

To: Clergy and Lay Leadership of the Diocese
From: Leon A. Brathwaite II, Secretary of Convention
Date: February 7, 2014
Re: Convention to Elect a Bishop Diocesan



In accordance with Article 11 of the Diocesan Constitution, eight weeks' notice is hereby given that there will be a Special Convention for the Election of a Bishop Diocesan on Saturday, April 5, 2014, beginning with a worship service at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, 138 Tremont Street, Boston. The following are some Convention related matters to which I want to call your attention.

Hotel accommodations: Arrangements have been made for a limited number of rooms on Friday night, April 4, at the **Boston Common Hotel & Conference Center**, 40 Trinity Place, Boston. To make your reservations please call the Reservations Line at 617-933-7700 and ask for the Room Block for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, or you may e-mail Erica Deagle, Director of Operations, at edeagle@bostoncommonhotel.com. Remember, you must ask for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts special group rate of \$159+tax. **All reservations must be made by March 4, 2014.**

Special note about church facilities: Only voting members of Convention and those with assigned credentials will have seats and access to the floor. Non-voting attendees will be seated in the balcony or in Sproat Hall on a first-come, first-served basis and as space allows.

Language Translation: Any voting members who will need language translation during the Convention should contact the Convention Office by **Monday, March 3, 2014** so that arrangements can be made.

Walk-Abouts: These open meetings in March offer an important opportunity to meet and learn about the nominees on the slate for election. Nominees announced Jan. 15 are: The Rev. Holly Antolini, The Rev. Ronald Culmer, The Rev. Alan Gates, The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin and The Rev. Sam Rodman. Any additional nominees who qualify via petition will be announced by early March and will participate in the walkabout meetings. The walkabouts are scheduled to take place during the week of **March 14-19**. Details about locations and times will be announced via email as soon as they are available. Information pertaining to the walkabouts and a list of the nominees with their biographical information can be found at <http://mabishopsearch.org>.

Certification of Lay Delegates: Delegate certification forms must be returned to the Convention Office no later than Friday, February 28, 2014. Certifications must be submitted in writing, 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 there are any questions about who is certified from your church, please call or email Laura Simons at the Convention Office.

Clergy Certification Deadline: In accordance with Diocesan Canon 1, Sec. 3, all clergy, in order to vote, must be canonically resident two weeks prior to the start of Convention. All paperwork must be submitted to Ms. Diane Pound (617-482-4826 x349/dpound@diomass.org) no later than Friday, March 7, 2014, in order to complete this process by the two-week deadline.

Registration: There will be no pre-convention registration. All attendees must register upon arrival on the morning of April 5, 2014. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and close once the balloting has begun in order to ensure the quorum. There will be no absentee ballots and no substitute or transferable ballots (other than those issued to properly certified alternate delegates).

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. Delegates must sign by orders (clergy and lay) before leaving.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Simons, Administrator to Convention and Council, at 617-482-4826 x 406 or lsimons@diomass.org.