



September 23, 2025
Thecla of Iconium, Proto-Martyr Among Women

Dear Beloved in Christ,

We write today with the date, venue, and delegate information for the special Convention to be held in order to elect the Twelfth Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Tennessee.

The special Electing Convention will be held Saturday, August 22, 2026 at Christ Church Cathedral. August 29, September 12, and September 19 are also reserved as additional dates, if needed.

Delegates for the special Electing Convention will be the same delegates elected for the preceding, annual Diocesan Convention being held January 23-24, 2026 at St. Bartholomew's (Nashville). Each delegate must be a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing and at least sixteen (16) years of age. Please make sure to elect a full slate of both delegates and alternates.

From the Canons:

“The Lay Delegates duly elected or appointed to serve at any Annual Convention shall be the Delegates to any other meeting of the Convention prior to the succeeding Annual Convention. Vacancies occasioned by death, removal, resignation, or incapacity to serve, shall be filled in the same manner as the original election or appointment” (Canon 1, Section 7.d of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee).

“It shall be the duty of the Vestry or Mission Council of each Congregation to elect its Lay Delegates and an equal number of Alternates, each of whom shall be a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing of the Congregation and at least sixteen (16) years of age. In the case of a Mission, if there be no Mission Council, Lay Delegates and Alternates shall be appointed by the Vicar in Charge or by the Bishop. If any or all of the Lay Delegates shall fail to attend the Convention, Alternates shall be entitled to serve in their stead, in the order of their election” (Canon 1, Section 7.b of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee).

The number of delegates to which a congregation is entitled can be found [HERE in Canon 1, Section 7](#) (on page 11 of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee).

The Search and Transition Committees will officially begin their work with their combined leadership retreat on October 3 and 4. Thank you for holding the committee members, Bishop Bauerschmidt and Caroline, diocesan staff, and the work and discernment of the whole diocese in your prayers.

We close with a reminder that all previous letters, documents, and a timeline overview can be found [HERE at the Bishop Search Hub](#).

In Christ,
The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Dr. David Barr (St. George's, Nashville)
The Rev. Michael Blaess, president (Redeemer, Shelbyville)
Mr. John Harvey (Grace, Spring Hill)
Mr. L. Jarod Pearson, secretary (St. Agnes', Cowan)
The Rev. Justin Taliaferro (Messiah, Pulaski)
The Rev. Canon Natalie Van Kirk (Good Shepherd, Brentwood)
Mr. John Whitaker (Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville)