

CALL TO CONVENTION 2026

TO: The Assisting Bishop
Clergy
Parish Registrars
Senior Wardens
Chancellor of the Diocese
Treasurer of the Convention
Registrar of the Diocese
Lay Members of the Standing Committee
Lay Members of Diocesan Council
Members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons
Chairpersons of Departments, Commissions, and Committees

FROM: The Ven. Laura Harbaugh, Secretary to Diocesan Convention

DATE: October 29, 2025

In accordance with requirements set out in its Constitution and Canons, notice is hereby given that the 158th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held on, Friday, February 27th and Saturday, February 28th, 2026, under the theme **“Coming Together in Love”**. We are blessed to have the former Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry with us for convention 2026 as our Keynote speaker for our Friday evening Banquet Dinner, and as our Preacher for our Saturday morning Eucharist.

In recent years, we have held convention in alternating convocation churches, following a three-day hybrid format of a Thursday evening Zoom business session, a Friday evening Eucharist service, and an in-person Saturday continuation of business sessions. True to our long-term plan, we will bring everyone together for a two-day convention and offer worship, business sessions, banquet and program under one roof, to offer more social interaction.

The 2026, 158th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel and Conference Center, in Ocean City, Maryland. The Southern Convocation will be our official hosts and will be planning our worship. Friday registration opens at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m.

Please note: financial considerations should be made now to help cover the costs for your Clergy, Delegates and Alternates to be able to attend a two-day convention in Ocean City, MD. The registration fee will be \$200, which will include all meals and materials. The hotel will be booked directly with the Princess Royale. We have negotiated a special room rate of \$129.00 per night (ocean view), \$169.00 per night (ocean front). More information will be posted to our website on the registration page.

At the first session, the Diocesan Convention will be formally organized. The first session will witness the opening formalities, conduct appointments, consent, approval and voting on diocesan officers, deputies to General Convention, departments, committees, boards and council's appointees. Reports from ministries of the Diocese, Constitution and Canons resolutions, as well as resolutions with debate and opportunities for

workshops will be on the agenda for Business Sessions 2-4. Business Sessions are compulsory for all parish delegates and canonically resident clergy with seat, voice and vote.

This worship service with former Presiding Bishop Curry is opened to every member of the diocese – delegates, alternates and non-delegates alike.

A draft copy of the convention agenda will be posted to our website in the near future.

CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

Canon 205.2 – Number of Delegates and Alternates

Each parish or mission is entitled to the following lay representation in Convention, depending upon the sum of its members in good standing and others active, as reported in the annual parochial report or similar report filed in the calendar year immediately preceding the Convention:

- (a) Two to one hundred ninety-nine (2-199), two (2) delegates
- (b) Two hundred to four hundred ninety-nine (200-499), three (3) delegates
- (c) Five hundred to seven hundred ninety-nine (500-799), four (4) delegates
- (d) Eight hundred (800) or more, five (5) delegates

Each parish or mission is entitled to alternates in a number not to exceed its lay delegates.

PARISH REGISTRARS are asked to do the following:

- (1) Use this link [Credentials to the 158th Convention of the Diocese of Easton](#) for a copy of the credential form for DELEGATES and ALTERNATES. Please fill out a form for each duly elected delegate and alternate. Make sure the appropriate box is checked indicating delegate or alternate.
- (2) Obtain the signature of each delegate and alternate. Please be sure to include the mailing address, phone number and email address for each person.
- (3) The Registrar, Rector/Priest-in Charge or Warden can sign each form to certify.
- (4) Make one copy for your parish records and mail the originals to the Diocese of Easton, 314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601 Attn: Lynn Anstatt.

INFORMATIONAL & CONVOCATION MEETINGS

We will hold only one virtual Convocation Meeting via Zoom in February. Meeting information is listed below:

Information Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 – 7:00 pm. Livestreamed via Zoom - from Bray House

Convocation Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 – 7:00 pm. Livestreamed via Zoom - from Bray House

A reminder to all clergy and lay delegates: At the convocation meeting we are charged to nominate people from each convocation, to serve on the Diocesan Council for a three-year term. The representatives for this three-year

term are chosen by the convocation, and ratified by the Diocesan Convention, according to Article XII, Sec. 1, of the Diocesan Constitution.

We ask that you give serious consideration to people who would be able and willing to serve as a member of Diocesan Council. Their names will be presented to the Convention.

The vacancies to be filled are:

The North will select a **CLERGY** person

The Middle will select a **LAY** person

The South will select a **LAY** person

A copy of the preliminary 2026 budget will be sent out November 20, 2025, which will be explained and discussed at the December informational meeting and the February convocation meetings.

PLEASE NOTE: canonically resident clergy, lay delegates, and alternates should make every effort to be present at the convocation meeting. All other members of the Diocese who wish to attend are also welcome.

It is suggested that every parish delegation to the convocation meeting should include: the wardens, treasurers, representatives of the Finance Committee, as well as clergy and elected delegates and alternates to the 158th annual Diocesan Convention.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS WITH DEBATE

The deadline for submission for all other resolutions with debate is December 6, 2025. Resolutions must be sent in writing, preferably in Word or Adobe attachments to the Secretary of Convention:

laura@dioceseofeaston.org, or mailed to Committee on Resolutions, Diocese of Easton, 314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601-3684.

Resolutions received after December 6, 2025, and by February 6, 2026, will be considered by the Committee on Resolutions, however, final wording is at the discretion of the Committee. Any resolution received after February 6, 2026, will be referred to the 2027 Diocesan Convention

NON-PAROCHIAL CLERGY ENTITLED TO VOTE

Clergy Annual Reports Requested

Under the provisions of Article IV Sec 3 (a) (3) of the Constitution of the Diocese of Easton, non-parochial clergy, not under ecclesiastical discipline, who has been certified by the Bishop as a non-parochial cleric canonically resident in this Diocese, and who has made the annual report required by the canons of the General Convention are entitled to vote. Please forward your Annual Report to Lynn Anstatt at

lynn@dioceseofeaston.org.