

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Special Convention to Elect Our 17th Bishop Diocesan
Saturday, May 18, 2024
Trinity Church, Boston



To: Clergy, Delegates, and Lay Leadership of the Diocese
From: Julie Shea, Secretary of Convention
Date: March 19, 2024
Re: Convention to Elect a Bishop Diocesan

The special Diocesan Convention to elect the 17th bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Trinity Church (206 Clarendon Street) in Boston.

Online registration will open April 2, 2024. All attendees must pre-register.

The following preliminary information is offered to help you plan for Convention:

REGISTRATION: All attendees must pre-register and registration will open April 2, 2024. A registration link will be provided in a separate communication closer to the date.

CHECK-IN: All attendees must pick up credentials on Saturday, May 18, between 7:30-9:30 a.m. For security purposes, all attendees will need a badge to access the voting area. This includes diocesan staff, volunteers, vendors, and visitors. Voting members of Convention will receive their floor-access name badge and corresponding ballot information. There will be no absentee ballots and no substitute or transferable ballots (other than those issued to properly certified alternate delegates).

ELECTRONIC VOTING: Voting will be done electronically using a QR code that will be given to voting members at check-in. Those who are comfortable with the electronic voting mobile app may vote utilizing their own device (please be sure to bring your device fully charged). Alternatively, voting stations will be set up around the floor of the nave and volunteers will be on site to assist voting members with the process.

All canonically resident clergy of the diocese and lay delegates vote separately as “orders”; a majority of votes on the same ballot from both the clergy and lay orders is required for election.

CLERGY CANONICAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: In accordance with Diocesan [Canon 1, Sec. 3](#), all clergy desiring to vote at Diocesan Convention must be canonically resident two weeks prior to the start of the convention. Clergy in the process of becoming canonically resident should contact Laura Simons, registrar (lsimons@diomass.org), to complete this process by **Friday, May 3**.

CHANGES IN LAY DELEGATES: Delegate changes should be reported to the Convention Office via the substitute delegate form found [here](#). Substitute delegate forms will be accepted until **Friday, May 10**. After that date, please contact Laura Simons, registrar (lsimons@diomass.org), to ensure the change is processed.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT CHURCH FACILITIES: Only voting members and those with assigned credentials will have center floor access and seating. Non-voting attendees will be seated in the wings or in the balcony on a first-come, first-served basis and as space allows.

MEALS: Buffet-style breakfast will be available in the morning until 9:00 a.m. There will be a one-hour break for lunch if there is no election by 12:30 p.m. Lunch will not be provided on site. Attendees are strongly encouraged to order lunch ahead of time for pick up from one of the nearby restaurants listed on the Back Bay Restaurants List (following in this document) or to bring their own food.

TESTIMONIALS: No member of Convention shall be excused until the Convention is either recessed or until the election is announced and the signature of each voting member is obtained for the Testimonial of the Election. **This is a canonical requirement.** Voting members of Convention must sign by orders (clergy and lay) before leaving. The signing procedure will be electronic; once there has been an election, for the election to be certified, every voting member present will receive an email and will need to respond to it prior to leaving.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION: Any voting members who will need language translation during the Convention should contact the Convention Office by **Monday, April 8, 2024**, so that arrangements can be made.

ACCESSIBILITY: Trinity Church has a wheelchair-accessible nave and bathrooms, wheelchair-accessible meeting spaces and bathrooms, and first-come, first-served assistive listening devices available.

CHILDCARE: Childcare will not be provided. If you are a voting member and attending this Convention creates a need for you to hire childcare, and that is a financial hardship, reimbursement is available. Please contact the Convention Office (convention@diomass.org).

NOMINEES: Learn more about the nominees at <https://www.diomass.org/bishop-search/bishop-nominees>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

Back Bay Restaurant List

(sorted by distance from Trinity Church, 206 Clarendon St)

As the lunch break comes during a business session of a Diocesan Convention, you are reminded of [A Policy for the Use of Alcoholic Beverages for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#) which states:

No business or open discussion of the church's governance or financial affairs may be conducted during or after the serving or sharing of alcohol. This includes all diocesan governance bodies, commissions, and committees. Diocesan staff shall not participate in congregational governance meetings which take place during or after the serving of alcohol, including vestry meetings, search committees, all church committees, and all church school and youth group leadership groups.

Volunteers who do work on diocesan property or at diocesan-sponsored events must not be alcohol impaired or use alcohol while working on behalf of the diocese.

Most of these restaurants have their own online ordering options or use DoorDash, UberEats, etc. **You're strongly encouraged to order your food ahead of time for pick up.**

Chipotle Mexican Grill .1 mile

Fast-food chain offering Mexican fare, including design-your-own burritos, tacos & bowls.

<https://www.chipotle.com/>

553 Boylston St

DIG .1 mile

Casual restaurant chain for seasonal & locally sourced food made mostly with vegetables.

<https://www.diginn.com/>

557 Boylston St

Finagle A Bagel .1 mile

Comfy bagel outpost offering sandwiches, artisan breads & baked goods, plus soups & other cafe fare.

<http://www.finagleabagel.com/>

535 Boylston St

Flour Bakery + Café .1 mile

Bakery offering buttery breakfast pastries; soft + chewy cookies; luscious pies; gorgeous cakes; and fresh, made-to-order sandwiches, soups, and salads - all prepared daily by their dedicated team.

<https://www.flourbakery.com/>

131 Clarendon St

Smashburger .1 mile

Counter-serve chain featuring signature smashed burgers, plus sides & shakes.

<https://smashburger.com/>

545 Boylston St

Yamato II .1 mile

Cozy subterranean Japanese eatery serving sushi, sashimi, udon, ramen, yakitori & more.

<http://www.yamato02116.com/>

545 Boylston

Beatnic Vegan Restaurant .2 mile

Amazing vegan food that makes you want to sing, dance, and order seconds.

<https://www.eatbeatnic.com/>

399 Boylston St

Cafe Landwer .2 mile

Gourmet java brews and a Mediterranean cafe menu served in a welcoming atmosphere.

<https://www.landwercafe.com/>

653 Boylston St

Jonquils Café and Bakery .2 mile

Playful patisserie in a stylish space offering specialty coffees & teas, plus cakes & snacks.

<http://www.jonquilscafe.com/>

125 Newbury St

Life Alive Organic Café .2 mile

Vibrant, organic whole food in a welcoming, stress-free environment

<http://www.lifealive.com/>

431 Boylston St.

Newsfeed Café (Boston Public Library) .2 mile

Grab 'n' go counter in a library offering cafe fare such as sandwiches & salads with coffee & tea.

<https://www.newsfeedcafe.com/>

700 Boylston St.

Parish Café & Bar .3 mile

Gourmet sandwiches & craft cocktails invented by local chefs & bartenders, plus ample beer choices.

<https://parishcafe.com/menu/>

361 Boylston St

sweetgreen .2 mile

Locavore-friendly counter-serve chain specializing in organic salads & bowls.

<https://www.sweetgreen.com/>

659 Boylston St

Bon Me .3 mile

Boston-based food-truck and restaurant company serving delicious Asian-inspired eats.

<https://www.bonmetruck.com/>

411 Stuart St

Joe's on Newbury .3 mile

Relaxed bar & grill chain offering a varied American pub-food menu, along with kids' meals.

<http://joesonnewbury.com/>

181 Newbury St

J.P. Licks Ice Cream .3 mile

Local chain known for its signature flavors of ice cream & frozen yogurt, plus house-roasted coffee.

<http://www.jplicks.com/>

173 Newbury St

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers .3 mile

Fast-food chain specializing in fried chicken fingers, crinkle-cut fries & Texas toast.

<https://www.raisingcanes.com/>

755 Boylston St

Starbucks .3 mile

Seattle-based coffeehouse chain known for its signature roasts, light bites and WiFi availability.

<http://www.starbucks.com/>

755 Boylston St

Stephanie's on Newbury .3 mile

Bustling neighborhood standby for upscale New American patio dining & people-watching.

<http://www.stephaniesonnewbury.com/>

190 Newbury St

Tatte Bakery & Café .3 mile

Cozy spot with a rustic feel serving breakfast, soups, sandwiches, and an array of baked treats.

<https://tattebakery.com/>

399 Boylston St

Dirty Water Dough Company .4 mile

Craft pizzas, plus ciabatta sandwiches & salads in a cozy setting with a fireplace & wooden floors.

<http://dirtywaterdough.com/>

222 Newbury St.

Shake Shack Newbury Street .4 mile

Hip, counter-serve chain for gourmet takes on fast-food classics like burgers & frozen custard.

<https://shakeshack.com/>

234-236 Newbury St