

THE CALL TO CONVENTION



The Rev. Scott A. Garno
Secretary of the Diocese

February 23, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you.

In accordance with Article I of the Constitution of the Diocese of Albany, the Standing Committee has issued a Call to the 155th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany to be held virtually on June 10, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The following is important information. Please read it through carefully. If you have questions, you may contact me at Secretary.Convention@albanydiocese.org, 518-439-3265.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO ACCESS ALL FORMS AND REGISTRATIONS REFERENCED BELOW.

Certificates of Election/Lay Deputy Registration:

Certificates of Election are electronic this year and will serve as deputy registration for pre-convention meetings as well as convention itself.

Per our Canon 1.3, Certificates of Election shall be transmitted no later than 10 days before convention to the Secretary which will be Wednesday, May 31, 2021. However, so that appropriate materials can be prepared and distributed prior to the Pre-convention Meetings, **please have all Certificates in by Friday, May 12, 2023.**

- All Deputies and Clergy MUST HAVE their own unique email address to participate in the virtual convention. Spouses cannot share an email, nor can clergy share their email with deputies.
- All Deputies and Clergy MUST HAVE their own unique device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone) during the Convention for logging into ZOOM and accessing the election service.

Clergy Registration: There is a separate electronic form for clergy registration. In order to disseminate information efficiently, **please submit Clergy registrations no later than Friday, May 12, 2023.**

Resolutions: Please use the electronic form provided in the link above.

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

- **Canonical/Constitutional Amendments:** In view of the Special Convention to elect a Bishop anticipated to occur in 2023, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Albany, exercising its authority under Canon 17 of the Diocese of Albany, has determined to confine resolutions to be taken up at Convention to those that fulfill canonical or legal requirements to enable the Diocese to continue to function between now and the next Convention (i.e. the assessment formula, budget, etc.). No resolutions pertaining to amendment or alteration of the Constitution or Canons of the diocese will be entertained at this Convention.

- **Resolution Deadlines:**
 - **Monday, May 8, 2023** to be included in the Pre-Convention Book
 - **Friday, May 26, 2023** to be included in the Convention Book.

Nomination Deadlines: Please use the form provided on page 7.

- **Monday, May 8, 2023** to be included in the Pre-Convention Book

- **Friday, May 26, 2023** to be included in the Convention Book

- **Friday, June 2, 2023** is the very last date to submit nominations. These nominations will not appear in either the pre-convention or the convention books. No nominations other than those received by June 2 will come before the Convention.

Proposed Order of Business:

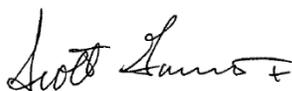
1. The Standing Committee president will call the business session to order
2. Credentialing Report
3. Vote on virtual meeting format
4. Vote on President of Convention
5. Followed by the rest of the convention business

Pre-convention meetings are being planned. More information about the Pre-convention meetings will be forthcoming.

Again, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

May God bless you.

In Christ,



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Secretary of the Diocese

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

General information for clerical members, lay members and alternate members:

A) From Article III of the Diocesan Constitution:

“**The Convention shall consist of...Clergy canonically resident** in the Diocese...**and of Lay Deputies** consisting of not more than three deputies from each Church in union with the Convention, who shall be communicants, and shall have been duly chosen, and shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Convention. **Alternate Deputies** may be elected by said Churches. Any vacancy in lay deputations shall be supplied from its alternates who shall have all power and authority, while so serving, of the deputy whose place he/she shall take. The Convention shall be the final judge of the qualifications of its members.”

Deputies are to be **communicants in good standing** who are members of the Episcopal Church and who have received Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church at least three times during the preceding year, in accordance with the 2022 Canons of the Episcopal Church – Title I, Canon 17, section 3.

Licensed clergy in charge of a cure are expected to attend Convention as a non-voting participant (Diocesan Canon 11.2A).

The Secretary of the Diocese keeps the official list of the canonically resident and licensed clergy with the assistance of Diocesan Staff.

B) From Diocesan Canon 1.2. About elections for Lay Deputies/Alternates:

“Deputies and Alternate Deputies from the...Churches shall be elected annually by their vestry or governing body, at a meeting duly held, or by a duly summoned meeting of the congregation. Persons of less than full age but of the age of eighteen years or more who are also communicants in good standing under General Convention Canon 1.17.3, as the same may be amended from time to time, shall be eligible to serve and vote as Lay Deputies or Alternate Deputies and shall be eligible for election or appointment to any lay office of the diocese.”

C) From Diocesan Canon 1.3. The Certification of Election

“A certificate of election of Deputies and Alternate Deputies shall be transmitted by each Church to the Secretary at least 10 days before the opening session of the Convention and shall be in the form prescribed by the Secretary.” While the canonical deadline to submit the certificate of election is 10 days before Convention, it would be helpful to **submit the Certificate of Election by Friday, May 12, 2023**.

D) What do Deputies do?

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany **Disciples Making Disciples**

Deputies attend and vote at the business meetings of the Convention. The Call to Convention, Pre-Convention Booklet, and Convention Booklet inform the Deputies and Members about proposed business at the Convention.

Each Deputy may vote in a plurality vote, but only one vote may be cast by each lay deputation in a “Vote by Orders.” (a single ballot representing a combined vote on behalf of all the lay deputies of a particular congregation.) Deputies are independent agents and are empowered to act without further instruction from those who chose them.

Deputies also elect nominees to specific offices as part of the convention business, including:

The Great Chapter of the Cathedral of All Saints. The Chapter is the corporate body that governs the Cathedral of the Diocese of Albany. The members who are elected at each Convention become members of the Great Chapter. Members should expect to contribute their time and talent for the support of the Cathedral and its mission. The election of Chapter members is not a canonical requirement, but is held at Convention at the request of the Cathedral, which is a church in union with the Convention, in accordance with the Cathedral Charter. The Chapter meets three times per year in January, April and October. (Plurality Vote)

The Diocesan Council. Diocesan Council is the “program agent with the Bishop and the Convention of the Diocese between meetings of the Convention.” Between conventions, the Council consults with the Bishop, who is the President of the Council, on budget and program matters to be presented to the Convention for the work of the Church in this Diocese. Representatives to the Council should expect to be involved with the mission and goals of the Diocese. The Diocesan Council meets on Saturday mornings a minimum of four times per year. (Plurality Vote)

The Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board only meets if charges are brought against a Priest or Deacon of the Diocese. Members should be aware that they might be called upon to hear testimony and issue a decision in cases of alleged clergy misconduct. Both fairness and compassion are needed. Members of the Court should plan to meet with the Secretary of the Diocese at the Convention, after the election, to set a meeting date for the yearly election of the Disciplinary Board President. The Disciplinary Board meets on an as-needed basis. By Episcopal Church canon, the term of office for Disciplinary Board members begins on January 1. (Vote by Orders)

The Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is primarily the Bishop’s Council of Advice. The duties of the Standing Committee may range from (but are not limited to) certain aspects of ordinations and consecrations to certain aspects of the sale or mortgage of church property. Members should have a broad knowledge of the Diocese of Albany and acquire at least a basic understanding of the role of the Standing Committee in the Canons of the General Convention, the Canons of the Diocese of Albany, and in the New York State Religious Corporations Law. The Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop diocesan. The Standing Committee meets the first Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., or more regularly as needed. (Vote by Orders)

The Trustees of the Diocese. The Trustees invest, manage, and control all the real and personal property of the Diocese, subject to the control and discretion of the Convention. They may also hold title to and act in a fiduciary capacity in other ways as well. Members should have some background in

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

finance, investments, real estate, or building management and maintenance. The Trustees meet five Tuesday mornings per year. (Plurality Vote)

General Convention Deputies. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church is a gathering of deputies from all the dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The General Convention meets for about 9 days once every three years. The elected Deputies serve in the House of Deputies. Deputies and Provisional Deputies to General Convention also serve as deputies and alternates at the Provincial Synod for Province II. The Provincial Synod is a regional gathering of deputies from Province II, held in the same year as General Convention. Province II includes the Episcopal Dioceses of Albany, Central New York, the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, Haiti, Long Island, New Jersey, New York, Newark, Rochester, Virgin Islands, and Western New York. The next General Convention will be held in Louisville, Ky, in late June of 2024. (Vote by Orders)

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

Convention 2023 Nomination Eligibility Information

Offices to be filled by Plurality Vote Election

The Great Cathedral Chapter

1 priest and 1 lay office to be filled, each for three-year terms

The following members' terms expire: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Rev. John Scott (E)

Louise Woods (E)

Convention Representative to Diocesan Council

1 clergy office to be filled for a two-year term

The following member's term expires: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Rev. William Lytle (E)

Trustees of the Diocese

2 offices (priest, deacon, or lay) to be filled, each for four-year terms

The following members' terms expire: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Very Rev. Neal Longe

Tim Condon (E)

The Disciplinary Board

1 clerical and 2 lay offices, each for three-year terms

(Term is January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026)

The following members' terms expire: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Rev. Darius Mojalalli (E)

Robert Luther (E)

David Malsan (E)

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

Convention 2023 Nomination Eligibility Information

Offices to be filled by Vote by Orders Election

General Convention Deputies

4 clerical (priest or deacon) and 4 lay offices to be filled, each for two year terms

The following members' terms expire: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Very Rev. Leander Harding (E)	Martha Hasslacher
The Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (E)	Mary Jones (E)
The Rev. Scott Garno (E)	Sarah Garno (E)
The Very Rev. Brad Jones (E)	Sue Ellen Reutsch (E)

The Standing Committee

2 clerical (priest or deacon) and 2 lay offices to be filled, each for three-year terms

The following members' terms expire: ("E" indicates eligibility for re-election)

The Very Rev. Tom Malioneck (E)	Jean Stevens-Lauria (E)
The Rev. Derik Roy	Sue Ellen Reutsch (E)

1 lay office for 2 years, filling the unexpired term of

Teresa Mumby

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
Disciples Making Disciples

The Diocesan Convention 2023

Nomination Form for Elective Office

(Please note that, in accordance with Canon 1.3, all nominees for elective office must be 18 years of age or older and communicants in good standing as defined by General Convention Canon 1.17.3)

In accordance with Canon 2.3,

I (please sign your name) _____,

Please print your name _____,

agree to serve if elected to the following office (check one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Great Cathedral Chapter Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee of the Diocese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convention Rep to Diocesan Council | <input type="checkbox"/> General Convention Deputy |

Nominated by (please sign): _____

Please print nominator's name and parish: _____

Seconded by (please sign): _____

Please print seconder's name and parish: _____

In accordance with diocesan Canon 2.2, each lay person wishing to nominate or second a nomination must be a Certified Lay Deputy in the Diocese of Albany whose Certificate of Election for the annual Convention in June 2023 is already on file with the Secretary of the Diocese by the time this nomination form has been received by the Secretary. Each Lay Deputy nominating or seconding a nomination must indicate his/her parish and the parish's town next to his/her name.

Please include the following three items electronically along with the nomination form:

1. A brief biographical sketch of the nominee (100 words or less, per Canon 2.2).
2. A head shot of the nominee
3. The following information for Diocesan Office use and which may appear in the Diocesan Journal:

Nominee's Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

The Secretary of the Diocese would appreciate receiving the completed information by

- **Monday, May 8, 2023**, to be included in the Pre-Convention materials
- **Friday, May 26, 2023**, to be included in the Convention Book
- **Friday, June 2, 2023**, is the last day to submit. These will not appear in the Convention Book. Nominations will not be accepted after this date.

(Please make a copy of the form for your own records in case questions arise later.)

Please send this nomination form along with the biographical sketch, head shot and address information to:

The Rev. Scott Garno, Secretary of the Diocese
Secretary.Convention@albanydiocese.org