



August 29, 2023

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

It will soon be time for the 164th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. This year your diocesan Council of Trustees have worked passionately and tirelessly in strategic planning and goal setting. At Convention, the Council members will share the four priority areas of mission we've discerned and there will be opportunity for all delegates to choose breakout sessions to learn more and offer feedback. This year's business will occur in the nave of Grace Cathedral. During our breaks, plan to enjoy socialization and a cup of coffee in All Saints Hall where exhibitors and vendors will be set up. We also plan for opportunities for worship and tours in the flourishing Bethany Gardens.

This year's theme, ***Go: See and Be Seen***, arises from one of the Council's four priority objectives: "Develop a culture of mission, invitation, and welcome in neighborhoods." In our staff reflections on the theme, Director of Communications and Young Adult Ministries Chad Senuta pointed us to the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus as a fascinating biblical example of invitation and I have asked Chad to preach on this Gospel at the Convention Eucharist.

Another strategic objective, which we see as the centerpiece of our strategic calling, is "Strengthen congregational vitality in all its forms to respond to the needs of a changing church and world." In my fifth convention address, I'll be meditating on this objective with a delightful twist: I'm pleased to announce that I will be joined in this reflection by the Ninth Bishop of Kansas, Dean Wolfe. +Dean and I will share elements of congregational vitality we have witnessed in our combined decades of church leadership and offer a few ideas about vitality in the new era before us. We're grateful that Bishop and Ellen Wolfe will join us for our Friday business, worship, and celebration.

Convention business will begin mid-day on Friday, October 20 in the nave of Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Our nave experiment will allow us to invite Alternates and Guests to attend. If you need additional support or comfort in a nave pew, please bring a cushion!

This year's banquet and social hour will be at the Topeka Performing Arts Center (214 SE 8th Ave, Topeka) where we will be able to relax and enjoy one another's company while we recognize some of the vital ministries of our diocese with our annual awards and recognitions.

When we return to business on Saturday, October 21, we will elect at-large members of the Council of Trustees along with a new member of the Disciplinary Board. We will also confirm the elections of clergy Council of Trustees representatives from the Convocations. Thank you to all who have placed your names into consideration!

Other business includes consideration of one amendment to our constitution and one amendment to our canons. Finally, convention will consider and adopt a 2024 financial mission plan and apportionment schedule starting with that proposed by the Council of Trustees. You will find all items of convention business in the enclosed Convention Book. This is your copy, so bring it with you to pre-convention Convocation Board meetings and to Convention itself!

Should it be required, digital voting will be conducted through an online voting platform, which does require that every voter have access to a device that can connect to the Internet: computer, tablet, smartphone, etc. Plan accordingly!

We look forward to coming together this fall. May the love of God known to us in Jesus and the love we share with one another strengthen us to *Go: See and Be Seen*.

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!



episcopal-ks.org/2023convention