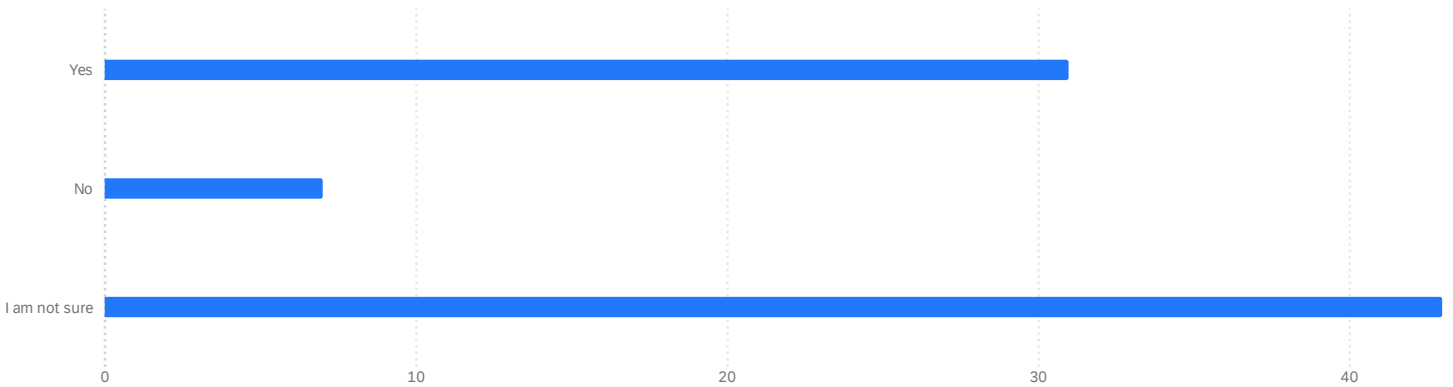
What is your Deanery? 82 ⓘ

Q2 - What is your Deanery?	Percentage	Count
Arctic Coast	2%	2
Interior	16%	13
South Central	52%	43
Southeast	29%	24

What is your Deanery? 82 ⓘ

What is your Deanery?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Arctic Coast	1.00	1.00	1.00	2
Interior	2.00	2.00	2.00	13
South Central	3.00	3.00	3.00	43
Southeast	4.00	4.00	4.00	24

Would your church congregation or Deanery be willing to arrange its own housing and receive reimbursement (at the same amount or not to exceed the amount budgeted per Delegate in the annual budget)? This option may allow for small groups to rent a home through entities such as AirBnB or VRBO at a lower cost than a hotel. 81 ⓘ



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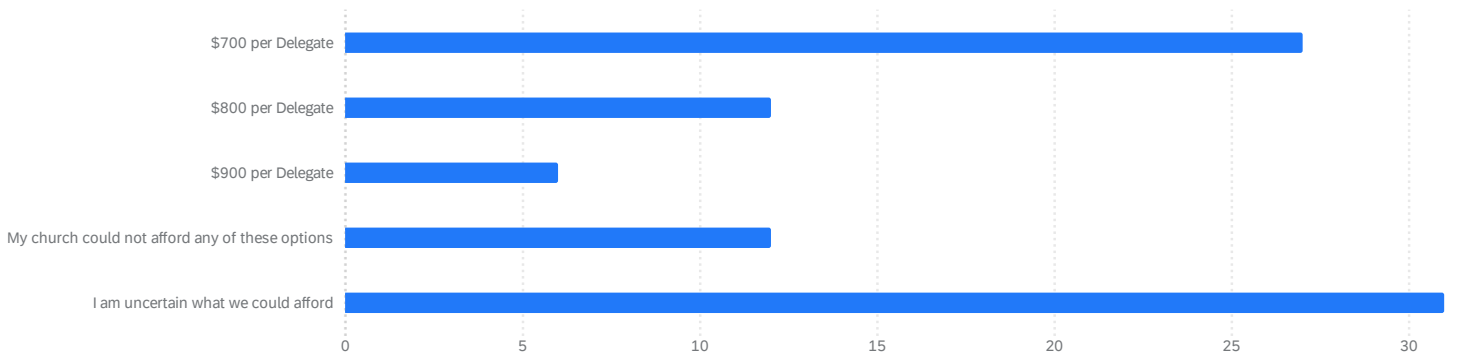
Q3 - Would your church congregation or Deanery be willing to arrange its own housing and receive reimbursement (at the same amount or not to exceed the amount budgeted per Delegate in the annual budget)? This option may allow for small groups to rent a home through entities such as AirBnB or VRBO at a lower cost than a hotel.

Q3 - Would your church congregation or Deanery be willing to arrange its own housing and receive reimbursement (at the same amount or not to exceed the amount budgeted per Delegate in the annual budget)? This option may allow for small groups to rent a home through entities such as AirBnB or VRBO at a lower cost than a hotel.	Percentage	Count
Yes	38%	31
No	9%	7
I am not sure	53%	43

Would your church congregation or Deanery be willing to arrange its own housing and receive reimbursement (at the same amount or not to exceed the amount budgeted per Delegate in the annual budget)? This option may allow for small groups to rent a home through entities such as AirBnB or VRBO at a lower cost than a hotel. 81 ⓘ

Would your church congregation or Deanery be willing to arrange its own hou...	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	31
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	7
I am not sure	3.00	3.00	3.00	43

It is likely that the cost of attending Diocesan Convention in person will increase by a significant amount each year based on increased prices for transportation and hotel accommodations. In 2023, the Delegate fee was \$550 and in 2024 we have budgeted \$600 per Delegate. This is the amount that each congregation pays for Delegates to attend Convention. Select the options below for the amount you think your church would be willing to pay to send Delegates if the costs increased (select all that apply): 75 ⓘ

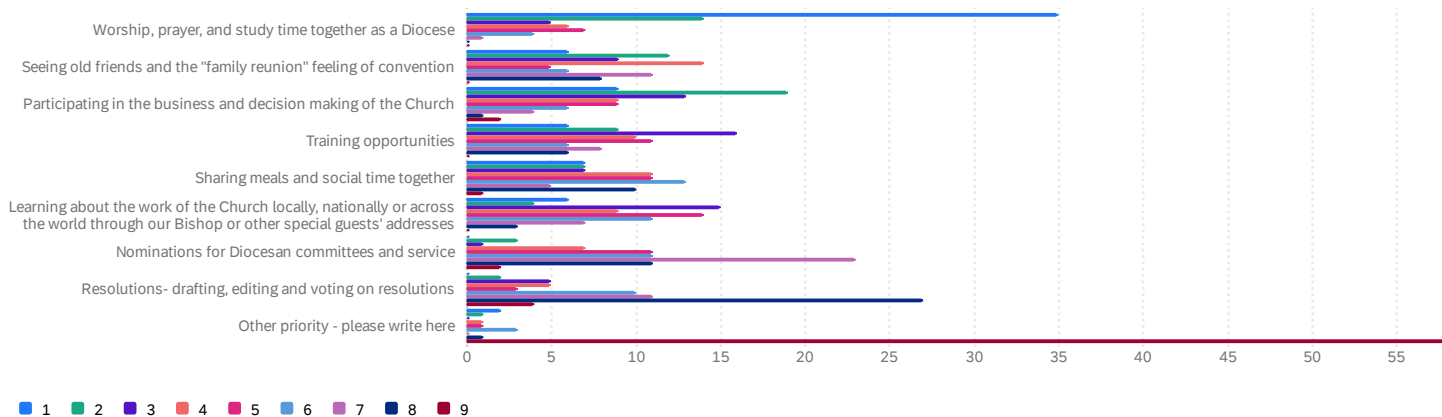


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Q4 - It is likely that the cost of attending Diocesan Convention in person will increase by a significant amount each year based on increased prices for transportation and hotel accommodations. In 2023, the Delegate fee was \$550 and in 2024 we have budgeted \$600 per Delegate. This is the amount that each congregation pays for Delegates to attend Convention. Select the options below for the amount you think your church would be willing to pay to send Delegates if the costs increased (select all that apply):

	Percentage	Count
\$700 per Delegate	36%	27
\$800 per Delegate	16%	12
\$900 per Delegate	8%	6
My church could not afford any of these options	16%	12
I am uncertain what we could afford	41%	31

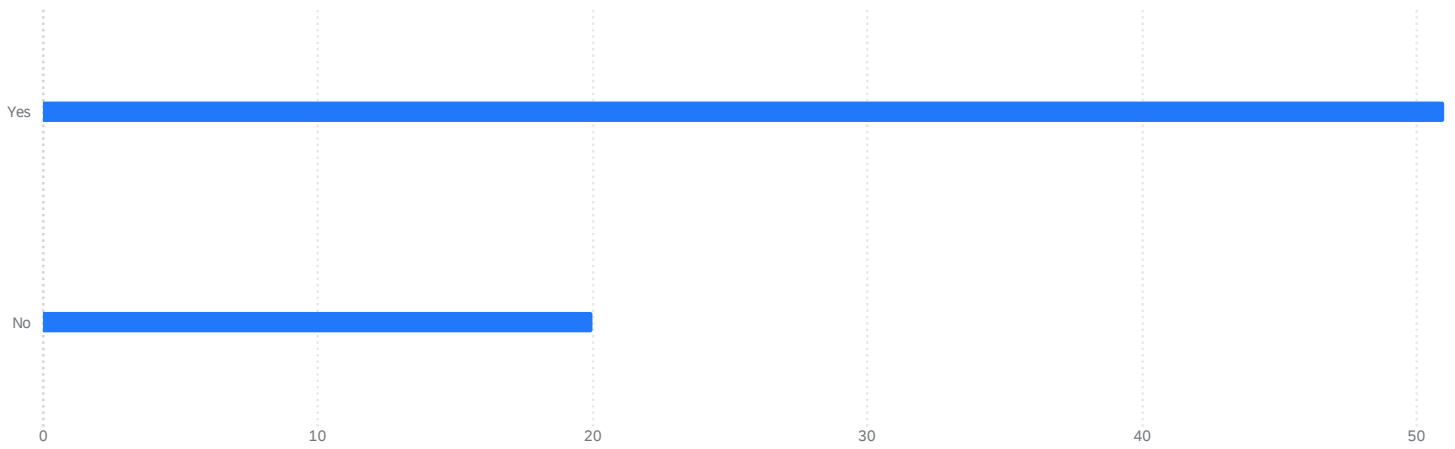
What aspects of Diocesan Convention are most important to you? Please rank the following items with 1 as your highest priority and 9 as your lowest priority (drag and drop your first priority at the top, followed by the next highest priority, etc): 72 ⓘ



What aspects of Diocesan Convention are most important to you? Please rank the following items with 1 as your highest priority and 9 as your lowest priority (drag and drop your first priority at the top, followed by the next highest priority, etc): 72 ⓘ

What aspects of Diocesan Convention are most important to you? Please rank...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship, prayer, and study time together as a Diocese	35	14	5	6	7	4	1	0	0
Seeing old friends and the "family reunion" feeling of convention	6	12	9	14	5	6	11	8	0
Participating in the business and decision making of the Church	9	19	13	9	9	6	4	1	2
Training opportunities	6	9	16	10	11	6	8	6	0
Sharing meals and social time together	7	7	7	11	11	13	5	10	1
Learning about the work of the Church locally, nationally or across the world through our Bishop or other special guests' addresses	6	4	15	9	14	11	7	3	0
Nominations for Diocesan committees and service	0	3	1	7	11	11	23	11	2
Resolutions- drafting, editing and voting on resolutions	0	2	5	5	3	10	11	27	4
Other priority - please write here	2	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	58

If offered, would you stay in a private home during convention? 71 ⓘ



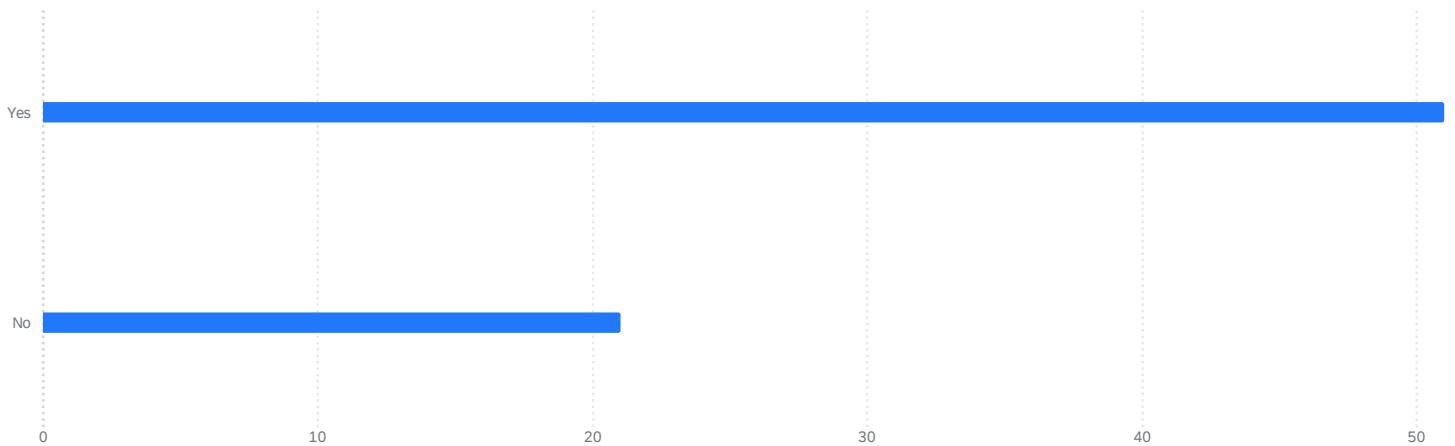
If offered, would you stay in a private home during convention? 71 ⓘ

Q6 - If offered, would you stay in a private home during convention?	Percentage	Count
Yes	72%	51
No	28%	20

If offered, would you stay in a private home during convention? 71 ⓘ

If offered, would you stay in a private home during convention?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	51
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	20

If asked, would you be willing to host a Delegate in your home? 72 ⓘ



If asked, would you be willing to host a Delegate in your home? 72 ⓘ

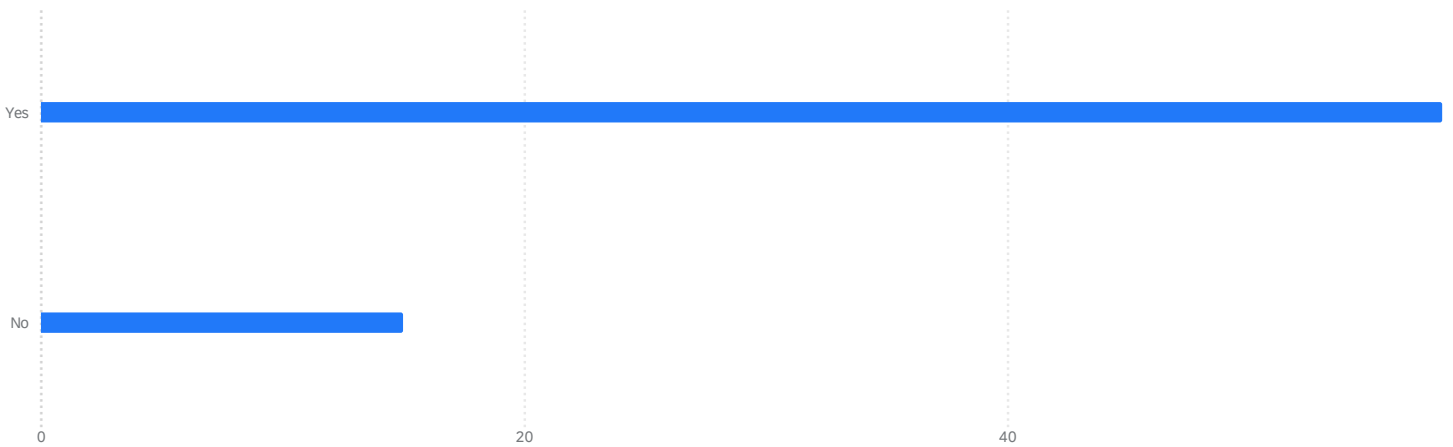
Q7 - If asked, would you be willing to host a Delegate in your home?	Percentage	Count
Yes	71%	51
No	29%	21



If asked, would you be willing to host a Delegate in your home? 72 ⓘ

If asked, would you be willing to host a Delegate in your home?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	51
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	21

Would you be willing to pay an extra fee to have a private room in a hotel? 73 ⓘ



Would you be willing to pay an extra fee to have a private room in a hotel? 73 ⓘ

Q8 - Would you be willing to pay an extra fee to have a private room in a hotel?	Percentage	Count
Yes	79%	58
No	21%	15

Would you be willing to pay an extra fee to have a private room in a hotel? 73 ⓘ

Would you be willing to pay an extra fee to have a private room in a hotel?	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Yes	1.00	1.00	1.00	58
No	2.00	2.00	2.00	15

Sliding scale delegate fee based on each church's income, as we do with pledges Sponsor churches - that is, wealthier churches help pay delegate fees of less wealthy church Concern - zoom may not be available for all our churches

More time for interaction among other attendees.

look at each church and what could they afford? if using hotels, most have a brunch, so the hosting parish could have coffee/tea/water available in morning, lunch maybe provided ?and dinner could be on each person. ? Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau appear to be the areas that could accommodate the convention and still give the smaller areas of Alaska to attend the convention? Or just plan to have the convention in Anchorage and seek out the best deal for lodging/food and travel. no matter travel it seems to be expensive especailly from smaller communities. Anch. is nice as there may be families the delegates would be able to stay with. someone always knows someone in Anchorage. ??

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Doing Zoom for every other convention could work. Maybe that would increase participation by some congregations for Zoom conventions and others for in person ones.

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A zoom link would be helpful for people who cannot travel or cannot afford travel, zoom attendees would not have voice or vote. It is expensive for delegates to travel and stay in a hotel, so delegate numbers could be limited. I would suggest one delegate for small congregations (under 100 per annual report) and two delegates for larger. In order to make the convention available to more people, it would be live streamed via zoom or other media to those not attending in person. People attending on zoom could contact their in-person delegate by text or email to express their preference on any issue.

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Is there the possibility of the diocese investing in a retreat center that could earn the diocese income the rest of the year?

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I have hospitality or safety concerns related to our lgbtqa+ non-binary delegates.

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Have the convention in the same urban city every year. Hotels/could be arranged in advance for the same week, reducing rates for rooms. Participants from rural areas would become familiar with the city, transportation, restaurants, church location - perhaps class confusion for participants.

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It would be helpful to have individual facilitators for small group/breakout sessions/discussions.

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It seems like a bit of a vacation for attendees, and they don't return with much for the rest of us. Just glowing reports of how wonderful it all was.

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alternating online and in person or having hybrid events are some ways to meet

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It is a mistake and a misunderstanding to think that the primary reasons for housing individual homes and earlier years was budgetary. The primary assumption was it was a gathering of the family, a coming together of the people of the church throughout the state. Budgetary concerns were secondary if at all. The emphasis was on the need and call of the people of the church to come together as one. It is a very large state from point hope to Ketchikan, and very different. How can we be the body of Christ, who is not divided, if we do not come together as one? In those earlier days, any hotel expenses were met by the individuals. Meeting and hosting someone from a completely other end of the state was part of the grace of the moment; and the logistical burden of that, and it's accompanying Grace, was part of the task and gift of servanthood the host Church assumed.

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Why isn't this a zoom session? Costs could be used to send priest to the smaller communities and also host Bible study for younger kids in communities that never see clergy come in. Easter and Christmas try to have a priest in every church and send Bible study for young children and adults.

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Please don't abandon all in-person meetings of Diocesan Convention.

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You may not want to include my opinions in your summary as I am retired and am not a voting member of Convention.

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Bring everybody into Fairbanks, Anchorage (a hub) and use the church as a meeting place for zoom. Do a Church service prayer separately. Video/classes and speakers can be included in the zoom

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I think that in-person convention creates a better connection among us. I would love to continue meeting in person every year.

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re #1 both in person and online

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I think there is nothing better than face to face contact among delegates and other church leaders. The only downside is cost and the sometimes difficulty of younger church members serving as delegates because i need to take time off from work for 2-3 days.

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fellowship incarnation

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Can we invest in a property to house us? I have heard Mirror Lake didn't work but if we have x thousands of dollars each year we can turn that into an asset?

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The 'ranking' question didn't work for me...I would rank the 'family reunion' component as '1'; business conduction '2'...opportunity to purchase/sell 'native made products' as '3'

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Thank you for thinking forward about this increased cost, possible responses, and asking for input.

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Alternating zoom and in person, or zoom with paying for outlying villages to gather in location together to be on zoom with those capable of doing it from their church or home.

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Conventions in major travel hubs only; Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau. Multiple sources of housing & services available.

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After listening to the many voices providing feedback at the 2023 convention, what I heard was the "business" of the Diocese has moved beyond resolutions, voting, and budgets. What I heard was a deep cry for feeding of the souls of the diocese through fellowship, prayer, Eucharist, training, and centering our lives in the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Perhaps the "business" of the church is investing in people, and then letting those people live the life of the two resolutions approved.

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I would like to see opportunities to engage deeply in small groups following presentations from the Bishop and other speakers--perhaps with a task to accomplish. The idea of a family reunion is fine, but I also think convention should include many new faces as well, especially if we want the energy of Convention to spread more widely into the daily lives of our congregations. (I realize that the responsibility for making this happen lies with the leadership and members of each of our congregations as they are electing their delegates) I think that electronic meetings are fine for dispensing information and carrying out some business functions, but they do very little for building the sense that together we are the body of Christ. The many side conversations that happen in person, or over a meal, or simply having a shared experience (like climbing the Juneau hills) are not easy to replicate in an online format.

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We just spent \$60,000 to approve two resolutions, elect three non contested positions, Pat ourselves on the back and say "we've done the work of the Church"

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The Bishop has laid the ground work for fresh thinking. A new garden in old soil. That means pulling out what was planted and replacing with something new. It means fertilizing the soil. Tilling the ground. Isn't it time to give 2023 responses to 2023 complex and complicated matters? As opposed to answering 2023 questions with an out of date way and reason for meeting? "Business" is not the work of the Church.

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Please ignore my first submission. I corrected my mistake and resubmitted this survey

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I left question 1 unanswered and there is no way to get back to that page

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I feel like there must be provisions to distribute difficulty and trouble in attending these meeting equitably. That includes both cost and accessibility.

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As time goes on people will be more willing to host in home as we normalize even with Covid

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In person social is important

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In person is important for connections

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I would suggest that every other year be on zoom.

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Coordinate all Deanery meetings to coincide. Have online option. Those up north without internet can gather, centrally in Fairbanks. Part of the gathering is Deanery specific, part diocese business.

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We need workshops

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(I cannot go back to earlier page to put this in the appropriate place) What I value/why I come - to foster and develop relationships with Episcopalians in other regions/deaneries. I am most concerned that we privilege the responses from congregations/deaneries that are not at this (or recent) conventions

Excerpt from 2023 Convention Minutes: Discussion on Future Conventions.

➤ Rev. Lauran Pifke and Rev. Betty Glover led discussion regarding the Survey for Future Diocesan conventions:

Fred Hanson, Holy Spirit, Eagle River asked about the financial goal of conventions. Rev. Betty Glover explained there is not a goal to make money but the reserve fund that amounted during Covid was depleting and a deficit could not continue.

Todd Mashlan, St. Peter's, Seward, asked why a full-hybrid meeting was not an option. Suzanne Krull explained the equipment is not available and the cost is more than in person.

Barbara Learmonth, St. Brendan's, Juneau, commented on a modified agenda for online zoom.

Loren Hill referenced speakers and tools to bring back to congregations offered at the 2023 South Central Deanery Convention and suggested diocesan convention be modeled similarly.

Jan Hotze suggested an option for meeting in person every 3 years for an extra day for community building with the interim years online.

Fred Hanson suggested an initial set cost covered by the diocese and the remaining cost be covered by the church to put the responsibility on the church to raise money for convention.

Mary Edwin Moses, St. James, Tanana, shared the technological issues for Tanana and surrounding villages to be able to participate in online gatherings.

Israel Portilla Gomez suggested the diocese work harder to gather and not search for an easy solution.

Emily Nenon, St. Mary's, Anchorage, encouraged Standing Committee to draw from experience of laity in the room who holds Zoom meetings in their professional contexts when considering how to hold future Zoom Diocesan Conventions.

Mary Jane Derendoff spoke for native people who weren't raised with computers and the difficulties in navigating online meetings.

Sterling Camden, St. Peters-by-the-Sea, Sitka, expressed the importance of building connections with people in other churches and the deficit that takes place with this during Zoom meetings because only one person can speak at time. He desires to meet in person always.

Catherine Knott, St. Augustine's, Homer, supports in person conventions specifically for indigenous peoples who must be returned to leadership positions and whose inclusivity is of importance and drew attention to the technological difficulties present in many villages.

Daisy Davenport, St. Brendan's, Juneau asked about cost difference between hybrid conventions and alternating online and in-person conventions every other year.

Anne Flint, St. Augustine's, Homer, spoke in favor of in person meetings based on her personal experience of online and in present diocesan conventions. She spoke about people being comfortable sharing things with each other in person that they would not share on Zoom.

Adam Lees, St. Mary's, Anchorage spoke in favor of in person meetings based on his previous personal experience as Dean of South Central.

Ross McKay, St. Mary's, Anchorage, drew attention to those who are not currently present and the exclusivity of this conversation as of hearing their reasonings for being unable to attend during this conversation.

Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron, St. Andrew's, Petersburg, highlighted the importance of being expansive to all levels of ability and her support for hybrid meetings.

Rev. Theresa Thomas, St. Jude's, North Pole, highlighted the importance of being a eucharistic church and being together physically.

Maggie McKay, St. Mary's, Anchorage, suggested the possibility of meeting as deaneries while zooming into together as a diocese and to stress the importance of human connection rather than business in meetings.

Rev. Marilyn Duggar, St. Mark's, Nenana, expressed the stress of the cost and affordability of traveling to in person conventions.

Barbara Learmonth, St. Brendan's, Juneau, expressed the importance of communities considering arranging priorities to provide a larger pledge to support the diocese.

Debbie Tritt-Kendi, Bishop Rowe Chapel, Arctic Village, reflected on past conventions that were more lively and her desire to return to them and asked about the possibility of meeting every other year.

Lisa Terwilliger, All Saint's, Anchorage asked about the possibilities of congregations having their members sponsor various needs of conventions through their vocational work.

Rev. Susan Mitchell, St. John's, Eagle, expressed her support of online conventions for the remote village of Eagle because of inabilities to travel.