



To: Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese  
From: Rachel Wildman, Secretary of Convention  
Date: October 15, 2021  
Re: 2021 Diocesan Convention Logistics

The 236th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts is a two-day convention, taking place on **Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13** using Zoom and livestream on a virtual platform. For schedule details, please refer to page H-3 of the handbook. The following information is offered to help you plan for Convention:

**REGISTRATION:** All convention attendees must pre-register. If you have not already done so, please register online here: <https://cvent.me/Ega7G9>.

**CONVENTION MATERIALS:** All materials can also be accessed online at <https://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021> and will be available on our virtual platform mentioned below.

**VIRTUAL PLATFORM:** The convention agenda and corresponding Zoom links as well as other convention materials (candidates for election, proposed budget, resolutions, etc.) will be easily accessible through our virtual platform, hosted by Cvent. The platform will also contain opportunities for correspondence with other virtual attendees and information on our partners. The platform is already live and will be updated frequently with new content as convention day approaches. Please check your email for instructions on how to access it.

**CHECK-IN:** Due to the format of convention this year, registration is the only step required for check-in. We will be verifying credentials through the registration process and contacting you if we need any additional information.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING:** Voting for positions to be filled by election will be done electronically this year using the Voatz software as in recent years. As we will not be on-site this year, you will need to watch your email for your Voting Invitation. This invitation will walk you through how to download the Voatz app onto your smartphone or tablet as well as how to “credential” yourself as a voter using the verification key and unique voter ID provided to you in your Voting Invitation email. Due to the virtual nature of convention again this year, credentialing will be required in order to vote. If you are a returning voting member from last year and credentialed yourself last year, you will need to log back into the VOATZ mobile app, but you will not have to credential yourself again. The credentialing window will open on Wednesday, November 3rd. You are strongly encouraged to credential yourself prior to the start of convention day. The Voatz team will be available for technical support throughout the voting window, accessible through help icons in the app. On convention day, voting will be open from 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM. Clergy and lay delegates are welcome to vote at any time during this period.

Those who would prefer not to vote using a mobile device or without access to one will be able to vote by phone (a Voatz team member will call you to obtain your vote during the voting window). If you need to vote by phone, please indicate that at the appropriate prompt in your registration process. If you have already registered and would like to change your voting method from mobile app to vote by phone or vice versa, you can change your registration profile through our Cvent website at any time.

**PRE-CONVENTION DELEGATE FORUMS:** Please plan to attend one of the following pre-convention delegate forums via Zoom. These virtual meetings will include a presentation on the proposed diocesan budget for 2021, the electronic voting system and mobile app, as well as an opportunity to discuss resolutions, hear from nominees



*Members One of Another*

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and discuss other Convention business. Forums are scheduled to take place from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on the evenings of Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> and from 2:00 to 3:30 PM on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required to access the Zoom links for each forum. If you have not already done so, please register online here: <https://cvent.me/Ega7G9>.

**CLERGY CERTIFICATION DEADLINE:** 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 Convention. Clergy in the process of becoming canonically resident please contact Laura Simons at [lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) to complete this process by **Friday, October 22**.

**CHANGES IN LAY DELEGATES:** Delegate changes should be reported to the Convention Office via the substitute delegate form found here: [https://edom.formstack.com/forms/sub\\_delegate\\_form\\_2021](https://edom.formstack.com/forms/sub_delegate_form_2021). Substitute Delegate Forms will be accepted in the Convention Office **until Wednesday, November 10**. After that date, please contact the Convention Office ([convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org)) to ensure the change is processed.

This year, alternates are asked to register as “visitors” to the convention and download the voting app to their mobile devices should a last-minute change to delegate be required of them. Alternates will receive the Voting Invitation email with credentialing instructions, but are asked not to credential themselves unless they are substituted as the delegate.

**NON-BUSINESS CONVENTION PROGRAMMING OPEN TO EVERYONE IN THE DIOCESE:** This year, Diocesan Convention includes programming leading up to and during Convention that has been designed for all in the diocese. This includes a screening of the film “A Reckoning in Boston,” followed by a discussion with the filmmakers on Friday evening, November 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as an afternoon workshop series and evening keynote address on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> related to our Convention Theme of *Interdependence*. All in the diocese, not just those who are voting members of Convention, are enthusiastically encouraged to visit the Convention registration page to register for these engaging and formational opportunities. Please spread the word!

**QUESTIONS** may be directed to the Convention Office:

617-482-4826 x406

E-mail: [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org)