



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street Boston, Massachusetts 02111 • 617-482-5800 • www.diomass.org

To: Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese
From: Kristina Frances, SSM, Secretary of Convention
Rachel Wildman, Assistant Secretary of Convention
Date: July 17, 2020
Re: 2020 Diocesan Convention

We are writing to notify you that the 235th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts will be a one-day event, taking place on **Saturday, November 7, 2020**, virtually via Zoom and livestreaming. The following are some Convention-related matters to which we want to call your attention.

This is preliminary information. Convention materials, including the schedule, will be sent by early October. Visit www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2020 for updates and materials as they become available.

Registration: Registration is open now through October 30. There is not a registration fee this year. We encourage you to consider donating to a diocesan ministry in place of the fee (available on the registration website). The registration page will also assess any technological assistance you may need.

Convention deadlines: The deadline for submission of all materials for Convention is Thursday, September 10, 2020, by 5:00 p.m. **No late submissions will be accepted after this deadline.** Allowances have been made for late submissions in the past. However, this year the office of the Secretary will not be able to accommodate any late submission. This includes:

- Nomination papers
- Applications for admission as a parish or mission of the diocese
- Required reports from diocesan committees

Resolutions: More information about the resolutions process will be forthcoming.

Nominations: A list of positions to be filled by election at this year's Convention accompanies this memo. We seek your assistance in ensuring that there are a number of qualified candidates for the various offices, and we urge you to consider running yourself or to help identify other candidates. Please file your nomination papers as soon as possible so that we will have time to seek additional nominees before the deadline of September 10 if needed.

For each nominee, don't forget to send:

- **Required form(s)**, including 75-word descriptive statement, to be published in the handbook so members of Convention can know something about the nominees
- **A digital headshot photo**, also to be published in the handbook.

Certification of Delegates: Any changes in your lay delegation must be communicated to the Convention Office as soon as possible. Certifications must be signed, and all Convention materials will be sent only to delegates currently registered in the Convention Office. Please notify the Convention Office as soon as possible with changes of address for any lay delegates or clergy. If you have any question about who is certified from your church, please call or email Chelsea Smith in the Convention Office.

Budget Process: The diocesan Budget Committee is in the process of preparing the proposed 2021 Diocesan Budget. If you have a proposal for consideration by the Convention that asks for financial support of any kind, directly or indirectly, through the development or expansion of a diocesan program or goal, it must be submitted through the appropriate channels in the budgeting process. The Diocesan Council will vote at its September 12, 2020, meeting on the proposed 2021 budget to be put forward to the Diocesan Convention.

Pre-Diocesan Convention Delegate Forums: These meetings in the fall offer an important opportunity for learning and discussion about the issues and business to come before the Convention. All forums will be virtual this year.

Evening forums are scheduled to take place from 7:00 to 8:30pm (unless otherwise specified) on:

- **Tuesday, October 6th:** Cape & Islands and Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay deaneries
- **Wednesday, October 7th:** Taunton River and South Shore deaneries
- **Thursday, October 8th:** Charles River and Alewife deaneries
- **Tuesday, October 13th:** Neponset River and Boston Harbor deaneries
- **Wednesday, October 14th:** Mystic Valley and North Shore deaneries
- **Thursday, October 15th:** Merrimack Valley and Concord River deaneries

We will also offer a daytime forum this year on:

- **Friday, October 9th:** Daytime Option at 2:00-3:30pm

We recommend that you join the meeting for your deanery, but welcome you to participate in a different one if that is more convenient for you. Zoom information will be sent out in the fall.

Fall Convention Mailing: We will again be sending the October mailing by email. The Convention handbook and budget book will be available online at the time of the mailing. Hard copies of each book will be available upon request. We encourage you to continue using your devices to access the documents online. If you have not done so already, please update your email address with the Convention office so that you receive all pertinent information.

Virtual Display Tables: We are offering partnership options this year, in place of the traditional display tables. Please contact Chelsea Smith (csmith@diomass.org) for more information if you are interested. Inquiries must be received no later than Thursday, September 10, 2020, to be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration, at 617-482-4826 x406 or csmith@diomass.org.

Accompanying documents:

- Positions to be filled by election at Convention 2020 (PDF)
- Nomination Form (PDF)
- Technology Requirements 2020 (PDF)