



CALL TO CONVENTION

TO: The Bishop
 Clergy
 Parish Registrars
 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 Venerable Laura Harbaugh, Secretary to Diocesan Convention

DATE: October 30, 2024

In accordance with requirements set out in its Constitution and Canons, notice is hereby given that the 157th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held on, Thursday, March 6th, Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th, 2025, organized around a hybrid model under the theme **“By their fruit you shall know them”: Camp Wright – Preserving our Heritage. Our Legacy (St. Matthew 7:20)**. We will utilize the hybrid model for the 157th Diocesan Convention which will include the Diocesan Virtual Platform from Bray House and in-person at Christ Church, Stevensville.

The 2025, 157th Annual Diocesan Convention will be hosted by the Middle Convocation, at Christ Church, Stevensville. The Diocesan Convention is scheduled over a three-day model commencing Thursday, March 6th (Zoom format). Thursday registration opens at 5:00 p.m. followed by the First Business Session.

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, departments, committees, boards and council's appointees. Reports from ministries of the diocese will be presented, as well as resolutions with debate. This session is compulsory for all parish delegates, alternates and officers of convention.

Friday, March 7th will be the Opening Eucharist of Diocesan Convention at Christ Church, Stevensville, beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a reception hosted by the parish in the

Parish Hall. This worship service is opened to every member of the diocese – delegates, alternates and non-delegates alike. Clergy and lay of the Middle Convocation will be responsible for the service. This event is optional for delegates to the convention.

The final day is Saturday, March 8th, Diocese Convention resumes at 9:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Stevensville with the Second Business Session. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. At the Second Business Session, the agenda will include the Bishop's Address, presentation of the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2025, Treasurer's Report and other areas of diocesan ministry.

A detailed agenda will follow.

CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES

Canon 205 – 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 <https://dioceseofeaston.org/convention2025/> 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 addresses, phone number and email address.
- (3) The Registrar, Rector/PIC 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 by 12-15-24.

INFORMATIONAL & CONVOCATION MEETINGS

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

Information Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 10, 2024 – 7:00 pm Livestreamed via Zoom - from Bray House, Easton

Convocation Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 11, 2025 – 7:00 pm Livestreamed via Zoom - from Bray House, Easton

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 confirmed 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 for ratification. The vacancies to be filled are:

The North will select a **LAY** person
The Middle will select a **LAY** person
The South will select a **CLERGY** person

A copy of the preliminary 2025 budget will be sent out November 21, 2024, which will be explained and discussed at the December informational meeting and the February convocation meetings.

PLEASE NOTE: The Bishop expects canonically resident clergy, lay delegates, and alternates to 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 157th annual Diocesan Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION & CANONS

Pursuant to Article XVII 1. (a) and Canons 505.3 (b) and 505.5 (a), notice is hereby given that all proposed amendments to the Constitution and /or Canons of the Diocese of Easton must be submitted in writing to the Committee on Constitution and Canons by no later than November 1, 2024. Proposed changes must be sent in writing, preferably in Word or Adobe attachment, or plain text in an email. Please email these proposals to Mr. Thomas Hylden tom.hylden@outlook.com. They may be mailed to Mr. Thomas Hylden at 7656 Todd Lane, Mardela Springs, MD 21837.

Pursuant to Canon 505.4, the Committee on Constitution and Canons require that any proposed amendments to parish by-laws be submitted to the Committee, prior to their final adoption by the parish, for its opinion as to their legality under the laws of Maryland and under the Episcopal Church and Diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Most parishes make decisions regarding bylaw amendments at their annual congregational meeting in January 2025 or before. If your parish wishes to have the Committee review and respond to any proposed bylaw amendments for consideration at your January 2025 congregation meeting, the deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Earlier submissions are welcome as they can provide for expedited consideration and discussion with the parish where appropriate.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Committee with questions, or to send them to us through the Diocesan office. Proposed amendments to parish bylaws may be sent by email to tom.hylden@outlook.com or to the Committee through the Diocese's Communications Director, Joanne Fisher, at joanne@dioceseofeaston.org.

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, 2024, and by February 6, 2025, will be considered by the Committee on Resolutions. However, final wording is at the discretion of the Committee. Any resolution received after February 6, 2025, will be referred to the 2026 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.