

**First Convention Memo, October 2023**  
**The 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee**  
**January 19-20, 2024**

To: The Clergy of the Diocese of Tennessee  
Senior Wardens in Charge of Congregations  
The Bishop and Council  
The Standing Committee  
The Committee on Constitution and Canons  
Officers of the Convention  
The Diocesan Staff  
Seminarians  
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South  
The Dean of the School of Theology, the University of the South

The 192<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee to be held at:  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
315 East Main Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

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Dear Fellow Episcopalians,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This memo contains links and instructions for registering yourselves and delegates from your congregations for Convention, as well as other useful information. All the forms included in this mailing may also be found at [edtn.org/convention/](https://edtn.org/convention/).

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who will take counsel in this convention for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to see first your honor and glory.

Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)

Respectfully yours,

*Kristine Blaess+*

The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess

The Secretary of the Convention

## 1. Before the December 8 deadline:

### ➤ Elect Delegates (and an equal number of Alternates)<sup>1</sup>

- Schedule your election by your November Vestry/Mission Council meeting.
  - Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing; at least 16 years of age
- How many do we elect<sup>2</sup>...
  - Missions with ASA less than 20 shall be entitled to one delegate.
  - Missions with 20 to 49 ASA shall be entitled to two delegates
  - Missions with 50 or more ASA shall be entitled to three delegates.
  - Parishes with less than 50 ASA shall be entitled to two delegates.
  - Parishes with 50 to 149 ASA shall be entitled to three delegates.
  - Parishes with 150 to 299 ASA shall be entitled to four delegates.
  - Parishes with 300 to 499 ASA shall be entitled to five delegates.
  - Parishes with 500 or more ASA shall be entitled to six delegates.
- For the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention on January 19 - 20, 2024 use your average Sunday attendance as reported on your most current Parochial Report (2022).

### ➤ Register your Delegates and Alternates<sup>3</sup> or register yourself – canonically resident non-parochial, and retired clergy

- **Register each delegate and alternate and submit the Certificate of Election before the deadline of December 8, 2023.**
  - [Register Online](#)
  - All delegates and alternates may be registered together at one time online, and payment may be made by credit card or by sending a check to the diocesan offices by January 5, 2024. The **Certificate of Election Form** must be filled out online or downloaded, printed, completed, and then signed by the Rector, Vicar, Priest-in-Charge, or Senior Warden. The completed and signed form must be received by the diocesan office by the **registration deadline of December 8, 2023** in order for the registration of delegates and alternates to be confirmed.

### ➤ Nominate Someone / Stand for Election<sup>4</sup>

- **Who May Nominate:** lay or clergy delegates, vestries, mission councils, missionary convocations, the Bishop and Council<sup>5</sup>.
- The deadline for nominations to be included in the Convention brochure is December 20, 2023. Late nominations may be received until noon on Thursday, January 18, 2024, but no later.
- Nominees will introduce themselves to the Convention on Friday afternoon, January 19, 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> See Canon 1, Sec. 7(b), Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee

<sup>2</sup> See Canon 1, Sec. 7(a)

<sup>3</sup> See Canon 1, Sec. 7(c)

<sup>4</sup> See Rule of Order 6.1

<sup>5</sup> See Canon 1, Sec. 9

- [Summary of Elections](#)
- [Nomination Form](#)

➤ **Submit a Resolution<sup>6</sup> ...here's how to, if you wish**

- **Who May:** any lay or clergy delegate, vestry, mission council, missionary convocation, the Bishop and Council.
- **Who May Not:** diocesan commissions and committees.
- **When:** 45 (forty-five) days before the first business day of Convention = **December 5, 2023.**  
*Please Note: resolutions received by the Secretary **after** this date will require a majority vote of convention delegates to be placed on the floor.*
- **How:**
  - **Resolution Form ([Available to submit online](#)).**
  - If you wait to submit your resolution later than December 5, 2023, but no later than 1 ½ hours following the opening of the Convention January 19, 2024, it will require a simple majority vote of delegates to be considered on the floor of Convention;
  - If you wait to submit your resolution until later than 1 ½ hours after the opening of Convention January 19, 2024, it will require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the delegates to be considered on the floor of Convention;
  - *And if you are submitting a late resolution, prepare 300 copies on blue paper for distribution at Convention.*

## 2. Before the January deadlines:

➤ **Register Seminarians and All Others**

- Although seminarians and others are not held to the same canonical deadlines as clergy, they may register themselves now using the links above. We ask that they register and pay no later than January 5, 2024.

## 3. What to look forward to January 19-20, 2024:

➤ **Lodging in Murfreesboro:**

[Holiday Inn Murfreesboro](#) (1453 Silohill Lane, Murfreesboro; 615-715-5300)  
Block of rooms reserved under St. Paul's Diocesan Convention

[Sleep Inn Murfreesboro](#) (193 Chaffin Place, Murfreesboro; 615-439-1938)  
Block of rooms reserved under St. Paul's Diocesan Convention, group number TM44X7

[Courtyard by Marriott](#) (1306 Greshampark Drive, Murfreesboro; 615-907-3105)  
No group rate

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<sup>6</sup> See Canon 1, Sec. 9 and Rule of Order 3.02

- **Childcare** will be available during the Convention at St. Paul's. Please RSVP to Sandra Beld at [sbeld@edtn.org](mailto:sbeld@edtn.org) by Wednesday, January 10, 2024 if you need childcare, including number of children and ages.
  
- **Reception**
  - We will not have a Friday evening reception at convention this year.
  
- **Parking for Convention**
  - A map showing parking options will be in the pre-Convention Memo.