



For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11

September 2, 2022

Dear Delegates, Alternates, Clergy, and *ex officio* Members of Convention:

It will soon be time for the 163rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. We are blessed to gather again to conduct the business of the diocese and to ask God to imbue our words, actions, and our very lives with Christ's message of love.

This year we will gather for our business in-person at Grace Cathedral, Topeka in All Saints Hall starting mid-day on Friday, October 21. Due to space limitations, only voting members of Convention will be able to attend the business sessions, but a live video-stream of Convention will be made available to the public.

After our initial business session, we will welcome our neighbors and civic partners in celebration of the newly installed gardens at Bethany House and Garden. In this missional era, it is imperative that we move out into our communities with God's message of love. The Bethany House and Garden is a threshold, sending us out and beckoning in those in need of love. Members of the Diocese have been so generous, providing vision and donating funds to make these public gardens a reality. Our ribbon-cutting will incorporate our Convention Eucharist's Liturgy of the Word and will offer us a chance to say "Thank You" to God and "Welcome" to our neighbors. The Eucharist will continue in Grace Cathedral's nave.

Following worship, we are pleased to be hosted by St. David's, Topeka for our Convention Banquet, where we will continue our celebration with our annual awards and recognitions.

When we return to business on Saturday, October 22, we will elect at-large members of the Council of Trustees along with deputies and alternates to the 81st General Convention. We will also confirm the elections of lay Council of Trustees representatives from the Convocations. Thank you to all who have placed your names into consideration!

Voting for these offices will be done through an online voting platform, which does require that every voter have access to a device that can connect to the Internet. This can be a computer, a tablet, or a smartphone.

Convention will also adopt a financial mission plan for 2023 and an apportionment schedule to fund that plan.

Over the course of this last year, the Council of Trustees has been engaged in a process of strategic planning and has been leading a diocesan reflection on more than two years of the Kansas Minister Project. Some of Convention's business will address the Council's learning including several proposed canonical amendments. We also welcome a debatable resolution regarding our diocesan policy on parish audits. Our consideration of these proposals will give us an opportunity to practice our messaging of love to one another as we make decisions to support and equip the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement in Kansas.

As we gather this fall to conduct the business of the Diocese, I hope that we find renewal in God's love for us and for our communities. In our worship, celebration, and business, we will receive and recognize God's love in each other. May we continue to be formed as God's people for this missional age, practicing and speaking the message of God's love.

Thank you for your commitment to the work of Convention.

Every blessing,

The Right Reverend Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
Tenth Bishop, the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Please register for Convention!



<https://edok.formstack.com/forms/conventionregistration2022>