



November 19, 2021

Virtual Convention

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40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONVENTION  
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

November 19, 2021

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 9:00 am Registration (coffee and pastries will be available)
- 10:00 am Call to Order  
Live worship at convention sites with the Bishop's pastoral message
- 10:40 am Small group conversation at convention sites
- 11:45 am Lunch (lunch will be provided)
- 12:00 pm Deadline to deliver completed nomination forms for vacancies to be filled to Canon to the Ordinary (salexander@episwtn.org)
- 12:45 pm Training on voting software
- 1:00 pm Afternoon session convenes (elections, Bishop's diocesan address, 2022 budget discussion, other business)
- 4:30 pm Adjourn

*Our host locations have COVID guidelines that vary with their different circumstances. We are asking the host locations to post their guidelines and that attendees follow those guidelines. The Diocese follows the guidance of the CDC and Shelby County strongly recommending masks in indoor public gatherings. Please bring a mask with you to your assigned location.*

# In Memoriam

We remember those persons who offered leadership in The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee and have died since the Thirty-ninth Convention.

The Rev. Jerry Crook

Virginia Minnaclair Crutcher

The Rt. Rev. Alex D. Dickson

Sara Sills Edwards

Diane Louise Fletcher

The Rev. William Holt

The Rev. William Kolb

The Rev. Jim Marquis

William Routt

James Russell

N.B. Forrest Shoaf

Barbara Baker Thurmond

Irby “Gus” Wadlington

The Rev. Noble Walker

(Other names may be added silently or aloud.)

*Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Thanks to the Following  
Faith Communities  
for serving as Host Sites!**

Barth House

Calvary Memphis

Church of the Holy Communion  
Memphis

St. John's Memphis

St. Luke's Jackson

Dyersburg Chamber of Commerce

## Elected and Appointed Officials (\* - Unexpired Terms to be Filled)

### ELECTED BY 2021 CONVENTION

Secretary to the Convention            The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells  
Asst. Secretary to the Convention    Mr. Steve Smith  
Treasurer of the Diocese             Mrs. Margaret McLean

### Standing Committee (Elected for a 4-year term, not eligible for re-election for one year)

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2025:                    Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024                    Clergy: The Rev. Christian Senyoni  
   Lay: Swazoo Claybon

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023:                    Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Lay: Dr. Pamela Ruthmann Evans

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022:                    Clergy: The Rev. Ollie Rencher  
   Lay: Mrs. Candace McRae Walsh

### Bishop and Council (Elected for a 4-year term, not eligible for re-election after serving a term of two years or more)

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2025:                    Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024:                    Clergy: The Rev. Miranda Cully  
   Lay: Ms. Ann Duncan  
   Lay: Mr. Steve Smith

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023:                    Clergy: The Rev. Gary Meade

Clergy: The Rev. Richard Fletcher  
Lay: The Honorable Elijah Noel, Jr.

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022:

Clergy: The Rev. Dn. Gerri Endicott  
Lay: Mr. Mike Miller  
Lay: Mrs. Kate Trammell

**Trustees, University of the South** (Trustee terms begin on July 1 the year following their election and end on June 30 three years later)

For term expiring on  
June 30, 2025:

Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring on  
June 30, 2024:

Priest: The Rev. Miranda Cully

For term expiring on  
June 30, 2023:

Lay: Dr. C. Dalton Lyon

For term expiring on  
October 31, 2022:

Lay: Mr. George Clarke

**Disciplinary Board** (Elected for a 3-year term. No canonical term limits)

For term expiring on  
December 31, 2024:

Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring on  
December 31, 2023:

Clergy: The Rev. Jesse Abell  
Clergy: The Rev. Gayle McCarty  
Lay: The Honorable Jim Adams

For term expiring on  
December 31, 2022:

Clergy: The Rev. Alexander "Sandy" Webb  
Lay: Ms. Jane Chapman

NOMINATED BY THE COUNCIL AND ELECTED BY CONVENTION

West Tennessee Endowment Corporation Board (Elected for 3-year term, not eligible for re-election for one year after serving for two terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024: Lay: Ms. Julia McDonald  
Lay: Mr. John Owen  
Lay: Mr. Josh Shipley

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023: Mr. Tom Stephenson  
Mr. Jim Vogel  
Mrs. Peg Wahl

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022: Mr. Andy Mathes  
Mr. Alec McClean  
The Honorable Steven King

NOMINATED BY THE BISHOP AND CONFIRMED BY CONVENTION

Commission on Ministry (A 6-year term, may not be re-appointed for one year after serving one term)

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2027: Clergy: The Rev. Laura Gettys  
Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2026: Clergy: The Rev. Jonathan Chesney  
Lay: Ms. Terra Nwobilor

For term expiring upon adjournment  
Of Convention 2025: Clergy: The Rev. Jay Biedenharn  
Lay: Dr. Jim Bailey

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024: Clergy: The Rev. Gerri Endicott  
Lay: Mrs. Ann Burruss Prascher

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023: Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022: Clergy: The Rev. Katherine Bush  
Lay: Dr. Jane Slatery





**St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center Board (3-year terms)**

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024:

Mr. Eric Epperson  
Ms. Nichole Seltzer

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For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023:

The Rev. Hester Mathis  
Ms. Mary Fortin  
The Honorable Blair Evans  
Ms. Amy Beatty

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022:

Mr. Peter Abell  
Mrs. Anna McQuiston  
Mr. Herbert Wells  
Mr. Ben Avant

**Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons (3-year terms)**

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2024:

Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lay: \_\_\_\_\_

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2023:

Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lay: The Honorable Blair Evans

For term expiring upon adjournment  
of Convention 2022:

Clergy: Rev. Jesse Abell  
Lay: The Honorable Ruth McLain

**Parliamentarian**

The Honorable M. Anderson Cobb

**Church Attorney**

The Honorable Albert Harvey

# NOMINATIONS

## NOMINATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE CLERGY MEMBER ~ 2023

### **The Rev. Clay Calhoun**

Nominated by:  
The Rev. Ollie Rencher  
Grace St. Luke's

The Rev. Clay Calhoun has served as Associate Priest at Church of the Holy Apostles in Collierville since 2017. Raised in the Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Kansas, he is a graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee and is a member of the Society of Catholic Priests, and of the Society of Mary, both Anglican/Episcopal devotional societies. He has been involved in diocesan youth ministries, including Mud Camp and Happening, and he currently serves on the Disciplinary Board and is filling a one-year term on the Standing Committee. Clay and his wife, Michelle, make their home in Germantown with their children, Julia, Henry, John Michael, Eleanor and George.

## NOMINATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER ~ 2025

### **The Honorable Ruth Law McLain**

Nominated by:  
Kate Schurch  
Calvary

Ruth's journey in the Episcopal Church began at age 28 in West Memphis with her confirmation at Holy Cross. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Haskell Indian Nations University with a BA in American Indian Studies, earned a Juris Doctorate from Bowen in Little Rock, and is a licensed attorney in Arkansas. Her passions are law, organization, outreach, and evangelism. And she absolutely loves gardening, cooking and baking.

She's a member of J.O.Y. Chapter of Daughters of the King and enjoys bringing people together and giving casual and festive opportunities for newcomers to experience God's presence in community. A few of the things she's organized are two diocesan-wide Baseball with the Bishop events and an expanded Blessing of the Animals service for Calvary. She hopes to bring creative ideas, fresh eyes, and new energy to the Standing Committee.

NOMINATION FOR  
BISHOP AND COUNCIL  
CLERGY MEMBER ~ 2025

**The Rev. Hester Mathes**

Nominated by:  
The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf  
Diocese of West Tennessee

The Reverend Hester Mathes was raised at Calvary Episcopal Church and served as Minister of Youth from 1997-2000 before moving to St. Petersburg, FL where she was Assistant Youth Minister at St. Thomas Episcopal Church from 2002-2003. Upon moving back to Memphis in 2003, Hester designed and taught Integrated Fine Arts at St. George's School before attending seminary at Virginia Theological Seminary from 2011-2014. Upon graduation from seminary, Hester has served as Curate, Associate Rector and currently as Senior Associate Rector at Church of the Holy Communion. On a diocesan level, Hester has served as the chair of Clericus, the Walkabouts Team for the Bishop Search, Happening Steering Committee, and currently serves on the Board of St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center.

NOMINATION FOR  
BISHOP AND COUNCIL  
ONE CLERGY MEMBER ~ 2025

**The Rev. Jesse Abell**

Nominated by:  
The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf  
Diocese of West Tennessee

The Rev. Jesse Abell is a native of Indiana, where he earned his BS at Indiana Wesleyan University. His studies then took him to the University of Cambridge where he earned a MPhil and then on to Sewanee where he earned a MDiv. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and served for 3 years as the Associate Rector of St. Francis Zionsville, and concurrently as the Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer of the Diocesan Tribunal for the Diocese of Indianapolis. After marrying his wife, Allison, they moved from Indiana to Omaha, NE, where he served as a hospital chaplain before being called to St. Stephen's Westborough, MA, where he served as Rector for 8-1/2 years. While in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, he served in various diocesan roles: as a member of the Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains, Diocesan Council Disciplinary Board; as co-chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; and as a Safe Church trainer in the Diocese. In Spring, 2020, Fr. Jesse and Allison, with their two boys, Aidan (4) and Nate (2), moved to Germantown, where Allison grew up. Since, he has served as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints for a year and was recently called to Grace St. Luke's as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Adult Formation.

**NOMINATION FOR  
BISHOP AND COUNCIL  
ONE LAY MEMBER - 2025**

**Mrs. Susan Kenny**

Nominated by:  
The Honorable Andy Cobb  
Holy Apostles, Collierville

Susan, husband Kevin and son David were confirmed at Church of the Holy Apostles in 2005. She has served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at the church as well as to those members who are homebound. She worked with the Vestry and Committee on their capital campaign as well as the Transition Committee to plan Bishop Johnson's retirement reception in May 2019. She is currently completing a one-year term on Bishop & Council. Prior to being confirmed at Holy Apostles, the Kennys were members of Lindenwood Christian Church, where Susan served on the personnel, search and finance committees, as well as Secretary and Chair of the Board.

**NOMINATION FOR  
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH  
ONE LAY TRUSTEE - 2025**

**Mr. George Clarke**

Nominated by:  
The Vestry of  
St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis

George Clarke is a cradle Episcopalian and a life-long member of St. Mary's Cathedral, where he has served on the Vestry for various terms over four decades, as Sr. Warden, Treasurer, and as Chair of the Stewardship, Finance and Usher Committees. On a Diocesan level, he has served on Bishop and Council, and as an adviser to the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee for many years. Locally, he has served terms on the Board of Youth Services in Memphis during its transition to Bridges and as a long-time volunteer leader for the same Boy Scout Troop 34 at Grace-St. Luke's. He retired in March, 2021, after a 42 year career in the property and casualty insurance industry as a sales representative, account executive and account manager. George

He graduated from The University of the South (B.A. Economics) and currently serves on its Board of Trustees (term expiring 2022), and as a member of the Board's University Relations Committee and New Trustee Orientation Committee.

**NOMINATION FOR  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
ONE PRIEST OR DEACON - 2024**

**The Rev. Thomas Momberg**

Nominated by:  
Jeane P. Chapman  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

The Rev. Thomas “Tom” Momberg was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Memphis in 1962. He graduated from White Station High School in 1966 and Brown University in 1971 and was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in 1986. Returning to Memphis in 2001, he began chaplaincy work at Methodist Healthcare, where he met his wife, the Rev. Eyleen Farmer. In 2014, he retired from full-time ministry, having served in a variety of settings and within several dioceses in the East, Mid-West, and South. Since, his work and passion has focused on ministry, racial healing and justice. Since 2019, he has served as priest-in-charge at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. He’s served on the countywide Juvenile Justice Consortium and as part of an advisory group for a Youth Advocacy Center in Shelby County and mentored at-risk youth. His Board position of the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis ends next month.

**NOMINATION FOR  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
ONE LAY MEMBER - 2024**

**The Honorable John McQuiston**

Nominated by:  
Ollie Rencher  
Grace St. Luke’s

John McQuiston is a member of Grace St. Luke’s in Memphis. He is an attorney with Evans Petree and has previously served on the Disciplinary Board.

## RULES OF ORDER

- 1.02 *During balloting, the Convention may take up other business which may be interrupted for the reports of tellers and additional ballots.*

### II. Committees

- 2.01 The Bishop shall appoint as needed the following Convention Committees:
- (1) On Elections
  - (2) On Status of Parishes and Missions
  - (3) On General Resolutions
  - (4) On Memorials, Greetings and Resolutions of Appreciation
  - (5) Such other as he deems desirable or as may be ordered by the Convention
- 2.02 The Bishop shall appoint the following Standing Committee as prescribed by the Canon or as otherwise required:
- (1) On Canons
  - (2) On Church Pension Fund
- 2.03 Such committees as are instructed by the Bishop shall convene in advance of the opening of Convention to consider matters referred to them.
- 2.04 Reports of all Committees shall be in writing. All reports recommending action by the Convention shall be accompanied by Resolutions for such action.

### III. Resolutions

- 3.01 Resolutions are submitted as the Canons may prescribe.
- 3.02 (a) All Resolutions to be presented to the Convention shall be submitted, in written form, to the Secretary forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the Convention. These pre-filed Resolutions shall be distributed to each congregation, clergy and lay delegate within the Diocese no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of each Convention.
- (b) Any Resolution not presented in accordance with paragraph (a) may be introduced to the Convention for consideration only by a two thirds (2/3) vote of Convention taken at the first business meeting.
- (c) Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the Bishop from introducing new matters to the Convention for consideration or action through his address to Convention; and nothing in this Rule shall prevent a committee of Convention from introducing new matters to Convention through its majority report.
- (d) The Bishop may refer any Resolution to a committee for such action as it deems proper.
- 3.03 All resolutions and amendments proposed thereto shall be in writing and shall contain the name, parish or mission, and city of the proponent.
- 3.04 Resolutions may be proposed only by: Clerical Members and Lay Delegates, the Bishop and Council, the Standing Committee on Canons, the Standing Committee on the Church Pension Fund, Vestries and Mission Councils. Each such resolution authored by a clergy or lay

delegate shall be endorsed by not less than two other clergy or lay delegates, all of whom are from different congregations.

- 3.05 The Bishop shall refer all resolutions to appropriate Convention Committees for consideration, recommendation and report to the Convention, provided, however, upon a vote of two-thirds of the Delegates present a resolution may be considered immediately.
- 3.06 Where two or more resolutions deal basically with the same subject, they shall be referred to the same Convention Committee. The Committee shall make every effort to consolidate them or otherwise assure their compatibility and should also make every effort to obtain the concurrence of the proponents concerned.
- 3.07 Each Convention Committee to which a resolution has been referred, after providing for a public hearing thereon, shall consider the form and substance of the resolution and in making its report shall recommend (a) for adoption, (b) for adoption with amendment, (c) for adoption of a substitute drafted by the Committee, (d) for rejection, with or without reasons, in which case the question shall be on the adoption of the resolution notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee for rejection, (e) without recommendation, or (f) for discharge from further consideration because the subject matter had been included in another resolution, in which case the question shall be to discharge the Committee. After the motion to adopt or discharge has been seconded, the Committee Chairperson or other representative shall state the reasons for the Committee's recommendation. Thereafter, the proponent of the original resolution shall be recognized first if the proponent so desires. Amendments may be offered, including an amendment to substitute the proponent's original resolution for that recommended by the Committee.
- 3.08 Any Resolution which would require financial resources for its implementation, or any amendment to the diocesan budget as proposed, shall specify the source of any financial resources required for its implementation.

#### IV. Motions in Order of Precedence

- 4.01 The following motions shall have priority in the order listed:  
The Mover  
cannot interrupt a member who has the floor  
must be recognized, and  
the motion must be seconded.  
They are subject to the following further rules:
- (a) To Adjourn or to Recess
    - (1) Not debatable, if unqualified
    - (2) Not amendable
    - (3) Cannot be laid on table
    - (4) Majority vote
    - (5) The motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except that it shall not be offered when another member has the floor.
  - (b) To Adjourn to Time Certain
    - (1) Debatable as to time
    - (2) Amendable as to the time



- (3) Cannot be laid on table
- (4) Majority vote
- (c) To Lay on Table or To Table
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (d) To Vote Immediately or at Time Certain, or to Extend Debate
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Amendable, as to time, if a time specified
  - (3) Cannot be laid on table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (e) To Postpone to a Time Certain
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable as to time
  - (3) May be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (f) To Commit or Recommit to any Committee
  - (1) Debatable, except as to a Convention Committee
  - (2) Amendable as to the Committee to which to be sent
  - (3) May be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (g) To Amend or To Substitute
  - (1) Amendments and Substitutes are debatable only when Main Question
  - (2) One Amendment may be made to each independent or separable portion of a Resolution and the right to amend extends only to one Amendment of that Amendment and to a Substitute and one Amendment thereto
  - (3) A Substitute and its Amendment may be laid on table, but cannot be otherwise voted on until original matter is perfected
  - (4) Majority vote
  - (5) Neither the Substitute nor its Amendment shall be voted on (except to lay on the table) until the original matter is perfected

## V. Motions Without Order or Precedence

5.01 The following motions have no order of priority, but are subject to following rules:

- (a) Appeal from Decision of Chair
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) May be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote. A tie vote sustains Chair

- (5) Must be made immediately after decision
- (b) To take from Table
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (c) To Recall from Committee
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable
  - (3) May be laid on table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (d) To Create Special Order of Day for Particular Time
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable as to time
  - (3) Cannot be laid on the table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (e) Call for Order of the Day
  - (1) Mover may interrupt a member who has the floor and is not required to be recognized or to have a second
  - (2) Not debatable
  - (3) Not Amendable
  - (4) Cannot be laid on table
  - (5) No vote required, but two-thirds majority vote is necessary to suspend general or special order
- (f) To Suspend the Rules or Take Up Business Out of Order
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (g) To Divide the Question
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Can be amended
  - (3) Cannot be laid on table
  - (4) Majority vote, if vote required
  - (5) May be made without being recognized and even though another member has the floor
  - (6) If the Question under debate contains several distinct propositions, which are independent of each other, at the request of any members the same shall be divided and a separate vote shall be taken, but the motion to strike out and to insert shall be divisible.
  - (7) If the propositions relate to the same subject, and yet each part can stand alone, they may be divided only on a regular motion and vote.

## VI. Reconsideration

- 6.01 Neither a Question once determined, nor one of like import, shall again be brought before the Convention, except on motion to reconsider made by one who voted in the majority and seconded by another who voted in the majority.
- 6.02 Motions to reconsider are subject to the following further rules:
- (1) Debatable when motion to be reconsidered is debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) May be tabled
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
  - (5) No question can be twice considered unless it was materially amended after its first reconsideration.

## VII. Decorum and Debate

- 7.01 No member shall absent himself from the Convention, unless he has leave or be unable to attend.
- 7.02 No member shall address the Convention or make any motion until after recognition by the Bishop, except to make a parliamentary inquiry, a point of order, or a motion not requiring recognition.
- 7.03 When any Delegate is about to speak, he shall address himself to the Bishop, state his name, parish or mission, and confine himself strictly to the point of debate.
- 7.04 Except by leave of the Convention, no Delegate shall speak more than twice in the same debate nor longer than five minutes at one time.

## VIII. Voting

- 8.01 Nominations for Deputies to the General Convention, Standing Committee, members of the Bishop and Council and Trustees of the University of the South which are in writing and contain the Nominee's name, parish or mission, and city and not more than one hundred fifty words (150) of biographical information including past and present service of the nominee to the Church at all levels and received in the office of the Secretary by the first day of the month preceding the month of the Convention shall be included in the Convention brochure. Additional written nominations for these offices may be made in like manner by filing with the Secretary prior to the first noon. All written nominations shall be posted at the Convention. All such nominations shall contain the name, parish or mission, and city of the nominator who shall obtain the nominee's consent and willingness to serve prior to submitting nomination. Nominations may be made only by the Bishops of this Diocese and the Clergy and Lay Delegates, and any other person authorized by Canon to submit Resolutions.

- 8.02 Balloting for the offices set forth in 8.01 shall commence not earlier 1:00 P.M. following the first noon. After any second ballot of any election, the ballot shall be shortened, if necessary, to have only two (2) more nominees remaining on the ballot than the number of vacancies to be filled.
- 8.03 In elections of Deputies of the General Convention and of Members of the Bishop and Council and the Standing Committee a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to election. In all other elections, including that of alternate Deputies to the General
- 8.04 Unless otherwise expressly provided, any rule requiring a two-thirds majority shall be construed to mean the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting.
- 8.05 Ballots with more votes than there are positions to be filled shall be declared invalid.

### **IX. Committee of the Whole**

- 9.01 Whenever so ordered by a vote of a majority of the members present, the Convention may go into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of any matter.

### **X. Unanimous Consent**

- 10.01 By unanimous consent, any action may be taken that is not in contravention of any provision of the Constitution or the Canons.

### **XI. General Regulation**

- 11.01 Except with the express permission of the Bishop or when otherwise ordered by majority vote of the Convention, no books, pamphlets or other printed matter may be distributed within the Convention Hall, or be placed on the seats or desks of the Delegates; but this prohibition shall not apply to Resolutions, reports, and other documents prepared or distributed by the Secretary or to ballots for elections.

### **XII. Robert's Rules of Order**

- 12.01 Except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rules herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the interpretation of these Rules and procedures to be followed.

### **XIII. Amendments**

- 13.01 These Rules may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

*(As stated in Preamble A of the Canons of The Diocese of West Tennessee, “He, his, him shall mean and include she, her, hers.” This inclusivity applies to the Rules of Order as well.)*

## **THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE**

### **40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONVENTION - NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

#### **SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER**

Because of health and safety issues relating to COVID-19, the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee will be held in multiple locations connected by audio and video. Having smaller groups meet in several locations is considered by medical and science experts to be safer than holding a large meeting in a single location. Certain modifications and limitations on the provisions for meetings of the Convention in the Canons and Rules of Order are set forth in these Special Rules of Order to accommodate an electronic meeting.

The Rules of Order in effect for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention held in 2020 shall apply to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, provided that at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting the following Special Rules of Order shall supersede any Rule of Order or any rule set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order to the extent of any conflict or inconsistency. These Special Rules shall not apply to any subsequent Special Meeting or Annual Meeting of the Convention unless adopted at such meeting with any appropriate amendments.

All references to the Canons in these Special Rules are references to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee unless expressly designated otherwise.

#### **Special Rule of Order SR-1 (COVID Safety):**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention will be held at various host sites connected by audio and video in accordance with the provisions of Canon 24.3(b), which requires that all “members [of the Convention] have the opportunity to see, read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions and make comments.” All persons at Convention host sites must abide by the COVID guidelines of the Diocese in place as of the date of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

#### **Special Rule of Order SR-2 (Persons Present at Sites):**

Other than registered volunteers at Convention host sites, the only persons permitted to be physically in the room at the host site that is set up for audio and video communications of the Convention are the Clergy and Lay Delegates who are registered for that host site. Alternate Delegates who are registered for the host site may check in and sit in a designated area for Alternates. Lay Delegates and Alternates Delegates must go to the check in station together if a Lay Delegate wishes to switch places with an Alternate Delegate.

Clergy and Lay Delegates entitled to vote must be present at the Convention host site to which they were assigned in order to have seat, voice or vote at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Delegates who are unable to attend at their assigned host site may view the proceedings remotely without seat or voice.

Licensed Clergy who are in charge of a Faith Community and who are registered may sit with their congregations and will have seat and voice, but will not be entitled to vote.

Unless also attending the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting as a Delegate, appearing in the Order of Business or speaking at the request of the Bishop, the right under Canon I.6 of the Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, the Historiographer, the lay members of the Standing Committee and of the Bishop and Council, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the President of The West Tennessee Endowment Corporation to have seat and voice is suspended for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. These persons may, however, view the proceedings remotely without seat or voice.

**Special Rule of Order SR-3 (Nominations for Vacancies):**

Consistent with Rule of Order 8.03, all nominations for vacancies to be filled must be delivered to the Canon to the Ordinary ([salexander@episwtn.org](mailto:salexander@episwtn.org)) no later than **noon** on the date of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted. Any required information that cannot be verified prior to noon on November 19, 2021 will result in the nomination being disqualified. Nominations must be made by any of the following: the Ecclesiastical Authority, any Clergy, Lay Delegate, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chancellor, any Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, the Archivist, and any members of Bishop and Council, the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons, Vestries and Mission Councils.

**Special Rule of Order SR-4 (Acclamation/Voting Process/Balloting):**

Balloting for offices will be done by electronic voting. In the event of a failure of the electronic voting system, paper ballots will be distributed or another appropriate method of voting approved by the Parliamentarian.

**MOTION FOR VOTING BY ACCLAMATION:** In circumstances under which a vote by acclamation in lieu of casting a ballot would otherwise be appropriate (*e.g.*, when there is only one nominee for a vacancy or when the Bishop has presented a slate of nominees), the following procedure will apply:

A motion to approve the nominees in the uncontested elections as a group by acclamation must be made and seconded. The Bishop will ask if there is any discussion, which will be heard and considered. The procedure set forth below will be used for approving multiple uncontested elections as a group, provided that an opportunity will be given for any voting member of the Convention to request that one or more uncontested elections be removed from the group and voted on electronically.

**VOTING PROCESS:** The Convention will vote on the motion as follows:

The Bishop will ask for a show of hands at each host site of those voting in favor of the motion and the delegates voting in favor will raise their hands. The vote counters at each host site will count the number of votes in favor and give the number to the designated Communicator at the host site. The designated Communicator will report the number to the Secretary of Elections.

The Bishop will then ask for a show of hands at each host site of those voting against the motion. The vote counters at each host site will count the number of votes in opposition and give the number to the designated Communicator. The designated Communicator will report the number to the Secretary of Elections.

**VOTING OTHER THAN ELECTION BALLOTING:** The foregoing voting process will be used for voting other than balloting, such as voting on motions and amendments, including but not limited to voting to adopt these Rules of Order and voting to approve the Diocesan Budget.

**INVALID BALLOT – MUST VOTE FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ANNOUNCED:** The Bishop will announce how many persons are to receive votes for a vacancy. Ballots for that election will not be counted if they do not show votes for the number of people announced by the Bishop.

**Special Rule of Order SR-5 (Elections Requiring Majority Votes):**

Notwithstanding anything in Rules of Order 8.02 and 8.03 to the contrary, the following shall apply to the elections at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

In the event that there is a vacancy in more than one term for positions for any office for which a majority of votes is required to elect a nominee, and there are more nominees for one vacancy than are needed to fill the vacancy and no nominees for the other vacancy, a single ballot may be used in which all the nominees are voted upon. The nominee who first obtains a majority of the votes or who obtains a majority with the highest number in a single ballot will be elected to the vacancy with the longer term. The next nominee to obtain a majority of the votes will be elected to the vacancy with the shorter term.

**Special Rule of Order SR-6 (Reports of Diocesan Committees):**

Other than the Report of the Treasurer relating to the budget and the financial condition of the Diocese, all reports of Diocesan Committees and other organizations entitled to make reports shall be submitted as written reports and no oral presentation shall be made except at the discretion of the Bishop.

**Special Rule of Order SR-7 (Resolutions):**

Consistent with the provisions of Canon 9.2 setting forth the responsibility of Bishop and Council to exercise all powers of the Convention between meetings of the Convention other than certain enumerated powers, any resolution filed for consideration by the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, other than Courtesy Resolutions, shall be referred to Bishop and Council, which may take up the

resolution for consideration in the interim following the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting or refer the matter for consideration at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Convention.

**Special Rule of Order SR-8 (Motions, Addressing the Convention):**

A person entitled to make a motion, request a clarification, or otherwise address the Convention shall approach the designated Moderator at the host site and inform the Moderator of the nature of the request. The Moderator will announce over the microphone to the Bishop the name of the person, the person's Faith Community and the nature of the request. If the Bishop recognizes the person making the request, the person will address the Convention over the microphone.



## Morning Prayer: Friday, November 19

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Officiant                    Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant                    Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Officiant                    Lord, open our lips.  
People                        **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: **Come let us adore him.**

### **Venite**

*Psalm 95:1-7*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**The earth is the Lord's for he made it: Come let us adore him.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.**

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## **Psalm**

*Psalm 121*

**I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for  
evermore.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **The First Lesson**

*I Thessalonians 5*

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security", then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle 18 A Song to the Lamb**

*Dignus es*

Splendor and honor and kingly power are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people and nation, a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, for ever and for evermore.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

Officiant                    The Lord be with you.  
People                      **And also with you.**  
Officiant                    Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *Suffrages A*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**R. And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**R. Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Almighty God, by your grace your servant Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and honored Jesus in the poor of this world: Grant that we, following her example, may with love and gladness serve those in any need or trouble, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the

cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The General Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant	Let us bless the Lord.
People	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**