

CALL TO CONVENTION



The Very Rev. Scott A. Garno
Secretary of the Diocese

May 26, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you.

In accordance with Article I of the Constitution of the Diocese of Albany, the Rt. Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop Diocesan, has issued a Call to the 158th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany to be held September 11-12, at Christ the King Center, 575 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834.

A proposed schedule for the convention business meetings is:

Friday, September 11:

2:00 PM – 6:30 PM	Deputy Registration	(St. Michael's Chapel)
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Opening business meeting & Convention address	(Main Tent)

Saturday, September 12:

7:45 AM – 8:45 AM	Deputy Registration	(St. Michael's Chapel)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Second business meeting	(St. Michael's Chapel)
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Third business session	(St. Michael's Chapel)
3:00 PM	Convention Eucharist and Confirmation	(Main Tent)

Following the successful implementation at last year's convention, ALL ELECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS at this year's convention will be considered on Saturday and will be conducted electronically. Please ensure that all voting members of Convention (canonically resident clergy and elected lay deputies) have access to an internet capable electronic device (i.e. smartphone, tablet, etc.). If such a device is not available, please let the Secretary know. The diocese will have a very limited number of devices available.

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

Certificates of Election/Lay Deputy Registration:

Certificates of Election continue to be electronic this year.

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Per Canon 1.3 of the Diocese of Albany, Certificates of Election shall be transmitted to the Secretary of Convention no later than ten (10) days before convention, Tuesday, September 1, 2026. However, to permit the timely preparation and distribution of Convention materials, **please have all Certificates in by Monday, August 10, 2026.**

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

- **Canonical Amendments:** In accordance with Canon 17.1, all proposed constitutional or canonical amendments must be submitted to the Secretary of Convention no less than 90 days prior to the start of Convention. Therefore all proposed constitutional or canonical amendments must be submitted by **Saturday, June 13, 2026.**

- **Deadlines for other resolutions:**
 - **Monday, July 20, 2026,** to be included in the Pre-Convention Book

 - **Friday, August 21, 2026,** to be included in the Convention Book

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

- **Monday, July 20, 2026,** to be included in the Pre-Convention Book

- **Monday, August 21, 2026,** to be included in the Convention Book

Further information regarding registration for accommodations and other Convention information will be forthcoming from the diocesan office. If you have any questions, you may contact me at Secretary.Convention@albanydiocese.org, 518-903-5367, or at 16 Elsmere Ave., Delmar, NY 12054.

May God bless you.

In Christ,



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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** 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 2.

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 I.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, please **submit the Certificate of Election by Monday, August 10, 2026.**

D) What do Deputies do?

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. (New Deputies may wish to review the minutes of the previous convention

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found in the Diocesan Journal on our diocesan website (albanyepiscopaldiocese.org) to get an overview of the business typically conducted at the convention business meeting.)

Each Deputy may vote individually 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 Great 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 Great 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 Great 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 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 Board 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. (Plurality Vote)

The Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is primarily the Bishop’s Council of Advice. The duties of the Standing Committee include (but are not limited to) certain aspects of ordinations and consecrations, as well as aspects of the sale or mortgage of diocesan or parish 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 meets monthly and when convened by the bishop. Members of the Standing Committee should expect to meet immediately following the Convention elect a President and Secretary. (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 diocesan and parish property and act in a fiduciary capacity in other ways. Members should have some background in finance, investments, real estate, or building management and maintenance. The Trustees meet five times per year. (Plurality Vote)

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General Convention and Provincial Synod. 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. Provisional Deputies serve when an elected deputy is unable to serve. 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. The next General Convention will take place in the early summer of 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona. (Vote by Orders)

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Convention 2026 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. Cn. John Scott

Louise Woods

Convention Representative to Diocesan Council

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

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

Randall Demler (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 Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (E)

Thomas Easterly

The Disciplinary Board

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

1 lay office, for 1-year unexpired term

(Term is January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2029)

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

The Very Rev. Marshall Vang (E)

George Marshall (E)

David Kennison (E)

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Convention 2026 Nomination Eligibility Information

Offices to be filled by Vote by Orders Election

General Convention Provisional Deputies

4 clerical (priest or deacon) and 4 lay offices, each for 3-year terms

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

The Rev. Brad Jones (E)	Kelly Dalton Trotter (E)
The Rev. Thomas Pettigrew (E)	VACANT
VACANT	VACANT
VACANT	VACANT

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 Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (E)	Jean Stevens Lauria
The Rev. Tom Malionek	Sue Ellen Ruetsch

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The Diocesan Convention 2026
Nomination Form for Elective Office

Per Diocesan 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 Provisional Deputy |

Nominated by (please sign): _____

Please print nominator's name and parish: _____

Seconded by (please sign): _____

Please print seconder's name and parish: _____

Per 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 September 2026 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 (photograph) of the nominee
3. The following information will appear in the Convention Journal and the Clergy & Parish Directory

Nominee's Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

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

- **Monday, July 20, 2026**, to be included in the Pre-Convention materials
- **Friday, August 21, 2026**, to be included in the Convention Book

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