

TO: All Clergy and Convention Delegates
FROM: Leon A. Brathwaite II, Secretary of Convention
DATE: October 6, 2016
RE: Arrangements for the 231st Diocesan Convention, November 4-5, 2016



The 231st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts will be a two-day Convention, taking place on Friday and Saturday, **November 4 and 5, 2016**, at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield. For schedule details, please refer to the Handbook. The following information is offered to help you plan for Convention:

TRANSPORTATION ALERT: Please be aware that a section of Rt. 128/I-95 near the Highland Avenue Bridge in Needham will be completely closed from the late evening on Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6. If you would typically use this route to get to Mansfield, please plan accordingly.

REGISTRATION: In order to make appropriate arrangements, we ask all Convention attendees to pre-register online here: <http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2016>
The registration fee, in the amount of \$25 per person, will cover a portion of the costs for coffee, lunch and the materials you will receive during the course of Convention. **Please complete this process no later than Monday, October 31.** If you are paying by check, please mail in your check to avoid long lines at Convention check-in.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro for accommodations Friday night at a special group rate of \$109 + tax for a single or double room. **Please make your reservation no later than Saturday, October 15.** To make your reservation, call (508) 339-2200 and use the 3 letter group code MED. Or you can make your registration online where the group code is already entered by following this link <https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=BOSMF&PMID=99801505&GPC=MED>

CREDENTIALS CHECK-IN will be open Friday, November 4, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Check-in to pick-up credentials will re-open on Saturday, November 5, from 7:15 am to 10:00 am.

FRIDAY NIGHT: Following the close of business on Friday, there will be an optional social hour and dinner to which all clergy, Convention delegates and guests are invited. The cost of the dinner is \$35 and sign-up is included as part of the on-line registration, which should be completed no later than Monday, October 31.

SATURDAY EUCHARIST: The Convention Eucharist will be on **Saturday morning at 8:30 am and will include the bishop's address.** Please plan to be there early so you can check-in prior to the start of Eucharist.

LUNCH ON SATURDAY: A variety of box lunches (including vegetarian and gluten free) will be provided for everyone. The cost of the lunch is included in the registration fee.

PRE-CONVENTION DELEGATE FORUMS: Please plan to attend one of the following pre-Convention delegate forums. These meetings will include a presentation on the proposed diocesan budget for 2017, the proposed Diocesan Mission Strategy, as well as an opportunity to discuss resolutions, hear from nominees and discuss other Convention business. Please bring the enclosed Convention materials. Forums are scheduled to take place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on:

- Wednesday, October 19 at Trinity Church (124 River Road) in Topsfield;
- Thursday, October 20 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- Tuesday, October 25 at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth; and
- Wednesday, October 26 at St. Andrew's Church (3 Maple Street) in Framingham.

CHILD CARE AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: We are offering child care for children ages 4 and under, and a children's program for kids ages 5-12. You may register your child for these programs as part of your online Convention registration process. All children who participate must be pre-registered. No walk-in registrations will be accepted. The cost per child is \$10 for Friday, \$15 for Saturday or \$25 for both days. For questions, please call Ms. Amy Cook (617-482-4826 x645) or email her at acook@diomass.org.

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 Ms. Diane Pound (617-482-4826 x407/dpound@diomass.org) to complete this process by **Friday, October 21, 2016**.

CHANGES IN LAY DELEGATES: Delegate changes should be reported by mail, email or fax (lsimons@diomass.org/617-482-8431) on the enclosed substitute delegate form to Ms. Laura Simons in the Convention Office. Names of alternate delegates will be accepted in the Convention Office **until Friday, October 28, 2016**. After that date, the alternate must bring to Convention the substitute delegate form, or a letter stating the alternate's name and address and the name of the delegate being replaced, indicating whether this is a permanent replacement or for this convention only. This letter must be signed by a warden or the clerk of the vestry. Without written documentation, the delegate must wait for Convention's approval to be allowed seat, voice and vote.

CONVENTION HANDBOOK AND BUDGET BOOK: Please read the Handbook and Budget carefully and inform your congregation about the issues to come before Convention. **Be sure to bring these materials with you to Convention.**

QUESTIONS may be directed to Ms. Laura Simons:

617-482-4826 x406

Fax: 617-482-8431

email: lsimons@diomass.org

Questions after October 28:

617-482-4826 x687

email: convention@diomass.org

Registration or questions concerning lay delegate status:

Ms. Suzette Phillips

617-482-4826 x222

email: shp@diomass.org