

Sept. 24, 2020

**Oct. 2 is deadline to register for Diocesan Convention**

**All lay delegates and clergy who want to participate and vote in Diocesan Convention** on Oct. 24 need to be registered, and the deadline to do that is Friday, Oct. 2.

Here are other important things for those attending to know:

* 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.

Interested in watching the proceedings? Those who are not voting members of the convention are welcome to watch as the Zoom feed will be live streamed to the diocesan YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/episcopaldioceseofkansas>.

Anyone with questions about convention should contact Michele Moss, convention coordinator, at mmoss@episcopal-ks.org.

**Diocesan Convention, minster sites and COVID**

Looking to Convention, Bishop Cathleen Bascom remains committed to offering in-person minster attendance opportunities but also to keeping Episcopal clergy and delegates safe. As everyone knows, any voting member is free to attend convention from their home via Zoom.

The bishop also has been in conversation with a group of medical advisors for further guidance. As directed by that team, the bishop and Canon Funston have been carefully tracking two public health metrics from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for each county in which there is a church of the diocese:

* weekly cases per 100,000 resident
* 14-day average percent of positive tests

The medical team has advised that a standard of 100 cases per 100,000, and 10 percent positivity rate, be used for decision-making.

(Information from KDHE is available at <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>)

At the Sept. 23 Council of Trustees meeting, the council affirmed Bishop Bascom’s two-level approach described below:

1. Using the metrics and the standard above, if any county has both numbers above the advised level, the bishop will decide that clergy and delegates from those counties need to attend convention by Zoom. The diocesan staff will be in touch with both clergy and lay delegates of those counties advising them of this. This information will come in plenty of time for any involved to get comfortable with Zoom attendance.
2. The bishop also has asked the minster shepherds of the 12 minsters to discuss the matter with their team and discern whether local realities lead them to decide it is wisest for their minster to participate via Zoom, no matter whether county numbers exceed the guidelines. The bishop wholeheartedly supports any minsters led to do so.

Please note these **important** **decision dates**:

* **Monday, Sept. 28:** Minster shepherds will be invited to consider an alternate site if host congregations are in counties with both numbers “above-the-line.”
* **Thursday, Oct. 8,:** Minster shepherds (having been empowered by the bishop) will communicate to the bishop their minster’s decision about whether and where to meet in person.
* **Monday, Oct. 12:** A final decision about individual minster sites will be made, incorporated with minster decisions from the Oct. 8, and sent to all lay delegates and clergy.

**Zoom trainings ahead of convention**

Delegates and clergy who would like to have in-depth instructions about how to use Zoom to participate in Diocesan Convention are invited to attend one of two scheduled training sessions:

* Sunday, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.
* Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.

The link to access these training sessions will be sent in advance to all lay delegates and clergy. This also is the chance for anyone to ask questions about the Zoom process or other items.

A shorter form of orientation without time for questions will happen at the beginning of the convention’s business session.

**Reminder for churches about worship this weekend**

With clergy away from parishes this weekend attending the Gathering of Clergy, either in-person at the Spiritual Life Center or online via Zoom, Bishop Bascom has made available her sermon from Monday’s chapel service for use by all churches this weekend.

A video of the sermon (in .wmv format), as well as a written manuscript, can be accessed from a diocesan Dropbox folder: [https://www.dropbox.com/home/Diocese%20of%20Kansas's%20shared%20workspace/Sermons-Old%20Saints%20for%20New%20Days](https://www.dropbox.com/home/Diocese%20of%20Kansas%27s%20shared%20workspace/Sermons-Old%20Saints%20for%20New%20Days)

A video of the livestream of the entire service from St. Mary’s Chapel at Grace Cathedral is on the diocesan YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD4pFMnu5Os>

**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; three 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

**>> 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.

**Campus ministry Bishop’s Bowl will take place on Oct. 10**

Young adults, college students, campus ministry alumni and supporters are invited to the Bishop’s Bowl on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Canterbury House at K-State, 1823 Laramie Street in Manhattan. Everyone attending should bring a lawn chair and water bottle.

We are grilling out and playing yard games like cornhole, washers and giant Jenga. There will be a cornhole competition between houses to win the coveted Bishop’s Miter. There also will be a special video presentation from Bishop Bascom.

Participants are asked to RSVP to Anastasia Cunningham at internksu@episcopal-ks.org so she can ensure there will be enough food available.

**Is your church’s listing on the Episcopal Asset Map up-to-date?**

It’s important that all churches make sure their listing in the Asset Map is up-to-date. The map is used as the “find-a-church” feature on the Episcopal Church website and soon will for the diocesan website, too.

Not only is correct contact information important, but so are lists of parish ministries and worship times, both in-person and online.

Here is how to add items to make your listing as complete as possible:

1. Go to [www.episcopalassetmap.org](http://www.episcopalassetmap.org)
2. Find your church/organization using the search function in the center of the screen.
3. Click on the pin that designates your church/organization.
4. On the right-hand side of the screen, click on the box that says “More Details.”
5. In the upper left, click on “Update this place.”
6. On the left-hand side, click on the areas you want to update.
7. After all updates have been made, go to the bottom and hit “Save and submit.”

Questions? Contact the diocesan Asset Map administrator Melodie Woerman at mwoerman@episcopal-ks.lorg.

**Presiding Bishop Curry authors new book**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has released a new book entitled “Love is the Way,” now available for purchase: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/605848/love-is-the-way-by-bishop-michael-curry-with-sara-grace/>

Beginning with his famed sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018, Bishop Curry expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life as the son of a civil rights activist and a descendant of enslaved people in America.

This follows his earlier book, “The Way of Love,” that included the royal wedding sermon and other sermons of his that focused on his overarching message of love.

**Copyright-free hymns are still available**

Church Publishing has provided a PDF of hymns available to churches to use without copyright restriction in online worship, **through Nov. 22.**

The list of hymns is online as a PDF at <https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/free-hymns2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0i4hFy30BdwazmoMnsv1BNroh-NuUxJjIiUvKEtCPPPUovIYGjTc2Fn90>

**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.

**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

**Church Pension Group offers additional months of clergy pension waivers**

In March the Church Pension Fund issued a statement that they were working to find ways to ease the “financial — and emotional — distress that many church employers, clergy and lay employees are experiencing.”

One way was to help is to “waive the obligation that some parishes owe to CPF for clergy pension plan assessments for a period of up to two months.”

They recently announced that they have extended the potential waiver period to four months per cleric. These waivers require the approval of the diocesan bishop and must be given one month at a time, up to four months per person.

Churches needing more information should contact Jay Currie, the diocesan comptroller, at jcurrie@episcopal-ks.org.

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

Minutes of the Aug. 19, 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>.

**Staff changes**

**Taylor Mather** has moved from part-time employee to contract work for the diocese on weekends, as he has accepted a full-time job with Washburn Tech. He will continue to assist with online meetings of diocesan task forces.

**The Rev. Jennifer Allen**, bishop’s curate for mission, now is in the diocesan office Monday through Thursday from 1–3 p.m., assisting the bishop with correspondence. The rest of her hours are in her office at Bethany House.

**Anniversaries of ordinations**

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

**Sept. 26**: Deacon Don Chubb, Grace Cathedral, Topeka (44 years)

**Sept. 27**: Deacon Patty Minx, non-parochial (17 years)

**Sept. 29**: The Rev. Marc Lee, non-parochial (40 years); the Rev. Craig Sweeny, licensed, Diocese of Bethlehem (19 years)

**Oct. 1**: The Rev. Ty Petty, non-parochial (48 years)

**Oct. 5**: The Rev. Kay Dagg, St. Paul’s, Clay Center (18 years)

**Oct. 6**: Deacon Terry Miescher, St. Bartholomew’s at St. John’s, Wichita (21 years); Deacon Patsy Abshier, retired (21 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, Oct. 8. Information to be included should be sent to Melodie Woerman, diocesan director of communications, at mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org no later than Tuesday, Oct. 6.

*Parishes are free to excerpt anything printed in* DioLog; attribution that material is reprinted fromDioLogis appreciated. Feel free to copy this and make it available to parishioners in whatever way is most useful.

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