



**To:** Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese  
**From:** Rachel Wildman, Secretary of Convention  
**Date:** June 13, 2022  
**Re:** 2022 Diocesan Convention

You are enthusiastically invited to the 237th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts! Convention 2022 will be a two-day event guided by this year's theme (*By This They Will Know You: The Call of Love in Our Time and Place*). Please note that Convention 2022 is the last weekend of October this year!

*This following is preliminary information. Convention materials, including the schedule, will be sent on September 30. Visit [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2022) for updates and materials as they become available.*

### **Convention 2022 At a Glance:**

- **When:** Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA (COVID-permitting)
- **Schedule:**
  - Convention Friday (1pm-8pm)
    - 1pm-5pm: Thematic small-group programming
    - 6pm: Dinner and hymn/spiritual sing
  - Convention Saturday (9am to 4pm)
    - Convention Eucharist
    - Bishop's Address
    - Business Sessions

Convention is open to all in the diocese. Please read further for more information about our Friday programming, as well as the important work of voting members of Convention 2022.

### **Will we be in-person?**

Yes! Convention 2022 is currently planned as an in-person event at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA. However, COVID-related public health metrics will continue to be monitored and the safety of an in-person gathering assessed as the date gets closer.

### **Will there be a virtual option?**

To preserve the integrity of our business procedures, voting members will be required to attend our Saturday business sessions in-person at the hotel. However, for our Friday program, voting members will be able to choose between an in-person and a virtual option. Visitors will be able to choose between in-person and virtual access for both our Friday and Saturday sessions.

### **What is the Friday afternoon program?**

This year, the Friday afternoon program will be a series of small-group conversations in a retreat-like atmosphere. Guided conversations will use facilitated content and will provide an opportunity for participants to go deeper within themselves and with others by exploring the challenges and aspirations each has in placing God's love at the center of their lives. If you are yearning for a space to meet conversation partners and ask bold questions of faith, please plan to join us Friday afternoon of Convention! More details about our Friday program will be forthcoming.

**I am a voting member. Should I attend the Friday programs?**

Neither the Friday afternoon nor evening programs include any of the business of Convention and so are optional for voting members. However, we are very excited about them and do enthusiastically encourage you to attend!

**I am a visitor. Can I attend the Friday programs?**

Yes!! The Friday programs (afternoon session, evening dinner, and hymn/spiritual sing) are all intended for *everyone* in the diocese! Please do register and encourage your friends to as well!

**When and how do I register?**

Registration, including information about hotel accommodations for those who wish to stay the night, will open online in late June. Please watch for an email from the Convention Office with registration instructions.

**This is my first time as a delegate. What does being a delegate entail?**

Good question! Please look at the delegate orientation guide attached to this email. If you have additional questions after reading it, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Convention Office by emailing [Convention@diomass.org](mailto:Convention@diomass.org).

**What important dates should I mark on my calendar?**

The work of Convention begins well before October 28<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars with the following dates and see further along in this email for more information on each.

- Submission Deadline for Convention Materials:  
5:00pm on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
*No late submissions will be accepted after this deadline.* This deadline applies to:
  - Nomination papers and nominee video for Elected Positions
  - Applications for admission as a parish or mission of the diocese
  - Reports from diocesan committees, taskforces, or networks
  
- ***Please do NOT submit your materials via email. Instead, all submissions must be submitted online via this link: [https://bit.ly/diomass\\_materials\\_2022](https://bit.ly/diomass_materials_2022)***
  
- Commenting on Resolution Proposals:
  - Resolution Open Comment Period: September 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - Resolution Discussions on Zoom:
    - Tuesday, September 13<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm
  
- Pre-Convention Delegate Forums on Zoom (attend 1):
  - Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Central Region
  - Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Northern and Western Region
  - Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:30 pm, Any Region
  - Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Southern Region

*This year, all delegates are asked to view the pre-recorded video reports ahead of the Delegate Forums. If you'd like to watch those together, please join one of the two viewing*

nights, below. Otherwise, delegates may view those presentations on-demand ahead of the Delegate Forums.

- Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

### **Who can submit a resolution and how?**

Any certified lay delegate or canonically resident clergyperson can submit a resolution. The resolutions process will again be as follows:

- Draft a resolution and submit it to the Resolutions Committee by September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm ([https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2022\\_resolutions\\_submission](https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2022_resolutions_submission)):
  - Submitters of resolutions with **budgetary implications** must contact the Resolutions Committee no later than the submission deadline to be put in contact with appropriate support
  - Whenever possible, resolutions should include a diversity of signatories from across the diocese
- Evaluate and refine resolutions by participating in the open comment period:
  - Offer your written feedback to resolutions via the online form
  - Participate in resolution discussions (dates above) to learn more about each resolution and provide your feedback verbally

### **What positions are open this year, and how do I run for election?**

All those in the diocese are enthusiastically encouraged to participate in our common life by sharing their gifts and talents via elected office. A list of positions to be filled by election at this year's Convention accompanies this memo. Please look and see if there is an opening for which your passion and/or gifts are called!

Please file your nomination papers as soon as possible, but no later than September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't forget to send:

- **Nomination form (PDF)**, 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.
- **A 1-minute or shorter video** describing your interest in the position and the gifts you can bring to it.

*All materials must be submitted here: [https://bit.ly/diomass\\_materials\\_2022](https://bit.ly/diomass_materials_2022)*

### **Why is it important to certify my lay delegates?**

Because Convention materials will only be sent to certified delegates currently registered in the Convention Office! Therefore, if there are any changes in your lay delegation, please communicate that to the Convention Office as soon as possible. Please also notify the Convention Office as soon as possible with email address changes for any lay delegates or clergy. If you have any question about who is certified from your church, please email the Convention Office ([convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org)).

### **Pre-Convention Delegate Forums and Preparatory Video Content:**

The virtual Pre-Convention Delegate Forums in the fall offer an important opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the Convention, including the proposed 2023 Diocesan Budget, Resolutions, and other important convention components. We recommend

that you join the meeting for your region, but welcome you to participate in a different one if that is more convenient for you. Meeting dates are above, and the meeting links will be sent out in the fall.

This year, delegates will be expected to view the pre-recorded video reports ahead of the forums so that more time during the forums can be devoted to questions and discussion. These videos will be available on-demand as well as shown in succession at our two viewing nights on the dates above. The on-demand video and viewing night links will be sent out in the fall.

**When will I receive the Convention handbook and other Convention materials?**

We will send out Convention materials on September 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Exhibitor Tables:**

We are bringing back exhibitor tables this year! Details will be shared when registration goes live. Please look for more information in late June.

If you have any questions, please contact the Convention Office ([convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org)).

Accompanying documents:

Positions to be filled by election at Convention 2022 (PDF)

Nomination Form (PDF)

Delegate Guidelines (PDF)

Submission links:

Resolutions ([https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2022\\_resolutions\\_submission](https://edom.formstack.com/forms/2022_resolutions_submission))

All other materials ([https://bit.ly/diomass\\_materials\\_2022](https://bit.ly/diomass_materials_2022))