

Sept. 10, 2020

**Reminder of Saturday’s convocation meetings**

The annual pre-convention meetings of the convocations of the diocese will take place by Zoom video conferencing this year, and all of them will be this Saturday, Sept. 12:

* Northwest Convocation: 9 a.m.
* Southeast Convocation: 10:30 a.m.
* Northeast Convocation: 1 p.m.
* Southwest Convocation: 2:30 p.m.

Links to join the online meeting will be sent by convocation leaders to delegates and clergy in advance of the meetings.

Bishop Bascom and members of the diocesan staff will be online for those meetings to answer questions.

**Convention book is now online**

The convention book, with nominees for elected office, the proposed financial mission plan and more, has been mailed to all lay delegates and clergy with the hope that it is available ahead of this weekend’s convocation meetings.

If also has been posted on the convention page of the diocesan website as a PDF: <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/documents/2020-Convention-book-web.pdf>

**Convention registration information**

In the mailing to all lay delegates and clergy that included the convention book, there also was important information about registering for Diocesan Convention.

* The form to register is online: <https://edok.formstack.com/forms/diocon2020>.
* The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 2.
* Delegates and clergy may participate by meeting in-person at the designated location in their minster, or individually online. Please indicate that preference on the form.
* Each person attending convention, whether in-person or digitally, must complete a separate online registration form.
* The registration fee is $35 per person.
* Voting will take place online this year for all convention members. Each voting member – lay delegate or clergy – must have access to a device that connects to the Internet in order to vote: laptop, desktop computer, tablet or smart phone.

Anyone with questions about convention should contact Michele Moss, convention coordinator, at [mmoss@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mmoss@episcopal-ks.org).

**Journal of the 160th Annual Convention also is online**

By diocesan canons, a copy of the Journal of the previous year’s convention is to be provided to all clergy who are canonically resident in the diocese no later than the pre-convention convocation meetings.

The Journal, which is bound with the diocesan Directory, has been mailed to all clergy. But to ensure that the canon on Journal distribution is met, this is notice to all members of the clergy that the Journal from the 2019 Diocesan Convention also is available on the diocesan website, as a PDF, at <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/life/documents/2020-Journal.pdf>.

**Dismantling Racism online training for youth**

With all that has happened over the summer, it is past time to begin talking about anti-racism as a youth community. Engaging this work inspires hope and helps us get a clearer view of God’s Kingdom. The classes include videos, a journal, discussion and activities. While it is a serious topic, it is also interesting and fun to explore as a group.

For youth in grades 8-12, it meets every other Thursday, 7–8:30 p.m., from Sept. 24 to Dec. 3. Sign-up online to get the link for meetings.

Trainings will be led by Karen Schlabach and Michael Funston. Please register online in advance to receive the link for the trainings and to be emailed materials in advance. We ask that participants commit to attending all six sessions.

Read more about the curriculum here: <https://www.eycdioatl.org/uploads/4/6/5/7/46578657/flyer_for_youth_curriculum.pdf>

Sign-up **by Sept. 23** at <https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?idCamp=986&campCode=1sC&idSession=284056>.

**Resources on voting and voter registration**

With the general election now less than two months away, a variety of resources are available to help churches engage with their community to encourage people to register and to vote.

All efforts are non-partisan and seek to promote voter engagement without advocating for any candidate or party.

Bishop Bascom has endorsed the effort to mark Sunday, Oct. 25 as “Vote Faithfully Sunday,” to help people remember and prepare for Election Day, Nov. 3.

**Vote Faithfully**: This is an initiative of the Episcopal Church, noting that Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has said, “It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church’s responsibility to help get souls to the polls.” Information about Vote Faithfully is available through a toolkit PDF provided by the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations: <https://episcopalchurch.org/files/vote_faithfully_2020_election_toolkit_updated.pdf>

Stickers and magnets that say, “I’m an Episcopalian and I VOTED,” with the hashtag #VoteFaithfully, can be ordered by email at [eppn@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:eppn@episcopalchurch.org).

**Voter to Voter**: Members of the Diocese of Kansas already are involved with Voter to Voter, which facilitates “relational organizing.” It asks individuals to sign-up as “ambassadors” and reach out to 10 people they already know to make sure they know when the upcoming election is, how to get a vote-by-mail ballot, where to see a sample ballot, where to find early voting locations, and to get reminders to mail in their ballot early.

Those who want to be part of the diocesan “team” to increase voter turnout can do so at <https://votertovoter.org/episcopal-diocese-of-kansas>.

**General election information**: The website of the Kansas Secretary of State has resources for people to learn who is on their local ballots, how to volunteer to be a poll worker and much more: <https://sos.ks.gov/elections/elections.html>

Important dates to note:

* Oct. 13: last day to register to vote
* Oct. 14: advance voting in person and by mail may begin
* Oct. 27: last day to apply for advance ballots by mail
* Nov. 3: General election
* Nov. 6: deadline for receipt of advance ballots postmarked on or before Election Day

**Churches and the proposed payroll tax deferment**

In August, President Trump signed a memo directing the Treasury Department to allow employers to defer withholding tax. After consulting with the Council of Deans and the comptroller, Bishop Bascom recommends that parishes opt out and continue to make the withholding on behalf of their lay employees.

The memo would have allowed employers to defer withholding the 6.2 percent of employee-side Social Security tax from September-December 2020 payroll for employees making less than $4,000 on a biweekly basis. In Episcopal parishes, this would affect lay employees exclusively.

In its current form, this is a **deferral** and employees will need to pay the deferred tax by April 15, 2021. (If an employee leaves a position, the parish will be liable to pay the employee’s portion for months worked.)

Generally such staff decisions are the rector’s, but in parishes where bylaws indicate that this is a Vestry decision, a resolution should be passed at the September Vestry meeting to opt out of the deferral. Once the decision is made, parishes should communicate with their payroll services before September payroll is processed.

**Liturgy, Music and the Arts Task Force seeks new members**

People in the diocese who have an interest in music or the arts are invited to be part of the subgroups of the Liturgy, Music and the Arts Task Force focusing on these areas. Clergy and lay people both are encouraged to be involved.

If interested, contact task force co-chair the Rev. Mary Schrom Breese at [momary1400@gmail.com](mailto:momary1400@gmail.com) or (816) 262-2507.

**Youth news**

**>> YouthTide! registration is now open.** YouthTide! is an event where participants learn more about the entire Episcopal Church calendar. Come ADVENTure with us through **all** the seasons of the Episcopal church year!

* **When:** Nov 6-8; 3 Sessions and a worship service (youth may sign up for any and all sessions)
  + Session 1: Advent and Christmas: Friday, Nov. 6, 7–8:30 p.m.
  + Session 2: Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week: Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–noon
  + Session 3: Easter, Pentecost, Season after Pentecost: Saturday, Nov. 7, 2–4 p.m.
  + Session 4: Worship with spiritual communion: Sunday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.–noon
* **Where:** ONLINE, with “YouthTide-in-a-box” sent to all youth who register by the priority registration deadline, Oct. 23
* **Who:** Youth currently in grades 6-12 at the time of the event
* **Fee:** $10 suggested donation to pay for your event box
* **Registration**: Available in UltraCamp: <https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=986&campCode=1sC>
* **Questions?** Contact Michael Funston, Associate for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, [mfunston@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mfunston@episcopal-ks.org)

**>> Monthly youth game night and Compline.** On the first Sunday of the month, there will be a youth game night for all youth in the diocese in grades 6-12. We’ll play charades, Jack Box games, Family Feud and lots more. We’ll end with our traditional youth Compline each night.

Join us:

* Sunday, Oct. 4, 7–8:30 p.m.
* Sunday, Nov. 1, 7–8:30 p.m.
* Sunday, Dec. 6, 7-8:30 p.m.

Email Karen Schlabach for the link and password: [kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org).

**Campus ministry news**

**>> Weekly campus ministry programs**

* **The Word @Washburn**, Washburn Student Union, Mondays, noon–1 p.m. Discussion on the week’s lectionary
* **Canterbury @ K-State**, 1823 Laramie, Manhattan, Mondays, 6:30–8 p.m. Dinner, program and Compline (held outside with masks and social distancing)
* **Canterbury House of Lawrence**, 1116 Louisiana, Lawrence, Tuesdays 6–7:15 p.m. Dinner and program (held outside with masks and social distancing)
* **Blessings on the Go @ KU**, on Jayhawk Boulevard, Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
* **Haskell Indian Nations University Donuts & Discussion**, Wednesdays 3–4 p.m. on Zoom (BYOD); email Clarke for the link: [internku@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:internku@episcopal-ks.org)
* **Young Adult and Graduate Student Small Group** is for any young adults who would like to join. Wednesdays 7–8 pm on Zoom; email Will Chaney for the link: [whdc425@gmail.com](mailto:whdc425@gmail.com)
* **Campus Ministry Small Group**, for any college students who would like to join. Wednesdays 8:15–9:15 p.m. on Zoom; email Clarke for the link: [internku@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:internku@episcopal-ks.org)
* **Baker University Chapel**, Thursdays 11 a.m. at Osborne Memorial Chapel (held outside with masks and social distancing)
* **Tea & Compline**, Thursdays, 9 p.m., on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CMEC.KS>

**>> Canterbury Houses to hold monthly worship.** There will be a monthly Eucharist service at the Canterbury House of Lawrence and the Canterbury House at K-State. These are planned and led by Deacon Mary Donovan in her role as Curate for Campus Ministry. They will be broadcast on Facebook Live for all who are interested. In-person attendance requires an RSVP and will be limited. Upcoming services are:

* **Canterbury at K-State**, 1823 Laramie St., Manhattan (outside with masks and social distancing), Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/CanterburyKSU> (rain date, Sept. 24).
* **Canterbury House of Lawrence**, 1116 Louisiana St., Lawrence. Thursday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/kucanterbury>

**New “Way of Love” resources provided for small group ministry**

The Episcopal Church continues to offer new resources for congregations interested in following the Way of Love as a way of life by starting small group ministries. New resources include the “Building an Intentional Small Group Ministry” information packet, an infographic, video compilations and social media graphics.

Inspired by the foundation laid by Arlin Rothauge’s work and booklet, “Making Small Groups Effective,” the “Building Intentional Small Groups” information packet can help congregations answer the questions of why, what, when and how of small group ministry. Written and curated by formation and evangelism leaders across the church, the packet is an instructional tool to help churches as they begin or re-start an intentional faith-based small group ministry.  This is not a curriculum, but instead a tool to help adapt existing curricula and other formation resources for a small group context.

Resources are online at <https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/intentional-small-group-resources>

**Webinar offered on climate change**

The Episcopal Church, in collaboration with a coalition of interfaith partners led by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will offer a webinar on “Good Trouble for a Healthy Planet” on Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon Central time.

It will address the impact of human activity on the planet and the urgent need for action to obtain sustainable and resilient communities globally and develop strategies for moving forward to address climate change. It will feature opening and closing plenaries, as well as concurrent workshops that will run from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Registration is online at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkdeGqpzkuGdLYdCV0jsxl-Fjv0GMoMyHB>.

The deadline to register is Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. Central time.

Additional information is on the Episcopal Church website at <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/good-trouble-healthy-planet-2020-faith-based-organization-consultation-climate>.

**Online workshops offered by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center**

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a series of online workshops for church leaders. The Center is known for its work in peacemaking, conflict resolution and mediation

* Confliction Transformation Skills: <https://lmpeacecenter.org/events-page/conflict-transformation-skills/>
* Healthy Congregations: <https://lmpeacecenter.org/events-page/hc/>
* Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: <https://lmpeacecenter.org/events-page/lac/>

The Center’s website is <https://lmpeacecenter.org/>.

**Minutes of Council of Trustees meeting now are online**

Minutes of the June 24, 2020, meeting of the Council of Trustees have been approved and now are posted on the diocesan website: <http://www.episcopal-ks.org/news/Council-of-Trustees-minutes.php>.

**Anniversaries of ordinations**

Congratulations go to these people as they celebrate the anniversaries of their ordination in the next two weeks:

**Sept. 12**: Deacon Charles Durland, St. Paul’s, Coffeyville (1 year)

**Sept. 15**: The Rev. Kevin Schmidt, St. Francis’, Overland Park (19 years)

**Sept. 16**: The Rev. Ron Reed, retired (48 years)

**Sept. 21**: The Rev. David Kent, St. Timothy’s, Iola (57 years)

**Stay in touch with the diocese on social media**

You can find news, features and updates from the diocese on social media. We’re on Facebook – EpiscopalDioceseofKansas (<https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseofKansas>), Twitter – @EpiscoKs and Instagram – @EpiscoKs.

You can find diocesan youth and campus ministries on Instagram, too:

* Youth: @edokyouth
* Canterbury House of Lawrence: @canterburylfk
* Canterbury at K-State: @canterburyatkstate

**Next DioLog**

The next edition of *DioLog* will be sent to subscribers on Thursday, Sept. 24. Information to be included should be sent to Melodie Woerman, diocesan director of communications, at [mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org) no later than Tuesday, Sept. 22.

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